

THE ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Vol. V.

MONTREAL, AUGUST 1883.

No. 4

Table of Contents.

Monthly Report of the Provincial Model-Farm at Rougemont.....	49
Selection in grain-growing.....	50
Our Engravings.....	54
Crop report; Georgia.....	54
De omnibus rebus.....	54
Practical Farm Drainage.....	57
The Culture of Sheep.....	58
Steaming feed for Cattle.....	60
Onions.....	60
Saving Manure in Summer.....	60
Killing Daisies and Thistles.....	61
Management of Poultry Manure.....	61
Hindrances to Cabbage Culture.....	62
Ensilage.....	62
Destruction by and of the Wireworm.....	62
Fruits for Export.....	62

Monthly Report of the Provincial Model-Farm at Rougemont.

NOTES ON THE INDIAN-CORN SOWN ON THE FARM.—Today, June 6, we observed, with pleasure and surprise, that the corn planted on the 1st inst. was already up. Some of the stalks are from an inch to an inch and a half high.

It must be the excellent preparation which the land has undergone, combined with a favourable season, which has caused the rapid germination of this grain, generally so loath to sprout: warm rain almost every night, and a glorious sun all day.

The field in which the corn was sown was heavily dunged, ploughed, and harrowed. The drills were made, 3 feet apart, with the plough, and drawn very straight for the greater ease in hoeing. Every 30 inches, a shovel-full of dung was placed in the drills, with an inch of earth on the top of it, in which were set 4 or 5 grains of corn, covered by about 2 inches of mould.

This was rather a long job, but it answers better than the use of machines, as the seed finds itself in immediate contact with the dung. The corn finds in the manure on which it rests all the food necessary to hasten its germination and growth; and, as it increases in size, the roots and rootlet imbibe from the land around them, full of manure as it is, the supplies requisite to furnish fine grain and an abundant harvest. A small quantity of phosphate and ashes was also sprinkled on the drills. The Director of Agriculture called our attention to the fact, that this field was in an exceptional state; otherwise, the use of machines (sowing-machines?) would have done just as well.

TREATMENT OF FRUIT-TREES.—When the branches are cut or broken, a *styptic* should always be applied to the

(1) Phosphate is a vague term. Mineral or ammoniated? Was the ash of wood or of coal? A. R. J. F.

wound; otherwise, water will, inevitably, enter thereby, and the tree will rot. An excellent material for this purpose is composed of: $\frac{1}{3}$ suet, $\frac{1}{3}$ resin, $\frac{1}{3}$ bees-wax—equally suitable for wounds made in pruning.

If this is thought too expensive (bees-wax costs 15 c. a pound), fresh cow-dung mixed with a little coal-tar will answer all purposes.

There are three good plans for preserving trees from the ravages of rats, mice, and other rodents: the first consists in treading down the snow round the trees for a radius of about 3 feet. Begin in March, and repeat after each fall of snow. Secondly, make a heap of earth round each tree 30 inches in diameter and 18 inches high. Thirdly, the most simple way of all, surround each tree with a triangle or square, made of boards, two feet high. The boards must be well fitted, to prevent the rodents from injuring the bark.

GREEN-MEAT.—Indian-corn, Hungarian grass, and oats, are of the greatest utility as forage for cattle, winter as well as summer; but they are costly, especially oats, which commonly sell for 50 c. a bushel at seed-time. When sown for consumption by cattle in the green state, corn is the most profitable: it may be sown very late, and the yield is enormous.

Corn, as we saw, requires rich and well prepared land. It may be sown in such land as late as 13th or 20th of July; at which time the farm work is pretty light. Sown as above, the corn may be cut by the middle of September, and will probably be 5½ feet high, yielding 25 tons to the arpent (equal to about 29 tons to the acre. Tr.). Considering the abundant yield, we should always grow at least an arpent of corn for forage.

Oats sown early may be mown four or five times, but they should not be cut low, lest the roots should be injured.

PATURIN DES PRÉS, or FRANC FOIN.—A grass which, from ignorance of its good qualities, is too generally neglected. Sown very thickly, it forms an excellent pasture for milch-cows, and has the advantage of being remarkably early. In spite of the late spring, I saw on the 12th June stalks of this grass 22 inches high, and beginning to flower. Cut when in bloom, I have no doubt that this plant would make excellent hay for cattle in winter; and it grows so fast that two crops a year might easily be harvested. When allowed to stand too long, nothing will eat it; it should be fed off very early, and as the uplands dry off soonest in the spring, the lowlands should be reserved for later consumption: nothing injures the latter soils more than cattle poaching them into mud before they are well dried. This grass is as common as it is good and early. (1)

LIME.—Lime is commonly found in three states: carbonate, sulphate, and phosphate. (2)

(1) I don't recognise the *paturin* by that name. June grass?
A. R. J. F.

(2) And in a dozen others; muriate, nitrate, oxalate, &c.
A. R. J. F.