

belongs to the respiratory system, and is the means of keeping up an equilibrium in the blood between the fore- and hind-quarters. Of course, a cow with a large milk-vein has a strongly developed vascular system, and this being favourable to secretion generally, she will, all other things being equal, probably be a good milker, but the vein itself has nothing to do with the udder, and should no longer be called the milk-vein.

Horse-hoes.—I cannot congratulate the gentlemen of the Seminary-farm, Sherbrooke Street, on their horse-hoe. I saw their man at work on potatoes, and he had to go twice between each two drills!

Pleuro-pneumonia.—I observe that the Montreal press is rather hard on the selfishness of English farmers in throwing impediments in the way of the importation of Canadian cattle into England. Do the writers of the articles I aim at know what sort of an amusement is derived from the entrance of this dire disease into a farm? My friend Mr. Carr, of Stackhouse, now with God, lost his entire stock of Booth Short-horns by it, and was ruined utterly. I, myself, introduced a milk-cow from Smithfield-market into my small herd of 12 cows—in 1851—and lost 7 cows, 5 two year-old and 4 yearling heifers, and 97 pigs. No, the English farmer is not more selfish than other people, but he has to be very cautious in his dealings. Only last month, the cost of one outbreak of pleuro pneumonia in Yorkshire came to £40,000! All cattle in contact with one diseased animal are now slaughtered, and in this case the victims were all valuable beasts.

Brandon.—At the Model-farm at Brandon, Manitoba, an experiment was tried on "rape or cole" — which, by the by, are by no means the same thing—and the following marvelous result was obtained: "Sown in rows 3 feet apart on June 3rd, it yielded in October 33 tons per acre." Now, supposing a lamb consumes 20 lbs. of rape a day, this crop would furnish a hundred lambs with food for 33 days! An extraordinary production indeed. But why grow rape at such wide intervals? In England, on well manured, good land, we considered 15 tons a very large crop of rape, but, then, we used to sow it broadcast.

Oats, tares, and pease, sown together—quantity of seed per acre not mentioned—yielded 5 tons 698 lbs., green; 3 tons 712 lbs. when dry.

As the superintendent of the farm justly observes: The weight of each variety as given is accurate, but it must be borne in mind that it is seldom that a large plot or field will give returns per acre equal to a small plot, where special care is given to the growth of the plants.

Crushing oats for horses.—Mrs. Mary Wedlake, whose reiterated inquiry: "Do you crush your oats?" gave so much amusement to the readers of *Punch*, about 1848, probably did not know who was the first person to economise in this fashion:

"Eumenes, being besieged by Antigonus at Nora, gave his horses their corn already coarsely ground, that they might sooner despatch, and better digest it." Eumenes was a contemporary of Alexander the Great—about 2000 years ago!

Wheat.—Wheat was in ear in England on the 25th June, about a fortnight later than usual, so that harvest will not begin in that country much before the 10th August, unless hot weather occurs, which is not desirable. Mr. J. A. Drummond, of Petite Côte, cuts his fall-wheat this week! July 14th.

A. R. J. F.

Good News for Farmers.

A trial made last week at L'Islet, on the farm of Judge Caron, of a new potato-planter, called *the Aspinwall*, was successful beyond expectation. M. Caron had prepared a suitable piece of land, furnished the horses, and supplied fertilisers, seed, in fact, everything required for the essay.

This first trial proves that a man with two horses can plant, on a suitably prepared piece of land, at least 5 acres of potatoes a day. But besides this immense saving of labour, in potato-planting, the economy is still greater when fertilisers are used, for instead of carting 50 loads or so of dung on to the land, for each acre, an operation which, as every one knows, requires a great deal of manual labour, this machine, while dropping the sets, spreads at the same time the artificial manures necessary to perfect the crop, thus doing away with the necessity of employing men to cart out and spread the dung.

The cost of these machines is \$60 a piece. This is rather large for a single farmer, unless he grows a great many acres, but several could join together to buy one; even, each municipality might get one and let it out by the day. The mechanism is very simple, and as it necessarily works slowly, it is much less likely to get out of order than a mower or a reaper. For about \$15 more, an apparatus for planting maize, beans, &c., can be added to the planter. We are happy to say that Judge Caron, whose love for agriculture is so well known, has bought one of these machines, which will be kept at L'Islet. His son Edouard, who manages the farm, understands the working of the planters, and will be happy to explain it to any one.

Thanks to the example set by the Curé of L'Islet, who has just ordered 2½ tons of superphosphate, the attention of his parishioners has been forcibly drawn to advantages offered by the employment of artificial manures, and we venture to predict that the happiest results will follow from the experiments tried on Friday last.

But, if we take great pleasure in showing the great economy that this machine introduces into the culture of the potato, and, in consequence, the great additional profits to be derived from its employment, there is a trait characteristic of this meeting at L'Islet which gives us more delight even than the success of this trial: it is the zeal which the farmers of all parts of the district of Quebec showed by the numbers who were present. There were more than 300 on the ground, not only from the neighbourhood, but from the St. Joachim, on the north shore, Beauce, Lotbinière, &c. When we contrast this zeal of our farmers to win instruction and to follow up the progress of modern agricultural science, with the complete indifference and even disgust with which they used formerly to receive everything novel and any change in their ancient practice, we are happy to be able to say that there is really and indeed an agricultural awakening in our province, and we seem to see the dawn of better times of our impoverished farmers.

After the planter had worked for several hours to the satisfaction of all beholders, Mr. Barnard gave an excellent address on different subjects which interested the farmers present. Judge Caron, and M. Joly de Lotbinière added a few words of encouragement.

We have only a few words to add to the above report, taken from *l'Electeur*. The land on which the planter worked is full of stones which come to the surface, here and there, all over the field, and yet in spite of these impediments, so dangerous to any implements of even trifling delicate construction, there was no hitch in its working. Indeed, we never