

### The late Thomas Brown, of Petite Côte.

It is with much regret that we chronicle the death of Mr. Thomas Brown which occurred at Broughton, Scotland, on the 11th February. Till within a year Mr. Brown was a typical specimen of the hardy, rugged Scotch farmers and a good example of that class of Agriculturists who by their intelligence, industry and perseverance have done so much to promote farming interests in all parts of the Dominion.

During last summer his health began to fail, but his pluck and courage enabled him to keep up and attend to his duties when he was far from able to do so. In the autumn he had a longing to return to his native land, which he loved so dearly, though in a feeble condition to undertake such a journey he started with a strong hope that the sea voyage and a rest in the home of his childhood would restore him to health. In this he was doomed to disappointment for he gradually became weaker till death claimed him.

The news of his death was received with deep sorrow by his many friends here. A man of sterling and independent character, and one who possessed the courage of his convictions, he was ever ready to sustain the cause he advocated and to defend the right. His natural abilities added to his straightforward and manly character soon gave him the position of a leader among the farmers of his neighbourhood and his influence was always exerted on the side of their progress and advancement. Mr. Brown came to this country about twenty five years ago and during the last 12 years rented a farm at Petite Côte, near Montreal, where he was very successful. He was one of the foremost stock raisers in the province of Quebec and one of the best known in the Dominion. He was a prominent figure at all the leading exhibitions in the country and with his Ayrshire cattle and Clydesdale horses was a very successful competitor in the prize ring. His collection of Ayrshires is unquestionably one of the best in the Dominion and there are probably few, if any, on the continent of America that excel it. He had a great ambition to excel in this line and in 1888 he went to Scotland and purchased "Nellie of Barcheskie," the winner of the Queen's prize at the Royal Windsor Jubilee Show, an animal which was justly considered the best Ayrshire cow in the United Kingdom. He was proud of his calling as a farmer and was a credit to his craft. He was a lover of nature and a genuine admirer of Robert Burns whose poems were very familiar to him and often on his tongue. His death is a loss to the County of Hochelaga and to the entire Dominion. His name was often mentioned in connection with the Council of Agriculture and, had his life been spared, he would no doubt have been called to take his seat at the Board. The valuable Ayrshires and Clydesdales which belonged to Mr. Brown are shortly to be sold by auction.

### DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

February 26th 1892.

*Permanent pasture*—Mr. Wm. Evans has promised me to have some genuine "Pacey's perennial rye-grass," of the crop of 1891, for sale this season. He will I hope, have plenty of sale for it, as I am sure, from what I hear about its success in the States towards the north, it will do well here if—and that is a large if—the land is properly prepared for it.

If we are going largely into the butter-trade, I cannot see how we are to succeed without permanent pasture. Clover, it is true, will make plenty of milk, but good-flavoured butter, such as will command the highest price on the London

market, cannot be made without the cows get a variety of foods, and, on pasture, that variety can only be had by sowing a variety of grasses.

As I have often remarked in this Journal, every one who tries laying down grass for the first time, gets worried, almost thrown into despair, by the shabby appearance the new lea bears during the third and fourth year after sowing. Even in the moist climate of England the same drawback manifests itself. But there is no need to be discouraged; it will come all right in time. The grasses sown, if any of them are unsuitable to the soil or climate, will indeed die out, but the others will gain strength by their removal, and the additional space afforded will enable them to establish themselves firmly in the soil.

In the meantime, many of the grasses native to the land, the seeds of which may have been lying dormant for want of air, will have burst into life; and, in spite of the prognostications of those who want to keep on in the old rut of "clover and timothy," the barer spaces will before long be filled up, a good close bottom will be formed, and in July and August, instead of the cows wandering over acres of timothy stubble—for it is often nothing else—picking up, here and there, a scanty mouthful, I was going to say, but they never get a mouthful—bite, half root, half dirt, the "milky mothers of the herd" will luxuriate on a plentiful supply of nutritious herbage, the mixed flavour of which will not be wanting to the butter or cheese made from their milk.

Upon the whole, I do not think it advisable to sow many of the seeds recommended in the dealer's lists. Four sorts, besides the clovers, will be amply sufficient. A very good mixture of grasses that I know will stand the climate, for I have tried them all, is the following:

Pacey's Perennial rye-grass .....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bushel.
Orchard-grass .....	$\frac{1}{2}$ do
Lucerne .....	3 lbs
True cowgrass .....	3 "
White clover .....	2 "
Alsike do .....	2 "
Timothy .....	4 "

The lucerne will probably be the first to die out, as the crowding of the other plants will not suit its habits, but the first year or two it will add largely to the yield of the pasture. The cowgrass, as valuable in its way as red-clover, with the white, will certainly last for several years, *if fed*; and from what I observed in my experiments at Laohine and Sorel, the orchard-grass and the timothy will be the last to go.

You may fancy, my dear readers, that I have given you an extravagant lot of seed to sow: it is not the case, I assure you. Small, stinging seedlings of grasses never turn out well. You will, of course, scatter the seeds at twice: the rye-grass and orchard-grass at one cast together, and the clovers and lucerne afterwards. Care in mixing both lots will pay.

I need hardly say that the land should be well wrought and well dunged before a permanent pasture is laid down. After potatoes, corn, or roots, grown with a heavy manuring, is a good position for the grain-crops with which the grass-seeds are to be sown. Harrow the fall-furrow before putting in the grain until you are tired, and then harrow once more; sow the barley or wheat—grass-seeds do not seem to do well with oats; why, I don't know—and get the grass-seed in at once after the last harrowing, covering them with a chain- or a bush-harrow, followed by the roller. The great fault of the cultivation of this province is that it is always done in a hurry. People do not harrow half enough, to say nothing of the way in which the ploughing is—shall I say, *scamped*? I remember well, at Compton, the foreman of the late Col. Pomroy telling me that he generally ploughed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres a day, but that he had got over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres! Ask—I don't say an Eng-