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OFFICIAL PART.

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DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 109, Upper Lachine—July 9th, 1889.

The State of the Crops.—I do not think much dependence can be placed on the reports furnished to the papers about the state of the crops. Nothing short of a personal inspection would satisfy me, I know; for, too frequently, interested people depreciate agricultural produce in accordance with their own selfish aims. In my own country, schedules are furnished to every farmer, land-owner, and land-agent; these are filled up and returned to the Statistical Office, and if the tenant is rather inclined to under-rate the yield of his crops, the sharp eye of the land-agent is not to be deceived; so that, upon the whole, a pretty fair estimate of the general produce of the land is arrived at.

I can speak most favourably of the prospects of the approaching harvest in this district—where the land is decently farmed, at all events. The soil, here, is of a peculiar nature, and the constant rains of the past spring and early summer have suited it to a nicety. A field devoted to root-crops, on

the Maplewood farm of the Messrs. Dawes, is a sight to be seen. The carrots and swedes are very promising, and the potatoes are really magnificent. Clover was cut on the 29th of June, and, though the weather has been catching since, Mr. Tuck, the foreman, has had the good sense to leave the mown grass alone when moving it would do no good: stirring hay about—particularly clover—when the weather is doubtful, is most unwise; the clover leaf falls off, and nothing but a stalk and a flower remains. Barley is very heavy, and in many places is down as flat as if it had been rolled; but there is time enough for it to rise and ripen before harvest. What we want now is sun.

New potatoes are plentiful, at 45 cents a peck. Mine—early-roses—were fit to dig on the 21st of June—planted, after germinating in the light, on the 4th of May. Pease are running terribly to haulm; my Stratagems, are 5 ft. 6 in. long, instead of 2 feet, and the pods will not be numerous. *En revanche*, the dwarf, Bliss' American Wonder, was most prolific, and, owing to the constant moisture, the pease were more like marrowfats than earlies.

Three Jersey cows and a calf died, the former from milk-fever, in one week on the Dawes' farm! The Herefords and Polled Angus are all right. These deaths are unaccountable, as the cows had been on grass for at least two months.

One fault to find: the distance between the drills of Belgian carrots 36 inches! 24 x 5 inches are quite enough: what is the good of wasting one third of the land? The horse-doe can work well between 24 inch rows. The only reason the Scotch—capital economists—used to make drills of 30 inches was, that the double-mould-board plough was not, as formerly constructed, suited to make drills at all, and Small's plough, the one in general use in Scotland 40 years ago, found it easier to make a wide drill than a narrow one.