

THE ILLUSTRATED
Journal of Agriculture

Montreal, December 1, 1894.

Table of Contents

NOTES BY THE WAY:

September frost.....	221
Hop-picking by ladies.....	221
Hop-growing.....	221
Mustard.....	221
Turkeys for England.....	221
Prizes for roots, &c., at Sherbrooke.....	221
November frost.....	221
Barley in England.....	221
Mutton in do.....	221
Hay in do.....	221
Fattening pigs for bacon.....	221
Relative value of food.....	221
Dairymen's Ass., annual convention of the.....	222
Electricity on farms.....	222
Three-yr.-old wethers from Alberta.....	222
Sugar-beets.....	222
Vetches or tares.....	222
Beans.....	222
Rape.....	222
Pelouin on manure-making.....	222
Dairy-shorthorns.....	222
Chou moelleux, the.....	222

CORRESPONDENCE

Lord Aylmer on soiling, &c.....	223
J. McLachlan on Bordeaux mixture.....	223

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS:

The small white bean.....	223
Baked beans.....	223
Roasting meat.....	223
" turkey.....	223
Plum-pudding; a.....	223
Mending grain-sacks.....	223
Home-made shoe-polish.....	223
Di-h-towels.....	223
Shoes.....	223
Keeping lemons.....	224
" ground-coffee.....	224
Pancake turner, a.....	224
Simple-steps in Science.....	224
Game of curtesying.....	224
What is home?.....	224
Nut-candy.....	224

THE POULTRY YARD:

Winter-rations.....	224
What too much grain will do.....	224
Difficulties to be got over.....	224
The inducements.....	224
Rules for fattening fowls.....	224

THE GRAZIER AND BREEDER:

West-Highland cattle.....	225
Tuberculosis.....	225
Fal and winter calves.....	225
Mixed foods.....	226
The Agricultural Press.....	226
Breeding dairy-stock.....	226
Fattening calves on skim-milk.....	226

SWINE:

Feeding for pork.....	227
Potato culls for pigs.....	227
Wheat for do.....	227
To make a pound of gain.....	227
Value of skim-milk.....	227

THE DAIRY:

Savda 3rd.....	227
The Shorthorn as a dairy-cow.....	227
What we must come to.....	228
The ideal cow.....	228
Dairy stalls and fastenings.....	228
Winter dairying.....	228
Conformation of dairy-cattle.....	229
Crossing Jerseys and Devons.....	229

THE FARM:

Grasses for pasture.....	229
Growing corn.....	230
Nitrogen fixation by clover.....	230
Holland and Belgium, farming in.....	230
Cotton-seed and Soja-bean meals.....	231
Stubbling.....	231
Prize-list; Sherbrooke, 1894.....	231
Robertson's report on silage.....	231
" on yield of cows.....	231
Irving on carrots and mangels.....	232
THE OFF. JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.....	233
Moisture needed for corn-crop.....	233
Cider-making.....	233
Chinchas Guano.....	233

Notes by the Way.

A frost on September 6th, and a pretty severe one, though in Montreal the flowers were not cut up in the least. In the yard behind the writer's house, a plant of the scarlet runner, as tender as most things, is to-day, November 5th, as green as it was in August. What a pity it is that, for some reason or other,—prejudice or ignorance,—people do not eat the green pods of this bean. They are, in our opinion, about the best flavoured of the bean-tribe, and highly valued in English kitchens. Besides, if people will not eat them, they might as well pick them, as allowing them to remain and ripen on the plant will soon put a stop to its production of flowers. We never saw the scarlet runner affected by the anthracnose, the scourge of the butter-bean: have any of our readers observed it?

Hop-picking by ladies in dear old Kent is not uncommon sight. Of course it is done for charity purposes, such as to aid an old woman who is unable to fill the bin herself; or the pay is given to the church restoration-fund. Hardly necessary to say that it is not practised in the large hop-gardens where crowds of the scum of Whitechapel and Bermondsey are at work. One great good is done by this custom: the language of the poorer and less instructed class becomes yearly more refined.

Hop-growing, by the bye, cannot be a very profitable occupation just now, judging from the prices obtained for the crop. The finest Goldings—East-Kent—are only worth 20 cts. a lb., and Foggles have hard work to reach 14 cts. Many an acre of land that in most years brings a good return to the grower will go unpicked this year. Many of the late pickings, including Goldings, owing to the frequent changes in both weather and temperature, are bad in both colour and condition. (1) The crop is one of the largest grown during the present century, but the expense of cultivation is enormous, all the ground being dug over once a year, and the cost of picking and drying has been as much, or rather more than, one third of what the hops sell for. It is a speculation-crop after all, is the hop, and, though we were born in the great hop-county, we never knew any one get rich at growing it. Ellis, of Barming, who had 300 acres of the finest soil in Kent under hops, died insolvent, though he was one of the best farmers in the county, and looked closely after his business.

Mustard.—Why should we not try growing mustard here? There is plenty of land fit for it, and, if it hits, it yields prodigious returns: 30 to 50 bushels an acre. Sown early in May it ripens in August. The white sort is not what we are recommending; that is only fit for sheep feeding in its green state. The sort used for the table is the *sinapis nigra*, the black, or more correctly, brown mustard. It does best in moist loamy soil—no use at all on sands—and may be sown in the hoed-crop limb of the rotation. Plough deep before winter; grab, harrow, &c., in spring, and drill in half-a-peck, or a little more, to the acre, about 15 inches apart. It must be well hoed, kept clean, and thinned

(1) Condition refers to the yellow powder in the cones: *Jupulinea*.—Eo.

out about ten inches apart in the row. Black mustard is a quick growing crop and seldom fails. The price in England is very low now, consequently very little will be sown next spring, as it is one of those crops that are either sown there or not according to the market. So now is our time to try it. The ordinary price is from 12 to 15 shillings a bushel.

Winter-calves.—First class Easter veal may be made from the steer calves, which always find ready sale at good prices—yes, at prices which the owner of the same steers a year later would often be glad to get. Christmas veal may also come from a like source.

Prizes awarded at Sherbrooke for a description of the carrots, mangolds, silage, &c., were won by Messrs. Robertson Irving, and others. At page 000 of this No. will be found statements of the manner in which the gentlemen referred to conducted their proceedings. Every agricultural association holding important exhibitions should follow the example set by the Sherbrooke people in offering prizes for the different objects contemplated by the Department of Agriculture in the September No. of the Journal, p. 164.

November 6th, such a "killing frost"! The gardens in the country must be done for at last. The scarlet-runner mentioned above is finished.

Barley is now, in England, worth just twice as much a bushel as wheat. Best malting qualities sell for 5 shillings a bushel, and the average price of dry red wheat is 2s. 6d. Too much of the latter grain was carried too soon and is damp; this has reduced the value below what it would have been had a little patience been exercised; but the harvest was a long and dragging one, the labour cost much more than usual, and the funds in the farmer's hands were very low. While best white samples of 1893 at Reading are worth 28s. a quarter, much decent red-wheat has been sold in Lincolnshire for 16s. New-Zealand oats are still fetching 27s. and 29s., while now black-Tartars hardly exceed 16s.

Mutton in England is high in price: that is, for the best small sheep. Down tegs are worth 19 cents a pound, but Canadian can be bought for 11 cents! We are waiting with anxiety to hear how the 3 yr.-old wethers from Manitoba sell. We can hardly believe that keeping non-breeding sheep for 36 months can prove remunerative to any one.

Hay in England is at a reasonable price; it has not fallen so low as the enormous crop of this season led us to expect. Clover, after having been quoted during the past winter and spring at from 15s. to 25s. lower than meadow hay, has at last regained its normal position, as we observe that it is now worth 135s. a load of 36 trusses = 2,016 lbs., while meadow-hay is to be bought for 120s. Straw is selling for from 22s. to 38s. a load of 36 trusses of 36 lbs. each = 1,296 lbs.; or, according to our provokingly absurd English computation, 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs. So most of our readers

will see that to calculate the value of an animal, a lot of grain, or a load of hay, on the London market, to one unaccustomed to that entropot, no easy task. And more: whereas at Islington, cattle are sold at "per stone of 8 lbs.," at Romford, not 12 miles from Islington, butchers buy at "per score of 20 lbs." = 2½ stone! The Cheshire hundred-weight is 120 lbs., whereas the Cheddar is 112 lbs. And yet, no longer ago than last week, a young London Broker, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Montreal, told us that "there was not the least prospect of the English ever adopting the decimal system."

Fattening pigs for bacon.—We have fattened lots of bacon-hogs in our time. About the best we ever had ran the woods during a great acorn year, and were finished off on pease for only three weeks, dying from 200 to 220 pounds each and plumping rather than shrinking in the pot. At the present low price of wheat, a mixture of that grain and barley, with about one-third pease, should turn out good hogs. If boiled potatoes are given, the proportion of pease should be increased. The Kent men used to give the pease whole, after soaking; but it is better to grind them with the other grain, and if the food is fed warm the pigs will not be the worse for it. Of course, except when the hogs are in styes where the temperature can be kept at from 58° to 60° day and night, all fattening should be finished by the setting in of winter.

Relative value of foods.—The following table must be only taken as a comparative guide. The very great difference that subsists between the skill and pains bestowed by individuals on their herds and flocks, needs no insisting on. On one of the finest farms in the Eastern-Townships, worked by a most intelligent man, we have seen two score of great 3-yr.-old bullocks tied up and feeding on nothing but hay, their house almost entirely without ventilation, and the floor so foul from the accumulation of their dejections, that it was enough to sicken a scavenger. Here, the column, "Cash value of manure produced," would need very large deductions.

Our readers will be good enough to observe the feeding value attributed to our favorite food, linseed; for, after all, the feeding value of any given stuff is the principal thing. Sixty-two pounds more live-weight seems to be derivable from a ton (212 lbs. x 20) of wheat than from a ton of bran, and carrots are superior in feeding value to swedes in the proportion of 26:20. The whole table is worth study.

Relative value of food.—The following is a table showing the average increase in live weight of cattle and sheep per ton of food consumed, and the value of the increase at 3½d. per lb.; also half the original manure value per ton of food consumed in the case of cake, grain, and roots, and one third in the case of hay and straw after deducting the constituent in live weight increase, based on Sir J. B. Lawe's experiments.

What is meant is that when any one of the foods are given in judicious amount and admixture with other foods, which experience shows to be beneficial, it may be estimated that one ton of the food so consumed will approximately contribute the amount of increase in live weight stated.