



Mr. James Doak, of Compton, than whom no more thoroughly practical man exists in the Eastern Townships, writes as follows:

I practise a mixed system of husbandry on my farm, which, as you know, consists of 140 acres of good upland soil. I never considered it advisable to seek in a foreign market what I could grow on my own farm; there are no doubt exceptions; but, take it all in all, I believe it is the best and safest plan to follow, and, without boasting, I think I may say that I have been fairly successful.

During 18 years I have kept a herd of from fifteen to twenty cows, the milk from which has been manufactured into cheese, from the first of June to the first of October in each year, in a factory near my place; the rest of the season, butter has been made at home. Our cheese has a good reputation, and usually commands the highest market price; but still, there is room for improvement. I have seen cheese made in Ontario that was finer in flavour, and less porous than ours. I am glad to see that the first prize for cheese, at the International show, New-York, was won by a Canadian. This should stimulate to renewed exertion towards perfection. I notice also that your St. Hyacinthe correspondent says "too much cheese is already made here;" no doubt these is danger of over-production, therefore it would not be prudent to follow the dairy business exclusively.

I breed a few horses; raise a few oxen and steers; keep a small flock of sheep, say 30 or 40 good ewes. With my dairy, of

course I keep hogs; consequently, every year, after supplying my own wants, I am pretty sure to have something to sell that will fetch a good price.

I grow wheat, oats, barley and buckwheat: average yield of what has been 20 bushels per acre. Last season was notably a cold, backward one; however, I planted $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of Indian corn, on a grass lea, ploughed in the fall. It was harrowed in the spring, marked out in drills, and a good large shovelfull of hogs' manure put into each hill. It was then planted, and cultivated in the usual way. In the fall I harvested 140 bushels of corn in the cob-100 bushels sound and good; the remaining 40 bushels, not quite sound, were given to the hogs, on which, supplemented with the milk from the dairy, they thrive wonderfully. I had 6 bushels of good beans, on the same ground, planted between the hills.

I shall try the culture of the sugar beet if they succeed in starting a factory for the manufacture of beet-root sugar in Coaticook. It will be a great disappointment to many of the farmers in the vicinity, if the enterprise should fail. If I might venture an opinion on the subject I should say that it is not safe to begin on too large a scale at first. New enterprises require careful handling; begin on a moderate scale, and carefully, and work up by degrees to a full business. Success is more sure to follow; and, if there is failure, the consequences are less disastrous.

JAMES DOAK.

To A. R. Jenner Fust, Esqr.

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