

NOVA SCOTIA

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER, 1873.

No. 93.

HALIFAX, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1873.

One hundred and nine members had joined the Yarmouth County Society for 1873, up to 6th August, and the amount subscribed at that date was \$285.50. We publish these facts in order that the officers of some other Society may write: "we have done much better than that."

THE Kansas State Board of Agriculture will hold their Ninth Annual Fair at Topeka from 22 to 26 September inclusive.

THE subject of Seaside Planting again comes up, this time, curiously enough, in connection with a London holiday, which led city people to Brighton, where they deplored the want of trees. "London-super-Mare" they found to be: "sea without ships and land without trees." The Editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* points out that whilst rocky and stony soil, boisterous winds and salt spray are all inimical to ordinary trees and shrubs, yet there are many desirable things that are known by experience to exist in spite of them all. His article has a home lesson for us here in Halifax, in connection with our Public Park. Park Pleasant will never we hope look out upon a "sea without ships," but it is quite certain that the Park itself will in course of time become "land without trees," if care be not taken to protect and encourage the growth of those still remaining, and to make up for accidental losses and natural decay by systematic planting. The plants recommended for the "hardest" places about Brighton are Tamarisk, Sea Buckthorn, Evergreen Oak, *Enonymus Europaeus*, *Lycium barbarum*, Gorse, Elder, *Salsola fruticosa*, *Colutea*, *Atriplex Halimus*, *Lavatera arborea*, Pop-

lars, Sycamores, Austrian Pine, *Pyrus Aria*.

The Evergreen Oak, Gorse, and possibly some others, may not stand our winters; but there are many American trees and shrubs that will certainly succeed on the barest of rocks, where there is only soil enough to cover the roots at first until they can find their way into the crevices; such as the hardiest of all Pines, *Pinus Banksiana* and our native spruces, one of the most elegant of which prefers the sea shore; we mean *Abies alba*, which already forms thickets about Point Pleasant, that only want thinning, trimming, and nursing to yield good specimen trees. Then the beach might with little trouble be made resplendent with hardy Summer flowering plants that would need no care or culture after the first year's sowing or planting—such plants, for example, as the showy Seaside Pea, which forms magnificent beds of purple blossoms round the shores of Cape Breton, and at Bedford Basin, the Horned Poppy (if hardy here), Viper's Bugloss, a tall showy plant with purple flowers, the Willow Herb, the Virginian Clematis, or Virgin's Bower, which grows at Bedford, wild Grape Vines from the St. Lawrence shores, *Armerias*, *Silene maritima*, *Centaureas*, *Mulleins*, *Melilotus*, *Trefoils*, and a host of others.

The citizens of Halifax have before them the option of either preserving Point Pleasant as a magnificent Park, and year by year making it more and more useful and instructive as well as beautiful, or of treating it merely as a convenient source of Christmas trees, and of kindling wood for the poor, so that some future Samuel Johnson, LL. D., may write of it as was so wickedly written of Scotland in 1773: "The variety of sun and shade is here

utterly unobtainable. There is no tree for either shelter or timber. The oak and the thorn is equally a stranger, and the whole country is extended in a barren nakedness, except that I have passed for a few yards between two hedges. A tree might be a show here, as a horse in Ver'ce."

We have received a communication from Mr. William Oxley, Esq., of the Oxford-woolen Mills, Cumberland, stating that a new Agricultural Society is now in course of formation in that district. The necessary papers have been forwarded to us. There are fertile districts in other Counties that are still without their Agricultural Societies. Now that the Legislative Grant is largely increased, we hope to see a "blast" speedily fanned up.

A VALUABLE communication from C. N. Sprott, Esq., of Middle Musquodoboit, did not reach us in time to be printed with the other Reports upon the condition and prospects of Field Crops. His remarks corresponded very well with the statements of our other correspondents, that the season was an excellent one for the Nova Scotia farmer; but the great gale that passed over the Province at the end of August destroyed much grain in it.

MR. SPROTT writes:—"A number of our farmers have built kilns for burning Lime; those who have tried it, have been rewarded by a great change in the appearance of their farms, and, as there is abundance of limestone, I think it will be extensively used. Perhaps you will favour us with some hints in the *Journal of Agriculture* as to the best way of putting lime on the land, and what kind of