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CONTENTS:

	PAGE.		PAGE.
THE FIELD AND FARM YARD:		ORCHARD AND FRUIT GARDEN:	
Contemplated Importation of Stock.....	49	Culture of the Strawberry.....	57
Horse Racing.....	49	Watering Newly-set Trees.....	57
Extension of Sheep Husbandry—A Sheep Society.....	50	Dressing for Strawberries.....	57
Farm and Garden Operations in August.....	52		
Paragraphs—New Member of Agricultural Board—Newport Society—The Horse Shamrock—Herd Book—Dr. Hamilton's Corn—Agricultural Society of England—Antigonish Society—Mr. Wright's Hay Field—Great Weight of Fleeces—Sale of Short Horns—Haying—Accident—Oak Lumber—Horse Sultan—Disease amongst Cattle.....	51	THE FLOWER GARDEN:	
		The July Flower Show.....	57
COMMUNICATIONS:		London International Exhibition of Horticulture.....	57
On Manure, No. IV., by Bedford.....	51	Kew Gardens, London.....	58
On breeds of Cattle, &c., adapted to Cape Breton.....	52	The English Speedwell.....	58
On the Present Condition of Agriculture in Lunenburg.....	52	Forcing Early Roses.....	58
Notice to the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies.....	53	Paragraphs—A Comfort to Rose Growers—Sir Joseph Paxton—Rose Shows in London—Workmen's Show of Window Plants.....	58
REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CROPS IN NOVA SCOTIA.	53		
Remarks on the Crops in Cape Breton.....	54	MISCELLANEOUS:	
Present Crop Prospects in Great Britain.....	55	Scientific Convegazione.....	58
Present State of Agriculture in United States.....	55	Field Day of a Naturalist's Club.....	58
Agricultural Uses of Sea Weed.....	56	Agriculture among the Hills of Northern India.....	59
The Canadian Agricultural Fair.....	56	Paragraphs.....	60
Amendment of the Agricultural Act.....	56	Domestic Receipts.....	60

The Field and Farm Yard.

CONTEMPLATED IMPORTATION OF STOCK.

In accordance with a suggestion of the Board of Agriculture, and a recommendation of the Agricultural Committee of the House, the Legislature last session voted a sum of \$10,000, for the Importation of Stock, with a view to improve the breeds of Horses and Cattle in the Province.

The benefits to be realized from this importation will depend very much upon the judgment exercised in selecting and transporting the animals; and in order to secure as large and valuable an importation as possible, rigid economy will be required.

After much consideration it has been determined to purchase both horses and cattle in England, and to defer the final arrangements for the importation till December. It is found that there will be facilities for having the animals brought out in a comfortable manner very early next spring, in time for use next season, so that the advantages of a fall importation will to a certain extent be secured, without the risk and expense of having to keep the animals over winter in the Province.

This arrangement will afford certain other advantages. The Board of Agriculture will be enabled to add to the sum voted by the Legislature such surplus funds as can be spared, after providing for other requirements,

and Agricultural Societies desirous of expending the whole, or any portion of their funds, in the purchase of pure stock will be enabled to do so under the most advantageous circumstances, through the Agricultural Board. Every effort will be made to render this importation a permanent benefit to the province.

It is gratifying to know that in the meantime the immediate and pressing wants of societies are being met by the societies themselves, by importing rams from neighboring provinces this season.

HORSE RACING.

English horse racing, like other sports and amusements, has its good and its bad side. Much may be said on either. It is often said good and bad men may alike be found on the race course. The very best of men are found to be capable of admiring Shakspeare, and of appreciating the merits of a fast horse. But it seems to be with the race course as with the theatre. It constantly brings about itself an atmosphere more congenial to fast men of loose moral habits, than to the honest, hard-working, industrious class upon whom the progress of the world depends. Yet those who would shun the race course rabble read with interest an account of the race itself, and perceive in the long-tried superiority of English horses of all breeds, and the keen interest of Englishmen in racing sports, something more than an accidental coincidence. Then comes a sigh that the virtues of the race course

cannot be, or have not yet been, separated from its vices.

SHOULD WE RACE IN NOVA SCOTIA?

Should we ape the Derby? Should genuine English racing, with its pure blood and high betting, be gone into in Nova Scotia? That is a matter that may very well be left with those who have a taste for the pursuit, and who have the necessary means to carry it out. Racing would, no doubt, tell upon the muscles of our horses, as athletic sports tell upon the muscles of our men. If there is a waste of money in the one case, and of time in the other, the outlay is not in either without its return. The waste of morals, in the case of racing, as too often pursued, is the serious waste, yielding no adequate return, that we ought chiefly to regard. As for the American system of running a horse 100 miles, till he drops down dead (of which we read the other day in the papers,) that is a cruelty that would not be tolerated in England, and we hope will never be attempted in Nova Scotia.

At the Canadian and American Agricultural exhibitions a kind of racing has grown up within the last few years which wants the objectionable features of the English race course,—the betting and fastness which so often ruin the men of the turf, and lead them sometimes to serious crimes, and very often to a general looseness of moral life. At these exhibitions a suitable trial course is formed where the horses on exhibition may be exercised, (in harness or otherwise,) and this exercising usually resolves itself into a virtual racing, which is kept up for a day or two to the great enjoyment of spectators. The fullest opportunity is afforded for showing off the good qualities of every horse, of every driver, and of every rider. There may be a