

vigour, producing annually a great quantity of herbage of excellent quality.

The Alsike will not suffer from the severest frosts, and will flourish on the most barren soil where few grasses will grow at all, producing a heavy crop of seed, and affording an abundance of nutritious herbage for horses, oxen and sheep; and where land has become "clover sick" and cannot be depended on for a crop of the ordinary sorts of clover this has never been known to fail.

The best way of disposing of the crop of Alsike, is either cutting it for hay, mowing it occasionally as green food, or feeding it down with sheep; in the latter case it may be turned on sooner than any other crop, and if eaten quite bare, the next crop will come sooner, than any other species of clover so treated, and will afford a good bite until the land be required for autumn ploughing, when a heavier crop of wheat is invariably produced after Alsike than any other clover.

If mown for hay it should be cut as most of the heads are in full bloom, and before they begin to die away, for if allowed to stand until the bottom leaves turn yellow, it will lose more at the bottom than it gains at the top.

The weight of seed required to be sown is about 12 pounds per English acre.—The hardy nature of the plant is proved by the fact of its thriving by transplantation, it will admit of being taken up, at the expiration of two or three years and planted in any other situation. The plant when taken up is merely divided by any sharp instrument and planted over at equal distances so that the farmer need never be at a loss for a clover crop.

A. SAUNDERS, *Seedsman*.

168 Argyle Street, HALIFAX.
April, 1867.

WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE FARMER?

SECOND LETTER.

To Professor Lawson, Editor of the *Agricultural Journal*.

DEAR SIR:—With your permission, I will resume the subject of "What is our duty to the Farmer?" The force of this question is in the application. I have said "to the farmer," and I do not mean to the grazier; the latter delights in salt marsh and in fresh water marsh. The one he calls dyked marsh, and the other brackish intervals, after suffering manipulation; both of which moderate skill and care will keep in good condition for an indefinite period. He is the gentleman farmer (if I may so speak) of Nova Scotia. He has the best land, and he knows its value. He is master of the situation; and with his natural magazines of salt mud and bog mud, and in some instances

marl, and in others certain banks, from which he can draw some powerful stimulants, he affects an indifference for agricultural chemistry, and its silicates—its phosphates and its super-phosphates—its sulphates—its carbonates and its ammonia, &c. &c. But my business at present is not with him, and I will leave him firmly planted in his alluvial soil, until science approaches him on his weak side, as we shall see. But to proceed: My sympathies are principally with another—with a different individual, who, with a light heart and a sharp axe, penetrates into the forest, destroying all before him. In this desolating business he is accompanied and assisted by specimens of oxen, to which I shall again refer, and deer-like, hairy wooled sheep, to which a five feet fence is no obstacle in the way of their desire to ramble in unlimited space. This, or these, if I may include them in the same category, are our pioneer upland farmers—these hardy, useful, and, I may say, heroic men, and their no less hardy animals, though nominally more denizens of the forest than of the farm, for the one lumbering and the other browsing chiefly for an existence, from the stern necessity of their condition carry with them the inevitable result of leaving exhausted land where they found a primitive forest. To the farmer there is no mystery in the process that produces this result. I write neither to censure nor to instruct farmers; but I trust there are competent and zealous parties in the field, whose desire is not to blame the disease, but to endeavor to apply the cure—not at once, with a sweeping flourish of theory, but gradually, and by degrees, with the material aid. And first, that which lies neglected in our streets; and, as great results from small beginnings rise, afterwards with more complicated but not less well understood compounds, which science has matured and experience has proved. There is more in this than meets the eye. Our forests are disappearing, and what then?

With your permission, Mr. Editor, I propose to make out a case for the upland farmer—to establish his claim to our respect for his energy, our sympathy with him in his hardships, and our interest in his necessities. I propose to shew that, of necessity, there are thousands of acres of exhausted upland crying aloud against the wholesale plunder that has reduced it to the verge of starvation; and this is going on while fourte. a thousand dollars worth of bones—one great source of its vitality—are recklessly wasted in our streets, or, which is, in effect, the same, sent from our shores to pamper more fertile lands. This cry, mute appeal for help, cannot be choked down, and all good citizens are requested to remember that "he who causes two blades of grass or two ears of corn to grow where but

one has grown before, is a benefactor to his country." They are also reminded that they can make good their claim to this proud title, by attending to the advertisements in *Chronicle*, *Express*, and *Agricultural Journal*, and by taking especial care of their bones.

Yours, respectfully,

SUPER-PHOSPHATE.

THE LABOUR DIFFICULTY, AND THE REMEDY.

To the Editor of *Journal of Agriculture*.

SIR,—I observed in reading the *Journal*, a short note on the labour difficulty in England and Nova Scotia, and as some of the Agricultural Societies take the liberty of offering suggestions to the Central Board of Agriculture, I would take the liberty of offering the following suggestions, if such be allowable. While it must be admitted by all, that the Central Board of Agriculture has done much for the improvement of live-stock in the Province, and the general improvement of Agriculture, there is yet a great deal to be done in order to remedy the "labour difficulty" in this Province.

I need scarcely mention that mining operations and increased public works have put the price of labour altogether too large for the farmers' obtaining it, and our farms in general are altogether too large for the farmer's family to work themselves, and in too many instances our young men leave their homes to work at the gold diggings or elsewhere, where they may obtain more remunerative employment and ready cash than they can make by farming, consequently much less must be done and that in a worse condition, as our late springs require great expedition when the period for cropping arrives.

If the Central Board of Agriculture would introduce improved field grubbers to this Province, I have no doubt it would give a greater stimulus to Agriculture than anything else they could do at present. In England where labour is comparatively low to what it is here, farmers could not get through with their spring work at all without the use of field grubbers. By their use one man or boy with a good team can do as much work in preparing the soil for grain crops in one day as two or three men could do in three days by the use of the common plough besides the work would be done in a far superior manner.

Let it not be understood that I hold the grubber as a superior implement to the plough. In its proper place and for general use the plough supersedes every other implement, and it is much to be regretted that we have not an opportunity of getting the plough castings of a most improved description from the Mother country. The importation of plough