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HOME AND FARM.

We have pleasure in reproducing the following very interesting letter of a correspondent of the Halifax Herald:—The berry business is rapidly becoming a very important factor in the agricultural interests of western Kings Co. This district, sheltered by mountain ranges and watered by innumerable streams, seems by nature particularly adapted to fruit growing. Berwick may be considered the hub of the circle—bounded by Kentville on the east and Middleton on the west—in which small fruit is largely grown for market. The soil in this district is of a light nature, varying from poorest sand to a rich clay loam, early, warm, easily worked, very productive, and with plenty of manure and thorough cultivation seems to produce good crops regardless alike of drought or flood. All varieties of wild berries grow in great abundance, but the immense business of collecting berries for market is of recent growth.

Demand and supply of any commodity seem to grow up insensibly together, the one unconsciously nurtured and fostered by the other. Some twenty-five years ago J. M. Parker and John H. Shaw, of Berwick, shipped strawberries to Halifax by the old stage coach, realizing then about 40cts. per quart. From this small beginning the business has grown till some days last week two carloads of berries were landed and consumed in the same market. For fifteen years succeeding this the business increased but slowly; several parties continued to grow a small patch of berries each season but did not branch out largely for fear of over-stocking the market. Some ten years ago Geo. Magee of Somerset, Wm. McNeil of Kingston and a few others set seriously to work to grow berries for market, and with the supply of fruit the consumption has proportionately increased till it seems to-day as if the demand in Halifax is practically unlimited. Among the principal growers of the present time we can still name Geo. Magee, who cultivates about two acres of strawberries each season. Mr. Magee is a careful grower—only undertakes what he can do thoroughly, understands his business and makes it pay. He averages 5,000 to 7,000 quarts per season, and has cleared \$600 per acre in a good year. L. D. Robinson retired from the principalship of the Dartmouth schools some five years since with impaired health and shattered constitution, and bought a run-down farm in Berwick. Mr. R. plunged into fruit growing with all the energies of his impulsive nature, and is proving to the world that an educated farmer will succeed. He shipped 900 quarts in one day, and his fruit crop will aggregate 5,600 quarts this season. S. P. Chute & Son have a sheltered location on favorable soil. They are ambitious and enterprising, have put up a wind mill and tanks for irrigation, which during the heated term keep up the moisture by artificial means. Sam had 40 pickers on the 24th ult. and sent out 1100 quarts that day. This season's work ought to aggregate 6,000 quarts. John L. Shaw is a large grower, a careful cultivator and good packer; he has a large crop of all varieties of berries. T. H. Parker & Son's strong points are raspberries and tomatoes; they are cultivating all kinds of fruit and under favorable conditions should ship 8,000 quarts of fruit and five tons of tomatoes.

J. C. Thomas will probably ship 3,000 quarts of fruit, and a score of smaller growers will put up from 500 to 2,000 quarts each.

All will admit that G. C. Miller of Middleton is the most successful grower. Mr. Miller is a living example of "ten acres' enough."

His farm is just ten acres in extent, about two of which is meadow. There is no manure used on this place but commercial fertilizers. About three acres are kept in the strawberry plantation and about 10,000 quarts is the annual production. Mr. M. gives particular attention to marketing, ships only good fruit in full sized packages, and is the ideal grower of the valley.

Halifax certainly displays great capacity for the consumption of fruit. On the 24th ult about 500 cases containing no less than 20,000 boxes of strawberries were landed in Halifax, and the week's receipts probably did not fall far short of 60,000.

The low price for potatoes during the past few years and failure of the apple market has increased the fruit acreage wonderfully and it seems to some as if the business must be overdone in the near future. The early completion of the "missing link" with daily steam communication to Boston will open an avenue for the disposal of large quantities of fruit, and canning factories and evaporators will eventually dispose of much of the surplus product. And we will not claim that the business is overdone until the cost of production is so reduced by improved fruit and better cultivation that every person in Nova Scotia can eat fruit fresh or canned every day the year round.

The farmer ought, at the close of every day, to run his mind over every department of his farm work, and ask himself, among other questions: "I wonder how the sheep are getting along to-night?" Haying may be urgent, harvest may be crowding, the corn may need plowing; still, it will not do to neglect the sheep. They will break cover very early in the morning in these fly-pestered times—very soon after day-break; and they can readily be found and changed to another pasture while the hired hand is getting up the horses and oiling the wagon.

Water, salt, chango—these are three very important requisites in summer. Sheep may be made to browse very objectionable trash, ragweeds, the sprouts in a clearing, etc., and almost, if not quite, destroy them in a single summer, if a large flock is confined on a small area for two or three days, or even one day, if it is done very often. Constant change is the spice of life to a sheep.

Sheep almost invariably prefer a southern hillside to a northern, because the grass is shorter, tendrier and sweeter on the former. If they have become accustomed to range freely on both, and a fence is then run across the top of the hill, they will linger along it many hours of the day, gazing