

Agricultural Matters In St. George's District

(For the Western Star)
(By Visitor)

For a number of years I have been coming periodically to your District, and I have acquired a fairly intimate acquaintanceship with its characteristics.

I have, too, seen many of the other districts of the country and without disparagement can say that in scenic beauty and material wealth yours is by far the most richly endowed. Your potential resources of wealth are admittedly great—they are probably even greater than you realize. You do not "cultivate" crops, my observations show me, as thoroughly as you should, still you get large "average" yields—twenty barrels and more of potatoes to the barrel of seed is quite common, yet this is far away and beyond the average yield of either Canada or the United States. Your yield of hay, too, per acre, is about the continental average. I have been in your district since the opening of the present salmon fishing season and in the Codroy Valley from about the 20th of July I have daily had very fine new potatoes, that were not of a recognized variety either. These potatoes were large and well flavoured and had been of an early variety they would have been edible at least 8 to 10 days sooner.

This is worth giving severest consideration to as I, within the past week, noticed by newspapers sent here from St. John's, that that city about the 10th of August had its first new potatoes from a specially favored local source and that they sold for sixty cents a gallon.

This is over fourteen dollars per barrel and admitting that the Codroy would, as it could, pour hundreds of barrels of early potatoes into St. John's from two to three weeks ahead of any of local growth the advantages of such a market should be grasped and its requirements catered to. In previous years I have seen "sweet corn" ripen in your district and the present year I have seen green peas "fit for the pot" on the 20th July. In sections of St. George's district sheep are kept in quite considerable numbers and of quite good stock. Horned cattle are extensively kept and though there are many good specimens they are largely poor and scabby. The "scrub" trait that is so markedly in evidence in your horned cattle is, I fear, the result of injudicious winter feeding. With a hay ration alone, especially a scanty one, the best of stock will rapidly deteriorate. I have heard it said that the imported breeding animals have not given good results—it would surprise me if they did if the stories I hear of the treatment of young animals be true. It matters not how "well bred" the animals may be one will assuredly get but poor stock unless the young are generously and judiciously rationed until maturity. Far too many evid-

ently think that sufficient dry hay to merely keep them alive is good enough for yearlings and calves. Such people should try some other occupation than farming to make a living—under such methods it can be nothing but a constant and disheartening struggle.

I assure you, Mr. Editor, I am not thus writing in any spirit of criticism but solely with the view of creating an interest in the minds of many that will prompt them to ask themselves if there be not better procedures open to them than those followed in the past and that have in many cases yielded but indifferent results and that would have resulted disastrously were it not that the natural conditions are so good that they can stand a considerable measure of neglect, even of abuse.

This matter is one that embraces very great possibilities that no one may attempt to treat briefly. Even had I the time I may not trespass on your columns to the extent that an advantageous discussion thereof would call for. I will, however, casually mention a few new departures that I conceive could be taken with much advantage and from which beneficial results would be in evidence within a reasonable time. The first and most important is the winter of cattle.

A very large percentage of your milk cows go practically "dry" in the winter season. No animals can continue to give a flow of milk upon a scanty supply of roots and "hand feed" and they will give a profitable milk yield throughout the winter and unless they do this they cannot be made profitable.

My enquiries on this head brought to notice the case of a man who keeps eighty cows. These cows were virtually dry all winter and the present season they have produced but two tubs of butter for sale plus the quantity consumed by a family of seven members. Their total yield would be under 500 pounds and at 40c.—present price of butter—their product had a value of two hundred dollars—just twenty-five dollars per cow. Keep big such cows is an expensive luxury. The trouble with these cows is that they were notoriously underfed the past winter and when turned out to pasture in the spring were as lean as the proverbial "rake." Their physical condition was run-down and had to be rebuilt up before the animals could secrete milk and half the season went in this effort. Had these cows been properly rationed during the winter they would have more than paid for their keep and at once on being put on pasture in spring their milk yield would have increased and their joint production of butter could, for nine months, be figured at not less than two thousand pounds—in other words a return of a hundred dollars per cow as against twenty-five. Even much better than this is possible.

(To be continued)

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Ather and mother and two brothers, besides a large number of other relatives. All that gentle care and loving hands could do for him was done but it was of no avail, for Jesus loved him best. His loss is keenly felt in the home but we shall meet him in Heaven. He had a splendid funeral, being borne to the tomb by his brother Orangemen, where he now rests peacefully waiting for the Resurrection morning. He left a good testimony behind him.

He is not dead but sleepeth. A precious one from us is gone. A voice we loved is stilled. A place made vacant in his home Which never can be filled.

God in his wisdom has recalled The boon His love has given. And though the body slumbers here The soul is safe in Heaven.

WINNIFRED PADDOCK.
Little Bay Islands, Sept. 18, 1921.

Belvidere Collection

(Continued from Page 5)

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In Loving Memory of Robert Tucker

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—Will you please allow me space in your paper to record the death of a friend Robert Tucker, who

passed to life immortal on Aug. 30th, 1921. He suffered from Consumption. He was the beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Abel Tucker of this place, and was cut down in his bloom at the age of 30 years. Although sick for a while his death came as a sad blow to his parent and relatives. He was a little man, a good natured, and an aged

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