

few instances almost total loss was incurred. These adverse cases, perhaps, might be said to be only of trifling amount, in the whole; but where a farmer travels an hundred miles to market, for the purpose of bringing supplies from town in return for his produce, disappointments such as we mention cannot, in themselves, be trifling. It has, accordingly, been said, that more produce is raised than is profitably disposed of.—and that more could be raised if outlets for it existed. To some extent this is true, yet we must also recollect, that the farmers themselves purchase imported articles of food, which should be raised in the province. The questions then are, Can better markets be provided for what is produced? Can importations be superseded by the growth of the Province?

The latter question, to a great extent, includes the former. If the articles imported could be kept out by fair competition, more steady prices, and a wider sphere would at once be opened. Pork, grain, flour, and meal, are among the chief Agricultural importations. Specimens of the first, produced in the Province, would seem to prove, that nothing but a good system was requisite for a full home supply. Persons acquainted with Agriculture say the same, respecting the other articles. Farmers have asked for protecting duties as checks to importation; but taxes on food involve questions of the most serious nature. They have been branded as infamous and impious in older countries; they have arrayed class against class in fearful opposition, and have sometimes threatened public convulsion. The tax which distance imposes, in the shape of deterioration by delay, cost of transit, and various commissions, would seem sufficient to guard the native producer, if his land were at all fit for his purposes, and if his own energy and perseverance were of the requisite character. Openings for exportation might be made by commercial arrangements; but of that we need scarcely speak, until the home market be supplied. One means, of at once increasing the produce and the markets, would be the judicious increase of population, and the consequent formation and growth of towns. The fact, that there are only five or six towns, in a country nearly as large as England, shows a great paucity of internal markets, and a cause of much waste of labour and expence on the part of the farmer. There can be but little regularity, and few guards against glut and dearth, while farmers, within an arc whose radius is an hundred miles, have to make one market town their centre. Such a state would appear monstrous in an old and well peopled country. Some encouragement to the growth of villages and towns might be given, and the farmer might multiply his hands, in effect, by the judicious use of machinery. One custom, although having the appearance of much industry, may operate injuriously respecting the growth of communities which would be customers of the Agriculturist. In many instances, the farmer aims at producing every thing within his own precincts,—even to the entire formation of all his articles of wear. This saves money in the first instance; but it seems calculated to distract attention from the main business, it prevents the employment of small tradesmen, it induces village mechanics to become half farmers, and thus it militates against the "division of labour," and the perfection to which this division conduces.

Legislation cannot do much for such a class as Agriculturists, in this country, excepting by prohibiting taxes, which may be considered out of the question. Improvement rests mainly with themselves. Increased intelligence, doubtless, would do wonders, in some quarters; to that we may suppose that the exertions of the Board have been mainly directed, and it will probably form the chief burthen of the Report. Free criticism of the operations of the system which was established last session, may be expected this, but, probably, not much new or important. All must hope that the painful exhibitions of former years—in which the house seemed divided into angry parties, consisting of agriculturists at one side, and fishing and trading interests at the other—will never be repeated. The interests of all are similar;—what promises the most prosperity to the country, should unite all parties,—whether their hopes be confined to the green acres which surround the farm-house, or wander unconfined over the blue waves which are every where within a few miles of the heart of the country.—*Novascotian*.

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From the Farmer's Journal.

LIME FOR ORCHARDS.

MR. COLE,—Please answer the following questions in your next number:

- What is the benefit of lime on an orchard?
- Which is best, as to its use in the stone or slacked?
- What is the best season for applying it?
- What is the average quantity to the tree or acre?

A SUASCOTIAN.

By the Editor.—Lime is useful in destroying insects, and it serves as a stimulant, and has valuable effects in promoting the growth of fruit trees. Many successful experiments have been made in improving and renovating fruit trees, by the use of lime. It serves to make a hard and tenacious soil more light and mellow, both by its mechanical effect, as it is less tenacious than clay, and by its chemical effect in uniting with and decomposing and neutralizing other substances. Lime contains one of the principal constituents of wood. There are many kinds of insects that injure trees and fruit, and it is important that manure be used which will destroy them; and there is probably none more efficacious for this purpose than lime.

Lime in the stone is in a good state for agricultural purposes, if it can be reduced fine enough, as it then contains a larger portion usually about 50 per cent. of carbon, which enters largely into vegetables. But the cheapest way to finely pulverize lime, in most cases, is to burn it, then slack it, or let it become air-slacked, then it becomes very fine. When it has been slacked for some time, or when air-slacked, it is mild, because it has taken up carbon, which was driven off by calcination. In this mild state it is the same as when in the stone. These processes only serve to render it fine, which is probably cheaper than grinding. Quick lime is not in a suitable state to apply to the soil, and when newly slacked, it is still in a caustic state, only changed by being pulverized, and being an addition of water. In this condition it is suitable to add to a compost heap, a compound of vegetable and animal manure, by its union with the latter, it produces an alkaline gas which pervades the whole heap, corrects the acid in the vegetable matter, and renders it a valuable manure. This process fixes the gases in the heap, which otherwise would pass off by fermentation.

Lime may be applied at any season. Its effects are generally slow and lasting, and will do more good the first season if it be applied the previous fall. Some Farmers use fresh slacked lime the spring, and are disappointed in not finding a great advantage the first season. Old lime might have a more immediate effect, and in this case the benefit would probably be as great for several years to come, as at first. In some cases the effects of lime have been perceptible for 20 years.

As to the quantity of lime, much depends on the price, and the nature of the soil as containing more or less of this principle in well constituted soil. In some lime-stone regions, there is an abundance, or too much of this property for a fertile soil. But most parts of New England there is but a small portion of lime. When the price of lime is moderate, three or four casks to the acre may generally be applied to orchards with profit. A peck to a middling sized tree, and half a bushel to a larger one, is quite moderate quantity. A Farmer who was very successful in improving fruit trees, took off the sods and surface soil, and made into a compost manure for his trees, and after removing this, he put lime around the trees one inch deep for several feet.

The modes of application and the quantities are various, and are the effects in different soils, and under different circumstances. We may attend to this subject again in a future number. Our readers are requested to give the result of their experience and observation on it.

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