

Mr. PETER J. GRANT, Secretary of the Egerton Agricultural Society, Springville, County of Pictou, writes to us as follows:—"Would you be so kind as to give us the Post Office address of the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies in the first JOURNAL published this year.—Even in Pictou County I do not know the address of one of the other four Secretaries, and letters addressed to me sometimes take two weeks to find me." The addresses will be given in the Annual Report to the Legislature.

Mr. A. H. McKAY, B. A., Principal of the Academy at Pictou, has discovered a very interesting addition to the Flora of that region in the beautiful northern Fern, *Cystopteris fragilis*. He has found it at Mount Dalhousie Lime Rock, West River, and at Springville, East River, both in Pictou County, growing in damp clefts of rocks, and on the sides of deep rocky ravines, near waterfalls. These are precisely the situations in which the plant grows in Britain and on the Continent of Europe. In western Canada it is found sparingly in swamps. It is often mistaken for *Woodsia obtusa*. We have a Philadelphia specimen named by a good American botanist "*Woodsia Perenniana*," and corrected by one of the best botanists in Europe to "*Woodsia obtusa*," which is after all *Cystopteris fragilis*. It is a remarkably variable plant, and there are many named varieties in cultivation. Mr. McKay's specimens are more like some of the European forms than any we have seen in America,—long and narrow, the pinnae far apart, and all strictly vertical. We name it provisionally *Cystopteris fragilis* var. *McKayi*.

THE following paragraph from the *Colonial Farmer* contains a hint well worthy of attention:—"The special capacity of women for caring for pets is so well established that it is a matter of surprise that a larger number do not make their natural inclination a matter of profit in the raising of poultry. There is no reason why women may not be as successful as men in this branch of productive and profitable industry. Indeed, when it is considered that the business requires close attention to minute details, patience, and gentleness of manner, woman seems to be peculiarly fitted for the business. The Danbury man's humorous description of the different ways in which woman and man attempt to get a hen into the coop, and the superiority of the former's method, is as true as it is funny. After the hennery or coop is built there is no department of the work that a woman cannot perform without exhausting labor or too heavy demands upon her time.—'Down South' poultry raising is woman's special department, and one need not go

farther South than Baltimore or Washington to find the markets thronged with the female venders of their own feathered products. That the business is profitable the experience of hundreds testifies, and that it is healthful, and may be attractive, is susceptible of demonstration."

ON THE PRODUCTION OF BEEF AT THE INVERNESS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Colvin, Essich, read a paper on the best and most expeditious way of fattening cattle and producing good beef. In the first place, he remarked that the first thing required to produce good beef was a thoroughly good calf, and a thoroughly good calf could only be got from a good dam and sire. If the calf was a cross, the mother and sire should be respectively pure of their kind. A cross between a pure Shorthorn bull and a pure polled cow or a pure Highland cow would answer the purpose; but, for some cause of which he had seen no explanation, a cross between a pure Highland bull and a pure Shorthorn cow would not do. In his opinion, allowing the calf to suckle its mother was preferable to giving it its milk from the pails. He also thought that the longer a calf was allowed to be on its mother's milk alone the better. The length of time during which milk is supplied varies considerably, but he had read that Mr. McCombie insisted on the calf being allowed to suck, or to be fed from the pail, for six or eight months. It has then strength to stand weaning, and, if properly cared for, will not be checked in its growth, but will retain the good calf flesh it has put on. The loss of the calf-flesh can never be made up, and, if lost, the animal will never yield first-class meat.

An indispensable requisite is a well-ventilated, comfortable house, with plenty of clean, dry bedding. The calves, on being weaned, should be turned out to grazing about the end of July, and an allowance of half a pound of oilcake apiece until they are housed in winter, would materially improve their condition. The calves should be housed for the winter early, and certainly not later than October 1. The houses should be roomy enough to contain six or eight calves.—They should be supplied with oilcake the first thing every morning, then with some fresh straw, and, by-and-by, with a regular and uniform supply of sliced turnips. Cattle at this age will consume from 4 to 5 stone each of turnips daily, and experience has proved beyond all doubt that a regular supply of artificial food is indispensable. As Mr. Pringle says, this will not only prevent waste of flesh, but keep the animal in a profitably progressive state. Further, a low temperature must be avoided, else progress will be re-

tarded, and a great additional expenditure of food incurred. This treatment should be continued until the animal is turned out in spring, and I have found this to be a very critical period with year-olds. When first turned out to graze they are very subject to grass staggers. I believe the cause of this to be the too sudden change of food, and I am informed that if a little laxative medicine were given before sending out the cattle to graze it would materially lessen, if not entirely remove this danger. There can be little doubt, too, that the kind of grass on which the animals are fed, has a great deal to do with it, which shows how careful we should be in regard to the grasses which we sow. It is of the utmost importance, too, that pasture fields should be well supplied with pure running water. The cattle being well summered, the next era in their progress is the wintering; but before taking them in for the winter, the farmer must determine whether he is to fatten them up for the butcher by the time they are two years old, or whether he is to keep them on for another summer and winter. On this point my own experience is that it pays better to feed off at once, and prepare the animal for the butcher by the time it is two years old. I have, no doubt, however, that better and more matured beef would be obtained by keeping the animal on until it is three, or even four years old.

Having, however, determined to follow the course which I think the most profitable, the next point is what is the best mode of treatment during the fattening period; and first, whether stall-feeding, box-feeding, or hammel-feeding is the most profitable and best? My own practice has been to stall-feed, and I have little doubt it is the quickest way to produce obesity and fat; but the result of my reading on the subject within the last day or two leads me to think that I am wrong, and that the most profitable and best way is box-feeding. You will find a very interesting experiment on the subject in the volume of the *Transactions of the Highland Society for 1873*, by Mr. Moscrop, of Yorkshire. The animals selected from were 12 bullocks. On November 4 they were divided into lots of four each. One lot was tied up in the stalls of a byre, another lot was placed in boxes measuring 10 feet by 10 feet; height 9 feet; cubical space when empty, 1100 feet; and the third lot was placed in hammels or sheds having open yards in front. After narrating in great detail the temperature, mode of feeding, &c., the writer gives the quantities and value of the different descriptions of food consumed by each lot during the experimental period of 14 weeks, and as it is not long, I may repeat this part of the experiment. Lot 1 consumed of swedes,