

thus glazed was produced, and also specimens of the various minerals found in the gypsum viz:—natroborocalcite, cryptomorphite, and silicoborocalcite, which last was met with in the anhydrite from Mr. Black's quarry at Brookville, and in gypsum from Newport.

No deposit of rock salt of any importance has been found with the gypsum, but the brines of the gypsiferous districts have furnished excellent salt at River Philip, and Springhill, Cumberland, and a company is conducting operations in salt making in Antigonish.

The following analysis was given of the silicoborocalcite.

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Water..... | 11.62 |
| Lime..... | 23.04 |
| Sulph. Acid..... | .08 |
| Magnesia..... | trace. |
| Silicia..... | 15.44 |
| Bor. Acid..... | 44.10 |
| Loss..... | .72 |
| | 100.00 |

The Paper, of which the foregoing is an imperfect abstract, is one of the most interesting ever read at the Institute—and, treating as it does of a mineral which occurs so extensively in various parts of Nova Scotia, is so full of information, that it will doubtless lead, to more speculation and research in our gypseous formations than have ever yet taken place. An interesting conversation followed the reading.

[We should like to see a careful investigation of the properties of gypsum and anhydrite, as manurial substances. Both are used indiscriminately and very extensively in the United States, and the Lake Province of Canada. The plaster is applied to the growing crop in a powdered state after the hot weather has set in. European chemists regard gypsum as a powerful fixer of ammonia; but this alone will not explain its beneficial action. In practice it would seem to be chiefly used on account of its hygroscopic property, its power of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, for it is used most freely in hot dry climates, and its advantages are most obvious in dry seasons. If it acts beneficially, only or chiefly, as an absorbent of moisture, then it is probable that hydrated gypsum being more hygroscopic is more valuable than anhydrite.—*Ed. J. A.*]

FEEDING HORSES IN NORWAY.

The horses in Norway have a very sensible manner of taking their food. Instead of swilling themselves like ours with a pailful of water at a draught—no doubt from the fear of not getting it soon again—and then over-gorging themselves with dry food, for the same reason, they have a bucket of water put down by their allowance of hay. It is amusing to see with what a relish they take a sip of the

one and a mouthful of the other alternately, sometimes only moistening their mouths as a rational being would do while eating a dinner of such dry food. A broken-winded horse is scarcely ever seen in Norway, nor have I met with one in the slightest degree so affected. The animal is not forced to overload its stomach, and distend the vessels with unnecessary quantities of water or hay at one time. Broken-wind is understood to be a rupture of the vessels connected with the lungs, and to be brought on by over-feeding, or over-exertion with a full stomach. In a field, when left to himself, the horse is perpetually eating. He does not fill himself at once like a cow. By giving two or three feeds only in the day, he fills himself too rapidly, and without sufficient mastication. Probably many of the diseases of our horses arise from this unnatural custom. The horse probably knows better than the groom when he should eat and drink, and would be more free from diseases if left to his own discretion.—*Laing's Tour in Norway.*

A CANDID CRITICISM.

The *American Agriculturist*, which is the leading farmer's paper in the States, notices the Prize List of the forthcoming Nova Scotia Exhibition, in terms of commendation that must be gratifying to the Committee who spent so much time in its preparation:—

“NATIVE WOODS.—In the prize list of the Nova Scotia Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, we find several unusual and very sensible premiums offered. Among others is one for the best collection of native woods, prepared to show the bark, as well as longitudinal and transverse sections, polished and plain. But very few are familiar with the appearance of our native woods, other than the few kinds that have a commercial value. Such a collection at any fair would be far more instructive than many things for which prizes are given.”

THE AMERICAN DROUGHT.

The drought still continues in this section, and fears are entertained that winter may set in before we have rain enough to start the springs. Should such be the case, we shall surely be troubled to get water for the stock. Many farmers now have to drive their cattle to the canal or to the nearest stream, and water for the hogs has to be carried in barrels. It has been vain to think of fall plowing. Heavy soil is as dry and as hard as a rock—and it is this kind of land, rather than the sandy loams, that is most benefited by fall plowing. Wheat has come up very unevenly. Where the ground is loose and moist, the wheat is too rank; while

on the dry, lumpy “clay spots,” much of it is barely out of the ground. It has been splendid weather for doing fall work—digging potatoes, husking corn, etc. But the stalks are so dry and brittle, that it is almost impossible to tie up the bundles. Pigs that are well fed grow rapidly this mild weather, but corn is so high that farmers are selling them before they are half or quarter fat. Buyers are picking them up at about 5 cents per pound. One of my neighbors was selling cider the other day, and was asked if he had put any water in it. “Water,” said he, “no, sir; not this year. Water is a good deal scarcer than cider.”—*American Agriculturist.*

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