

The potato crop was below an average in quantity, partly from less ground being under crop, and the number of bushels per acre smaller than usual, but of good size and superior quality, generally free from disease and keeping well in the cellars.

Turnips, mangel-wurtzel, carrots, and parsnips came up unusually well, and gave promise of an extraordinary crop in the early part of the season, but were generally a failure from want of moisture in the latter part of the season.

The serious deficiency in the growth of after grass on mowing lands has been a great drawback to farmers independent of the heavy loss in dairy produce, and the extra hay which had to be fed to teams and cows before the usual season for stable feeding; the reduced condition of live stock in general, coming into the barns for winter, will be a serious item in the expense of putting through the winter, more especially when considered in connection with the failure of fruit crops.

At the annual December meeting of the Windsor Agricultural Society the following officers were elected for the year 1866, viz.:—*Pres.*, John Brown; *Vice-Pres.*, Sam. Mumford; *Sec'y.*, Sam. Palmer; *Treas.*, James Dill; *Directors.*, Jas. M. Geldert, Alf. C. Thomas, Peter Pellew, David Scott.

Jan. 3, 1865. To amt. paid Jas. Dill for keeping bull - - -	\$13 50
Oct. 11. To amt. for prizes, and expense, holding cattle show and fair - - -	113 80
To amt. paid for repr'ng threshing machine - - -	15 62½
Paid J. L. Barnaby - - -	4 00
	<hr/>
	\$146 92½
Dec. 4, 1864. By balance in hands of <i>Treas.</i> - - -	\$133 05
By amt. received from members subscriptions - - -	98 00
Received for use of threshing machine - - -	8 30
Entrance fee at cattle show - - -	2 90
	<hr/>
	\$242 25
	146 92½
	<hr/>
Balance in hand of <i>Treas.</i> - - -	\$95 32½

JAMES DILL, *Treas.*
SAM. PALMER, *Secy.*

[The Treasurer's account was made up to the day of the annual general meeting, at which date the amount appropriated to the Society by the Board of Agriculture had not been received by him for 1865.]

APPLE GAS.—The Abbe Moigno says the marc from the cider presses is now used to produce, by dry distillation, acetic acid, tar, and a large amount of gas of fair illuminating power.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

THE RED ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Hay Cove, Red Islands.

February 12, 1866.

A society has been formed in the county of Richmond, called the "Red Islands Agricultural Society," consisting of forty members, and \$10 subscriptions. At a meeting held on the 5th ult., the following officers were chosen:—*Pres.*, Jas. Johnston; *Vice-Pres.*, Angus McLeod; *Sec'y.*, John McDonald; *Treas.*, Alex. Campbell; *Directors.*, Thomas Cash, Mich. McDonald, Anthony B. Mullin, Donald Johnston, John Johnston, Michael McKenzie.

Having been chosen Secretary of the above named society I deem it my duty to acquaint you of its formation. The subscriptions are not all paid in as yet; when so I will let you know.

JOHN McDONALD, *Sec'y.*

Vegetable & Flower Garden.

THE CABBAGE AND ITS VARIETIES.

It would seem that a somewhat remote antiquity is claimed for the Cabbage, for although the period of its first cultivation appears to be involved in obscurity, it can with certainty be traced back several centuries. It was extensively cultivated and much esteemed by the Romans while they inhabited Britain, and it is considered to be very probable, that like other productions, particularly fruit, some of the more improved varieties of the Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea capitata*, our common White Cabbage) were brought by these people and cultivated near their camps, from which they may have been diffused over the country.

The *Brassica oleracea*, or Wild Cabbage, grows naturally on the cliffs of Dover; in many places on the coast of Dorsetshire, Cornwall, and Yorkshire; and I believe on some of the sea coasts of the Highlands of Scotland. "It may be seen a wild plant with variously indented, much waved, and loose-spreading leaves of a sea-green color and large yellow flowers. In spring the inhabitants collect the leaves of this plant, and after boiling them in two waters to remove the saltness, use them as a vegetable along with meat." From this have originated all the varieties of Borecoles, Cabbage, Savoys, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflowers, Broccoli, and Kohl Rabi now in cultivation. Oliver Goldsmith, in his "Animated Nature," says that animals which have been longest under the care and protection of man, are those which have sported into the greatest number of varieties; and certainly few, if any, of our cultivated

plants have sported so extensively or differed from the original type, both in appearance and qualities, so much as the many varieties of *Brassica oleracea*.

I propose in this and a succeeding paper or two to notice some of the best varieties in each of the sections into which the *Brassica* tribe has been divided. Commencing, therefore, with the Cabbage, the first on the list shall be old Sugarloaf, now not so generally grown as it was 20 years ago. It has, however yet many admirers. Its peculiar growth makes it a very distinct variety; it is generally classed among the earliest, and is much esteemed when cooked.

Early Combe, Barnes' Early Dwarf, and Green's Early are now almost out of cultivation; the second is most frequently met with. They were dwarf and early varieties, and small in size.

Cotterill's, or Early Champion, is a capital dwarf early cabbage, forming good close heads. Sealey's Early is also an excellent dwarf early Cabbage, very similar to the foregoing.

Improved Matchless, raised by Mr. Harman, of Durham, near Uxbridge, is a very close and dwarf early variety of fine quality, but scarcely so dwarf as Sealey's and Champion. This is a great improvement on Atkins' Matchless.

Early York is later than the preceding dwarf, and very close headed; the leaves rib in a very peculiar manner, and are of a dark color.

Improved Nonpareil is a really first class early dwarf Cabbage, when a good stock of it can be obtained. It is very early, dwarf, and close-headed, and keeps well. Very similar to this is a Cabbage grown in Herefordshire, Cheshire, and one or two of the neighboring counties, called Downton Castle Early Dwarf. Many other excellent stocks of early dwarf Cabbages may be met with about the country, like that just mentioned, each having its own local reputation, and generally in the hands of some particular seedsman. Hence, nearly every seed dealer has his own early dwarf Cabbage, and all are invariably of excellent, though not very diversified character.

Pontefract Cabbage is a very fine early dwarf variety, grown largely by the market gardeners in that district. It has however found its way into the hands of one or two of the wholesale seed houses in London, and has no doubt been already catalogued by them.

Beck's Early Premier is a large-sized early Cabbage, and one greatly esteemed in the Midland districts, where large Cabbages are much sought for. It is comparatively new, and was sent out by Messrs. Beck, Henderson, and Child, of London.

Early Battersea, or Fulham, proved to be dwarfer but larger in size, and earlier than the old Nonpareil; it is a very fine