

Reports of Agri. Societies.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF KING'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1874.

(Continued from last No., p. 352.)

POTATOES.

Late reports in connection with the potato are not satisfactory. Although you went into the planting business with your usual aptitude, under the most favorable conditions of weather and ready soil, it does not appear that the average was increased over that of the previous season. Information obtained from various sections, though much diversified, leads to the conclusion that the crop has suffered by disease a diminution full one-third. The effect has been observed principally in the late varieties. With early kinds, on light soils, the results were the opposite. The Early Rose appears to have given general satisfaction, and its culture is rapidly extending. It is a strong robust grower in sandy loam, and, with extra attention, the yield is often a pleasant surprise. The crop should be lifted when it is sufficiently matured to bear handling without injury to the skin, which, if planted early in May, will be the last of August; if allowed to remain in the ground after that period the chances are that you will experience a grievous surprise. "It is better to be sure than sorry."

Any attempt to grow the new varieties that have been introduced of late years, in ordinary soils, scantily manured, is only trifling with the tubers. The potato requires plenty of manure, and so applied that the plant during the different stages of its growth may receive an abundant supply of nourishment. The Early Rose has been experimented with for the last six years, with varied success. The greatest yield noted was in the year 1870, the product of five and a half rods weighing 1380 pounds of clean bright potatoes, all perfectly sound. A foot note appended gives the following:—"This is considered a remarkable yield, and has created some curiosity, but not to any alarming extent, as the great yields of fifty years ago are still fresh in the memories of some who came to view them."

The Early Vermont is a new variety of recent introduction; it is said to be a cross of the Jackson White and Garnet Chili. This new seedling bears a close resemblance to the Early Rose in habits of growth and general appearance of tuber, so alike are the two that it would puzzle an expert to tell the difference. This coincidence is unfortunate, as its identity will be merged in that of the Rose. It is said to be earlier, a week or ten days, than its *congener*, perhaps so; of this we have no definite proofs. The past season the Vermont was treated to a

novel mode of culture, which increased the product to a sensible degree. The process was simple. Three rods of ground were selected for the experiment, on which beets had grown the previous season, the soil was not disturbed further than to open trenches a spade in depth, and three and a half feet apart; manure from the barn-cellar was spread evenly in each to the depth of three inches, the seed prepared with two fair eyes to a set, and distributed in each drill a foot apart, and covered with two inches of mold. The spare earth from the trench was leveled with a coarse rake which left the drills slightly depressed over the seed; on making their appearance a cultivator was run twice through each row gaged to two inches. The cultivation was continued once a week, until the vines interfered, they were then earthed up with a hoe and left until the last week in August. The yield was five hundred and ninety-four pounds (594) of first class table potatoes, perfectly ripe, uniform in size, and, in quality and appearance, equal to those grown in burnt land. The Garnet Chili is another seedling worthy of attention; for exportation it is rated superior to the Prince Albert or Calico; on soil adapted to its requirements it promises to be a leading variety. In planting potatoes we suggest the necessity of giving greater space between the rows, which will admit of a more extended and thorough cultivation, also a more liberal supply of barn-yard manure, that from neat cattle is to be preferred. A few experiments with some of the early varieties on suitable ground will do more to convince you of their real worth than a ten acre patch of diseased tubers.

Bona fide members of this Society will receive one pound of the Early Vermont, on application to the Secretary, (George Hamilton, Esq.) as a specimen for trial, on the understanding that a correct statement is to be rendered to the Secretary of the yield in pounds, character of soil, and mode of treatment.

FRUIT.

This subject presents greater attractions to the horticulturist than to the farmer. The fruit-grower is generally more enthusiastic, devoting his time and patience to a special object. It is not essential that farmers should be growers of fruit other than *pomme de terre*, their time can be fully occupied with the labours of the field and the care of their stock, but it is essential that horticulturists should possess a knowledge of some of the first principles of agriculture. The husbandman is indebted to horticulture for many of the vegetable products that he now cultivates—the different varieties of fruit, large and small, also many of the ingeniously contrived implements adapted to fine culture. Your method of

farming is not exceptional, it is peculiar to many districts of the Province. You have a multiplicity of special objects always on hand, often so many that you are "put to your trumps" to know what to do with them. Indeed, your method may be styled a thoroughly mixed husbandry; these innumerable special objects demand unusual attention, and skill, and judgment, and quickness, and—and—and everything, the *highest intellect*. The officers, conscious of their very limited knowledge in this multiple mixed method of farming, which clutches in its grasp the culture of fruit with its mysterious complexities, approach the subject with much diffidence, but, aware of the great importance of this industry, and the interest that many members of this Society take in the propagation of the different kinds of fruit, we feel constrained to present a few remarks relative to the subject. To announce the fact of a full crop of apples the past season, would add nothing to your stock of knowledge, but to proclaim that two-thirds of that fruit, from a commercial point of view, was worthless would perhaps start your ideas some. Growing fruit is one thing, selling is another, and as long as the home market was equal to the supply, to the vendor the character of the fruit was rarely a disturbing element, although to the consumer it would often prove a fruitful source of elemental ejaculation. The home market is getting shaky under the annual increasing quantity of fruit, and other ways for the distribution of apples will have to be sought out. For varieties having a commercial value, the foreign market presents a broad field, and a few venturesome gentlemen have made occasional explorations, with what success we are not prepared to say, but we think the thanks of orchardists due to men who have made an attempt to introduce Nova Scotia apples into the markets of England. In the foreign markets there is no playing "possum;" you will have to deal with men of peculiar intellect, we won't say that they will attempt to cheat, but they will make you walk straight, and any sideling from the narrow way only adds to the expense. If the barrels or packages are faulty, which too frequently is the case, in size, weight and general appearance, or carelessness in packing, loose and of uneven size, or nomenclature, with the innumerable other little things that jog along in connection, the whole transaction is faulty, and when the bill of sales is handed over, the balance that you have been suffering to see, if it don't give you the lock-jaw, may prove a lasting source of particular grief.

It does not appear that much progress has been made in developing new and useful varieties, or that we have evinced any great desire to add to our stock of