

AGRICULTURE.

MANAGEMENT OF HOGS.—There are many men owning hogs who do not know the difference between right and wrong in their management. They never stop to think whether or not there is any limit to the ill treatment or neglect a hog can endure; but there are a greater number of men who fail to act upon the better knowledge they possess. They seem not to be sufficiently impressed with the importance of providing shelter and the proper kinds of feed, varying with the condition of the season or weather and the age or growth of their stock. This latter class we would be glad to reach and to see them "enthused" with the idea that constant attention and careful looking after details in the management of their animals, personally or by some one equally interested with themselves, are among the first conditions of success.

There are said to be carried off from the soil 9 pounds of lime in 25 bushels of oats, and 15 pounds in 38 bushels of barley. There are 3 pounds of lime in 2 tons of clover, 140 pounds in 25 tons of turnips, and 270 pounds in 9 tons of potatoes. Some soils contain an abundance of lime for a thousand years, while other soils require an occasional application of lime as a fertilizer.

Milk should be set as soon as possible after it is taken from the cow. In cool weather it is a good idea to set milk pails with milk in warm water before straining, as cream rises best in a falling temperature. To prevent milk from absorbing bad odors, it should be kept at a higher temperature than surrounding atmosphere; never let it get below fifty degrees. The milk should stand before skimming until it begins to sour, to get best results, or should be skimmed as soon as it begins to sour, and then the cream should stand twenty-four hours to ripen. It is a disadvantage to mix the cream from different cows, but when mixed, it should stand twelve hours before churning.

POTASH FOR POTATOES AND FRUIT.—The following is taken from the report of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, which was prepared by Prof. Gressmann:—In an experiment made in manuring for potatoes, with sulphate of potash and muriate of potash, it was found that potatoes grown where the latter form of potash was used were almost free from scab, while another plot manured with sulphate of potash, and still another with no manure, were seriously disfigured by scab. This, however, is but the result of a single experiment, and another trial may show the reverse condition. It was also observed that corn smut showed itself far more on an unmanured plot than on plots that were made rich with manure or fertilizers. The further experiments in the use of potash compounds for fruit growing confirm previous conclusions that such compounds act very favorably upon the quality of fruit, increasing its saccharine matter and rendering the plants more healthy. Muriate of potash seems to be a specially useful fertilizer for peach trees affected with the "yellows."

All writers and practical poultry-keepers concur in saying no more than fifty fowls should be kept in one house, so as to guard against an epidemic of disease going through the whole flock. These houses would require to be a considerable piece apart. Near a city, town or large village this could not be done, as chicken-thieves would soon carry off the outlying colonies. In retired places where there is little danger from thieves, they could no doubt be raised very profitably.

A farm, the greater part of which is poor or barren land, if dry, would suit well, provided it has sufficient good land to raise the different kinds of grain to feed the fowls. If it has a small stream running through it, or a small lake, or even marsh, it would be all the better, and would also be excellent for ducks and geese; but where fowls alone are to be raised, the water might be raised by a windmill sufficient for their use. The ducks, geese, and fowls, should be kept apart from one another, as they will thrive better.

[Special despatch to THE CRITIC.]

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

KENTVILLE, N. S., Oct. 1.

As I write, the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition for the year of grace 1885 is in full blast in the Kentville Exhibition Building. I write "in full blast," advisedly and appropriately. The tramp of many feet, the sound of many voices words, snatches of sentences here, mingling with the sound of music. Organs, pianos, and bands, above the roar of human voices in the distance, proclaim these the grounds; neighing of horses, deep bellowing of bulls, lowing of kine, bleating of sheep, clarion note of huge Plymouth Rocks, and their brothers of other breeds, add their testimony that the Exhibition is in full blast. It had formal opening, on Tuesday, about 3 o'clock, P. M.; close up to that time, chaos and confusion, regardless of order and beauty, reigned; but the efforts of the hard-worked committee men and assistants prevailed, as Councillor F. D. Curry advanced to the front of the south gallery, and intimated that it became his duty, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, to open the Exhibition; and after brief, but well-chosen remarks, introduced His Honor Lieut. Governor Ritchie; "a noble son of a worthy sire." His Honor was followed by the leader of the Government, the leader of the Opposition, and by Hon. Donald Ferguson, notes of whose speeches I forward by mail; and then the Chairman declared the Exhibition open. Let us start from the Press Room, and go the rounds. We cannot even mention all we shall see. We shall try to get and give the essence of what should be most characteristic, interesting and useful.

Here are stoves from the Windsor Foundry, and specimens of stones and minerals in cases; bare tables show here and to our right, the result of smaller quantities of fruits being required from exhibitors than on other occasions. Part of an extensive show of canned fruits in air-tight glass jars commences here. Let them out the more unresponsive, unwholesome, less fruity and indifferently palatable preserves, apples, plums, pears, grapes, peaches, quinces.

Pomona, thou seest this inhospitable down-east—"That for which we here see of its produce and capabilities, we are proud of as well as love." The fruit is a fine display, in size and appearance, though some varieties are not at perfection. The world can't beat us in apples; these Emperor Alexander's are big, but little good at home; none abroad like their namesake, Gravensteins, the perfection of juicy flavor may win a first place for export to the States; Ribston Pippins are A1 in the English market, rich in flavor and fair keepers; next comes Nonpareil, then Blenheim Pippins, then King of Tomkins, then Ben Davis, not much cultivated now, but bound to take a high place; and the Gloria Mundi, a large showy apple, should be in the English market for Christmas, and notably Christmas trees; the Baldwin is conceded to take sixth place among apples for export, and is liked at home for its high color, the Canada Renet, as all russets commands a good price. The golden russet of Western New York takes first place. There is a dish of Ben Davis apples, the growth of 1884; another of 1885, not knowing which is which you could not tell. The Mann apple and the fallow water are spoken of as excellent new varieties. The stark promises to rival the Ben Davis in keeping and quality. Of other fruits, we could only name them, eat some if we dared, these luscious Baldwins for instance. Fruit occupies share of space proportioned to its great importance. Tomatoes, forgotten in their place, deserved mention. Vegetables, two long tables full, we will notice only the homely but indispensable potatoes, and the best of them. The early beauty of Hebron, highly recommended by United States agricultural authorities, lately introduced here, is a fine, large, tuber, and fair shape. Early rose 2nd, but not good for table use. Garnet chili 3rd, principally for feed. Porifolia 4th. Early vermonts are great yielders. Davis seedling also a good yielder. The famous Curbank seedling pigs won't eat if they can help it. All the old black calico holds its own as table potato. Other vegetables we cannot in this despatch even notice, save the big squash 7 feet in circumference, 260 pounds in weight. The fine art department shows well to the right of the entrance. Around the gallery hang home made rugs, mats, and quilts, beautiful, crazy and otherwise. The cloths from the Eureka mills are deserving of great praise, and must in your next receive special notice. Cottons from Windsor Factory are good as any from abroad. There is in the gallery also a fine display of organs and pianos, notably those of our own, Gates Bros., deserving all praise for their persevering enterprise. The grains, seeds, beans, etc., make a good display. Even the hospitality of the Truro condensed milk company, who furnish free, hot coffee, can barely receive mention. We would like to describe the scenery from the top of the tower of the lovely valley beneath, but must leave it all till next week. Below are the arrivals, including really a fine display of all our thorough breeds of cattle, but one. There is also a fine show of hogs. Of the horses I am not prepared to speak without careful inspection. Agricultural implements are scarce, which should not be; but of carriages of all kinds there is a fine show. The weather has been perfectly lovely, the attendance on Tuesday was discouraging, but yesterday the building and grounds were thronged and this morning streams of carriages and loaded trains pour their thousands into the gates, and we hope into the treasury.

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