

The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

VOL. 1.

FREDERICTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 2, 1878.

NO. 30.

Agriculture.

KINCARDINE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

During the last six weeks there has been hardly a paper that did not contain a notice of some agricultural exhibition. The season of shows and fairs is now over. The last, but not least in interest, which we shall have occasion to record is that held in the Kincardine Settlement on the 15th of October. The ambition of our energetic and industrious Scotch settlers, who, it may be said is just emerging from the wilderness not to be behind hand to other more advanced places is to be admired, and should be encouraged. A correspondent writing to us about the exhibition on the 15th, says: "The weather was fine and a large number of people visited it during the day. There were 400 entries. The varieties of potatoes as shown, were not of so large sizes as those of former years, but other roots and the grains, were above the average. The cattle and horses were improved over those shown on similar occasions in former years."

We subjoin the Prize List:
CLASS 1.—CATTLE.
Cox in Milk.—1st, W. H. Squires; 2nd, George Morehouse; 3rd, John Jackson.
Heifer 2 years old.—1st, James Hutchins; 2nd, Robert Watson; 3rd, John McRobert.
Heifer 1 year old.—1st, 2nd and 3rd, Robert Stewart.
Heifer calf.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, William Low; 3rd, Thos. Watt.
Bull 2 years and upwards.—1st, Jas. Kelm; 2nd, John McRobert.
Bull 1 year and upwards.—1st and 2nd, Robert Stewart.
Bull calf.—1st, John Morrison; 2nd, John McKenzie.
Working Oxen, 4 years and upwards.—1st, Arthur Robertson; 2nd, J. A. Hallat.
Working Oxen under 4 years.—1st, William Duncan.
Steer, 2 years old.—1st, W. H. Squires; 2nd, James Hutchins.
Steer, 1 year old.—1st, James Kelm; 2nd, Robert Watson.

CLASS 2.—HORSES.
Breeding Mare.—1st, Samuel Caughey; 2nd, Alex. Thompson.
Best Pair Working Horses.—1st, Charles Pickett; 2nd, C. Tompkins.
Coll, 2 years old.—1st, Elisha Whorton; 2nd, Robert Stewart.
Coll, 1 year old.—1st, Samuel Caughey; 2nd, Robert Stewart.

CLASS 3.—SHEEP.
2 Ewes.—1st, Peter Ledingham; 2nd, John Miller.
Ewe Lamb.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Peter Ledingham.
Ram, 1 year and upwards.—1st, Peter Ledingham; 2nd, Charles Inman.
Ram Lamb.—1st, Robert Stewart.

CLASS 4.—SWINE.
Boar.—1st, Robert Stewart.
Breeding Sow.—1st, David Watt.
Pig, under 1 year.—1st, W. S. Smith; 2nd, George Morehouse; 3rd, David Watt.

CLASS 5.—POULTRY.
Cock and 2 Hens.—1st, Thos. Cumming; 2nd, W. H. Squires; 3rd, W. S. Smith.
Cocker.—1st, W. H. Squires; 2nd, Thomas Cumming; 3rd, Robert Stewart.
Drake and 2 Ducks.—1st, William Bruce; 2nd, James Kelm.
Drake and 2 Ducklings.—1st, David Watt; 2nd, Thos. Watt.
Turkey Cock and Pullets.—1st, John Jackson.

Gander and Goose.—1st, Charles Inman; 2nd, John Ledingham.
Gander and 2 Goslings.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Charles Inman.

CLASS 6.—DAIRY PRODUCE.
Fresh Butter.—1st, James Kelm; 2nd, Alex. Cocker; 3rd, D. Low.
Salt Butter.—1st, John Kilmarnock; 2nd, James McNeil; 3rd, D. Low.
Cheese.—1st, John Kilmarnock; 2nd, W. H. Squires; 3rd, Alex. Cocker.

CLASS 7.—SEEDS.
Timothy.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Robert Stewart.
Wheat.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Henry Acton; 3rd, John Ledingham.
Russian Oats.—1st, Wm. McKenzie; 2nd, Samuel Brown; 3rd, John Ledingham.

Oats, any sort.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, John Connon.
Barley.—1st, William Philip; 2nd, Mrs. Stratton.
Buckwheat.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Alex. Hunter; 3rd, John Webster.

White Field Beans.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Alex. Thompson.
Beans, any variety.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, John Jackson.
Peas.—1st, Alex. Thompson; 2nd, William Bruce.

Corn.—1st, Elisha Whorton; 2nd, Charles Inman.
CLASS 8.—ROOTS.
Potatoes, Christmas.—1st, Robert Watson; 2nd, James Kelm; 3rd, John McRobert.
Early Rose Potatoes.—1st, Alex. Thompson; 2nd, Mrs. Stratton; 3rd, James Kelm.
Potatoes any variety.—1st, James McNeil; 2nd, James Kelm; 3rd, Arthur Robertson.
Swedish Turnip.—1st, Robert Watson; 2nd, Robert Stewart.
Yellow Turnips.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Samuel Brown.

AN EXHIBITION OF BEES.

The N. Y. Observer says.—

Among the interesting exhibitions abroad, the present season has been one of Bees and their Hives, held last month, under the auspices of the British Bee-keepers' Association, in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, at South Kensington. We find an account of it in one of our English papers, and there are so many interesting features in it and so much information, culled too by classical allusions, that we copy it entire:
Among the most interesting exhibits, the report says, were those of glass, or "observatory" hives, which were mostly in one of the hand pagodas. Among these, that shown by Mr. Bruce Wilson, of Newbury, attracted great attention, its chief feature being its folding and revolving construction, with a tunnel for the queen bee to pass through when the compartments are close together. The "Siberswald" hive, invented and exhibited by the Rev. T. F. Scott of Hartlip Vicarage, Sittingbourne was also an object of great interest. In one of the glass hives at the time of visit the queen bee was busy laying eggs in the cells, an operation which she performs in the height of summer at the rate of two thousand eggs per day. A swarm of Hungarian bees were the admired tenants of one of the observatory hives. Another interesting hive was that shown by Mr. John Hunter, the well known apiculturist. In this was a Ligurian queen bee (worth about 10s. at this time of the year). The hive is known as the "Cheiro" or "Frame" hive, which won the first prize at the Crystal Palace in 1874. It is so arranged that any number, say from ten to fourteen, of bars can be suspended across it. To these sheets of wax are attached, rolled out by machines with the impression of hexagonal worker cells on them. On these the bees work according to the pattern set them, and this is prevented the raising of useless quantities of drones—*the ignis fatuus of Virgil*—the bees being unable to breed "workers" in the sized cells as marked out for them. This art is allowed to improve upon nature, and the most educated of insects are themselves educated.

Hart by the pagoda is the "bee tent," only recently constructed by the direction of the Committee of the Association for the purpose of giving spectators a full view of the operation of "driving," "tran-ferring," &c., which means the destruction of the bees is avoided. Inside the outer tent there is an inner one made of thin netting, round which the spectators stand and see the manipulation of the bees without any real or supposed danger of being stung. The exhibitions of the above process were most interesting, and showed in the most conclusive manner that the old fashion of stifling bees in order to secure the hive is based on ignorance, and indeed cruelty. Bees when alarmed have a strange habit of filling themselves with food. This they do when the hive is tapped with a piece of wood a few times, and when they are repeted with food they never sting. Hence their transference from one hive to another only requires a little cunning or self-possession on the part of the operator. Indeed, when bees are not alarmed, and when replete with food, they have no natural inclination to sting human beings. Thousands were flitting about and alighting on visitors without doing them any harm, while the beekeepers handled them with as much impunity as a boy would marbles.

The exhibition of hives is a very complete one, and it is evident that the "bar frame" principle is thoroughly accepted. The "super" system has also been greatly improved, especially by American beekeepers. Years ago the "supers" were large and, as they consequently contained a large weight of honeycomb, they were to a great extent unmanageable, the cutting of the comb caused the honey to run out. The American principle is to have a large number of what are called "sensational" supers, holding one or two pounds of honey each. These can be taken from the hives as required, and retailers are enabled to sell to their customers small quantities without loss. Mr. Hunter has imported large quantities of these "sensational" supers from America, and distributed them at cost price for the sake of apiculture. They consist simply of four sides of thin wood which diverge into one another, and they cost less than one halfpenny each. In the honey classes every variety of form of comb may be seen in the "supers," where the bees have no "guide-comb" to direct their work. The run honey shown in

HEREFORD CATTLE.

All farmers who visited the fall exhibition and inspected the stock, must have been struck by the fine appearance of the field of Milltown's fine herd of Herefords. We can hardly, however, accept the statement that these cattle were exhibited just as they were driven off a cut pasture, and that as a class the Herefords thrive, keep in better condition than any other breed of cattle. Still it cannot be questioned that they are rising in favour, not only in the old country, but on this continent with antipodes.

The American Cultivator says.—

Though the Hereford breed of cattle has not as yet been extensively introduced into this section of the country, its excellencies are commanding the attention of many agriculturists, notably in England, Australia, South America and in our own western country. It is a matter of record that not only in the London market have they been quoted from one to two cents a pound above the Short horns, but the records of the Smithfield show will witness that the Hereford steer has a record over Short horn, and the same record shows that the Hereford steer has made as good weights as the Short horns, at any given age. And now the Bath and West of England Society has awarded the two champion, for best male and female in the show, to the Herefords. Compiling this with the fact that during the same record he has always brought a higher price, and another established fact that he has always been a more economical feeder and grazer, is it not strange that the press and agricultural societies have not been more ready to encourage them?
At a recent sale of one hundred Hereford bulls in England for shipment to the grazing regions of Buenos Ayres, shows the estimation in which this famous stock is there held. The Herefords have made more rapid progress in public favor at the west, in the last five years, than ever was made by any other breed of cattle in America in the same time. In Colorado and Wyoming there are several herds of from 20,000 to 50,000 head, that are using all the Hereford bulls that can get; and already at the Union Stock Yards at Chicago, and at the St. Louis and Kansas City Stock Yards, these steers are commanding the top prices, while five years ago they were not known in these yards. In five years more they will be quoted at all of these markets, as they have been in the London market in England for the last one hundred years or thereabouts.

The Hereford cattle are tough, hardy and thrive on a diet, both in quality and quantity, that would be unprofitable to most other breeds. Their horns are very large sized, making an excellent beef, are fair milkers, especially when crossed with other breeds, and are withal quiet handsome, being red bodied with white markings and a white face, the latter being an invariable mark of the kind. Among the herds of cattle exhibited at the recent New England Fair at Worcester, none attracted more attention than the herd of Herefords, among which was a three year old Highland Chief, the largest on the ground, but five years old and weighing 3,000 pounds, having a length of eleven and a half feet, one bull and two heifers, all three calves, five months old, which he engaged parties who design sending them to a ranch in the west, where they are breeding stock to ship to England. The price stipulated was \$300 for the trio. The Hereford sows on exhibition weighed between 1,500 and 1,600 pounds. An enlarged popularity in this country is predicted for the Hereford breed of cattle.

The Agricultural College at Amherst is running a sugar mill, consisting of three upright rolls, geared together, and run by horse power. Just now they are running night and day on amber coloured by the farmers near by. The canes run through the rolls, and the juice is gathered into a pipe which takes it to the first vat of pan, where it is brought to the boiling point and skimmed. It is then drawn off into the second pan, which is used as a reservoir for the third or "boiling-down" pan, where it is brought to the proper consistency, 75 to 80 per cent of sugar, where it is drawn off into barrels and is ready for use. This syrup has a peculiar though not unpleasant flavor, and it is said to be good for any of the domestic uses for which other syrups are used.

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another class exhibits the variations of color, differing according to the localities and the different flowers utilized by the bees, and differing in flavor, too. In class 22 the honey extractors are worth notice, being cylinders in which the comb, placed on wire frames, is made to revolve by the working of cog wheels and a handle, the revolution forcing out the honey by centrifugal force.

A Portuguese hive of bark will remind classical visitors of Virgil's description of these hives in the thirty-fourth line of the Fourth Georgic. The machines for making the wax foundations of the cells next attract attention, and is simple enough, consisting of two rollers impressed with the hexagonal figures. Last, but not least in this collection is a Scotch hive, called "Stewarton." Its feature is that it swarms in the "stock," and on this shallow "supers" are placed from time to time as the bees require more room for work. Sometimes they each fill as many as six or seven of these, each containing about 18lb. of honey. The Scotch are very shrewd beekeepers, far better managers than we are generally; but in many districts they have this advantage over us in that when the bees are done all the work they can do at home the hives are moved to the moors. Thus they can manage to get a second harvest.

The exhibition was enlivened on the first day by a discussion, opened by the Rev. J. D. Glennie, on questions interesting to beekeepers. One of these was, "How far is the process which leads to swarming initiated by and carried out with the goodwill of the old queen?" The prevalent opinion was that the queen did not leave the hive willingly; one apiarian indeed, had seen her forcibly led out between two resolute advisers. The President of the Society, Lady Bardsley-Coutts, was present during the day.

A MODEL FARM.

Why should farming not be scientific? Because the manufacturer labors in a scientific way, his profits are greater and surer than those of the agriculturist who has neither machinery nor system; but it is the unreasonable custom of many to sneer at all innovations, and to look at all methodic variations upon old usage as the fanciful and unprofitable schemes of visionaries with more money than common sense. It is the people who sneer that are usually most deficient in the latter quality, however; and had they a little more of it they might perceive that careful book-keeping and the adoption of improved methods and implements are as necessary in farming as in any other business.

In a side hollow of that hill from which Litchfield first became visible to us, several very distinct echoes can be obtained, and this responsiveness of the "purple gables" gave a name to this farm. It is Echo Farm—a pretty and poetically suggestive name, indeed which conjures up visions of loveliness, and sets one to dreaming of intertwining vines knitting their plant tendrils and sweet-scented leaves through the hospitable porch and open lattice; the cheerless orchard of fruit abundance; the garrulous brook that never tires of its own monody; the reverberant hills that appease life's turmoil with their easy undulations; lory barns, mossy with age; and clattering mills down in the seclusion of grassy hollows. But, alas! dear reader, model farming is not idyllic or Arcadian; it is inflexibly utilitarian, it keeps all its buildings in a perfect state of repair; it subordinates the picturesque, if it ever recognizes it; it pulls down the old mill because that venerable is in the way of the rectangular new dairy; it diverts the brook from its ferny course into the most commonplace of earthen pipes; it tears away the vines obscure the light, and it looks upon everything with a pair of the most practical eyes set in a head that weighs, measures, audits, and analyzes with chemical exactness. The proprietor of Echo Farm conducts it as a manufactory. A record is kept of the milk and butter produced by each cow for each day, each month, each year; all the feed is weighed, and the quantity entered upon books, both that purchased and that produced, and a separate account is kept of the yield of each field. Nothing is wasted, nothing done by guess, and nothing passes unrecorded. The implements are of the latest or most approved model. Three sets of "horse" hay-forks are in use, by which hay is unloaded at the rate of a ton in four forkfills and in four minutes, including in some instances the carriage of the hay 150 feet. The other machines also embody some novel labor-saving principles. No manure or fertilizers are found

THE HEALTH OF FARMERS AND OF THEIR WIVES.—

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The health of farmers and of their wives.—The foreboded farmer does not wait an hour of half-fainting for his breakfast from motive of mere domestic courtesy, nor set moping in a hot room through a long, bright day to keep some old person company; nor resolve his dinner into "a cold snack," because he has come in late and is not willing to trouble the household; nor set up nights to accommodate anybody or to pour over books of his own satisfaction. At the forty years of good digestion, he is stalwart and hearty. Pretty much the reverse of this happen to the farmer's wife. Almost the first lesson an actual life was to check, control or conceal her want and miseries; and by the time she is fully initiated in matrimony, she has acquired the habit of postponing them to the convenience of her husband and the rest of the family. The more strain there is upon her strength, and there is enough by sickness in the house or any misfortune, the more completely she effaces and forgets herself and her physical wants, recklessly relinquishing sleep and neglecting food. When the pressure is released, and the nervous tension which supported her is relaxed, the woman breaks down as a matter of course, perhaps never to enjoy health again. The melancholy contrast between the health of American farmers and their wives, should awaken the former to their duties. They should be careful how they impose burdens upon their helpmeets. Remember it is the last feather which breaks the camel's back.—*Farmers Friend.*

PLANTS SEEM TO ALTERNATE WITH EACH OTHER ON THE SAME SOIL.

Plants seem to alternate with each other on the same soil. Burn down a forest of pines in Sweden, and one of birch takes its place for a while. The pines after a time again spring up, and alternately supersede the birch. These changes take place naturally. On the shores of the Rhine are seen ancient forests of oak, for two to four centuries old, gradually giving place at present to a natural growth of beech; and others where the pine is succeding to both. In the Palatinate, the ancient oak-woods are followed by natural pines; and in the Jura, the Tyrol, and Bohemia, the pines alternate with the beech.

BEAN STRAW, SAYS A WRITER IN THE RURAL,

Bean straw, says a writer in the *Rural*, is an excellent food for sheep. When fed with beans or other grain, it makes a very rich warm manure, quite as good as if not better than clover. I know a farmer who every winter fattens a considerable number of sheep, who finds profit in feeding not only his own bean straw but as much more as he can buy at low rates from farmers who grow beans but, keeping no sheep, have no use for the straw.

TO SHOW THAT OATS CANNOT BE CONVERTED INTO BARLEY,

To show that oats cannot be converted into barley, but that each seed bringeth forth after its kind, the Bedfordshire Field Club of England made a careful experiment, and discovered at the very outset one way in which the erroneous impression may be generated. Taking an average sample of white oats and looking at them very carefully, they found that "quite ten per cent consisted of barley and other grains."

THE GERMANIA TELEGRAPH SAYS

The Germania Telegraph says that pumpkins for domestic use may be kept in a good cellar, where they will not freeze, for six to nine months, by being put on a scaffolding. Potatoes should be kept in the dark as much as possible, but should not be excluded from the air. A good covering for bins, boxes, barrels, etc., are two or three layers of old newspapers pinned or stitched together.

AN IDEA OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE POTATO CROB IN MAINE

An idea of the importance of the potato crob in Maine may be obtained from the fact that the farmers in Aroostook county realize from \$105,000 to \$170,000 yearly from that crop. The grain crop in Aroostook was probably never larger than this year, especially the wheat crop.

ENGLISH FARM LABORERS RECEIVING

English farm laborers receiving as pay from \$2 to \$3 per week, including beer. Wages have advanced 10 per cent within the last five years, and living and clothing 25 to 30 per cent.

AN HONEST FARMER, BEING ASKED WHY HE DID NOT SUBSCRIBE FOR A NEWSPAPER,

an honest farmer, being asked why he did not subscribe for a newspaper, replied, "Because my father, when he died, left me a good many newspapers, and I have not read them through yet."

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