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Omniun rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

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HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1877.

No. 2.

Halifax, 2nd April, 1877.

This spring the Halifax market has been supplied from *Chicago, Canada, &c.* with 48 head of beef cattle; a second lot of 36 head; a third lot of 40 head. All these averaged 600 lbs. of beef per head. From Chicago came 82 quarters of beef averaging 200 lbs. each. There are now purchased and coming next month, from Waterloo, Ontario, 208 head of live beef cattle, which will yield an average of 850 lbs. each. Added together, the live and dead lots make 388½ head of cattle. We know also of 40 carcasses of mutton from Waterloo, averaging 90 lbs. each. The value of the beef alone, at the lowest price, will amount to twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars. Yet these are merely the items got from one individual of transactions to which he was personally a party. What may be the total value of a year's importations of meat into Halifax, who can tell?

We offer no comment at present upon the above startling statement, but add a few extracts, from old files of the *Acadian Recorder* which a friend has kindly selected:—

In the olden time Halifax received its supplies of meat mainly by road skirting the Basin. The following table may be interesting as showing the number of cattle and loads of hay which passed the

Nine Mile House on their way to Halifax for each month from July, 1822, to February, 1823. It was forwarded to the *Acadian Recorder* of that time by mine host of the inn:

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Head of beef cattle.	100	185	206	416	233	1511	256	118
Milch Cows.	16	5	5	12	49	6	2	
Calves.	82	20	3	10	12	133	7	4
Sheep and Lambs.	932	1730	1923	1117	245	6471	34	5
Hogs.	20	20	21	50				
Loads of Hay.	35	40	52	89	79	369	23	174

This was the time when Mr. Coates was publishing his first Herd Book in England, but it was not till nine years later that the first Short Horn Cow and Bull were introduced into the wilderness of what we now call the Province of "Ontario."

When the Central Board of Agriculture was first started, the desire of its founders was so to improve the agriculture of the Province as to make the inhabitants independent of foreign supplies of flour, &c. In consequence, the efforts of the Board were for several years mainly devoted to the growth of wheat, Indian corn, oats, barley, and potatoes. Out of a large number of competitions the following are selected at random as an exhibit of what was done in this way as far back as 1823. The competition was at West River, Pictou:—

	Wheat.	Produce in bushels per acre.	Weight per bushel.
1st prize.	42½	62 lbs.	
2nd "	32½	60 "	7½ ounces.
Oats.			
1st prize.	77½	37½ lbs.	
2nd "	70½	32 "	7½ ounces.
Barley.			
1st prize.	55½	46 lbs. 10 ounces.	
2nd "	54½	46 "	9 "

	Produce in bushels per acre.	Weight per bushel.
Potatoes.		
1st prize.	489	68½ lbs.
3rd "	420	69½ "

From the 5th April to the 5th June, 1823, there were imported into the port of Halifax from Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, and the eastern ports of Nova Scotia:—Wheat, 4810 bushels; Barley and Oats, 7505 bushels; Flour, 469 barrels.

Extracts from Reports of Ag. Societies.

Mabou, C. B., 26th Decr, 1823.—From the first settlement of this place, until the establishment of this Society, less or more flour was every year imported, until last year; when there were exported 150 bushels wheat, and 50 barrels of flour; and although the crops this year have not been good, yet we presume to say, the exportation will be greater. There are members of this Society who have from twenty to twenty-five acres, designed to be sown in wheat, for the ensuing year.

Sydney, Jan'y, 1824.—The first premium for the greatest quantity of wheat raised in the County of Sydney in 1823 was awarded for 285 bushels weighing 63 lbs. per bushel, total 17,955 lbs. The second for 192 bushels weighing 61 lbs. per bushel, total 11,712. For raising the greatest quantity of wheat from a neat undivided acre—1st premium for 38½ bushels weighing 62 lbs. per bushel; 2nd—for 31½ bushels weighing 61 lbs. per bushel; 3rd—for 26½ bushels weighing 59 lbs. per bushel.