

Mr. D. McEachran, Inspector of Stock, Montreal, has addressed a circular to the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies in this Province, requesting the following information for each county: Number of horses, cattle, sheep, swine. Are the farmers turning their attention to breeding and feeding stock for exportation? Are there any contagious diseases in stock in your county? What diseases prevail most in animals? General remarks.

WHEAT CULTURE is exciting more and more attention. The *Maritime Farmer* says that in Pictou County one farmer imported last spring, 180 bushels of Red Fern wheat for seed, which was distributed around Durham and its vicinity with excellent results. Heretofore the River John section has always ranked first in Pictou County in wheat raising, but West River and other parts of it have yielded equally good crops this season. Fully fifty farmers severally realized a crop of 100 bushels—10 bushels from one sown. Mr. McDonald, of Durham, raised 100 bushels from 7—1½ bushels of which were destroyed—sown. The same gentleman also raised 1200 lbs. of rhubarb and thirty dollars' worth of cultivated strawberries.

We condense from the *Gardeners' Chronicle* an excellent lesson on Potato Culture from a correspondent, Mr. W. Culverwell, Thorpe Perrow, Yorkshire:—

A neighbouring farmer, Mr. Greaves, who is considered to be a good cultivator of the soil generally, has a field of 12 acres of rather moderate quality, and was doubtful whether it would grow a crop of turnips. He also had doubts about its growing a profitable crop of Scotch Regent Potato, as they were subject to disease on the land. At the last moment a spirited potato dealer turns up and offers \$30 per acre for the whole 12 acres. Conditions were drawn up, and the offer accepted. The conditions were that the farmer should prepare the land for planting, in fact should find horse-labour for putting the potatoes into the ground, clean and plough out the potatoes, and then cart them to the station, a distance of over two miles. This labour is likely to be a serious undertaking for Mr. Greaves and his horses. In addition to the labour, Mr. Greaves supplied ten cartloads of farmyard manure to the acre. The potato dealer supplied the following artificial manure:—6 cwt. of superphosphate, 2 cwt. of kainit, 15 cwt. of woollen manure, to every acre. The potatoes—"Champions"—were planted 4 feet between row and row, and 18 inches between set and set was to be the distance in the rows. In this last the conditions were not strictly carried out, and 16 inches was nearer the mark. All the soil was used that could be got for earthing up, which made good-sized ridges for the potatoes to grow in. At first, from the coldness of the season, the potatoes got away badly, and fears were entertained about the crop. At last the fibres took possession of every particle of earth that had been moved in planting and earthing up. The land was soon covered, so that the rows were not perceivable, and the ridges were packed in such a way as only Nature could pack them. I was curious enough to go and see the crop ploughed

out—and such a crop it was as I never saw in any field before: the sample was good, with a fine even lot, not too large, and very few small or set potatoes among them. Nearly half the field was taken up when I carefully took stock of them. I came to the conclusion that there were at least ten tons, that is 370 bushels, to the acre; Mr. Greaves was a little under my estimate. \$30 per ton was refused when the crop was taken up; this would make every acre worth \$300. I hear the potatoes are to be kept until they are worth \$40 per ton, which will make the crop worth \$400 per acre; that is on land rented at, I believe, under \$7.50 per acre. Let me ask the farmers where they can find a better friend than the land they cultivate, if they treat her liberally and fairly. Our spirited potato dealer hopes to clear on to near \$1500 by this one transaction. I wish he may; he deserves it, for the lesson he has taught the farmers here. I shall be curious to see the crop of wheat that follows this potato crop, and will report it to you. I think I can say with confidence that Mr. Greaves has learnt a good lesson, and when he has to cart such an astonishing lot of potatoes to the station again, it will be for the benefit of his own pocket.

I WOULD not advise green hands from the cities to settle on wild lands at the first start, as the labour of clearing up a bush farm is very severe,—in fact, I know of no more exhausting physical labour than piling land in the spring and summer. And it is not only for one, two or three springs that this has to be gone through, but it is an incessant labour from the time the first tree is cut until the settler has spent ten or twelve of the best years of his life clearing up a farm sufficiently large to carry stock for the support of his family, or rather till such time has elapsed that the stumps have rotted so as to get the land suitable for ploughing.

I would advise any one in want of a home,—if he have any capital, say from \$300 to \$600, to start on an exploring expedition, or to advertise, and I can assure all those in want of good, cheap farms, that they can find many who, starting with no experience, have run a long account on the wrong side of the store-keeper's ledger, will now sell out to pay their debts and make a fresh start on bush or prairie land.

Being myself, I may say, city-bred, I know how hard it is to make a living on a new farm. Knowing nothing of the art of cutting up two cords of wood a day, until I had been to the very severe school of experience, I found it at first very hard work to provide wood for a cooking-stove and a large box-stove, in which I burned all those chucks known here as sheep's heads, which would not split.

Knowing nothing of almost any of the routine of chopping, burning, piling and branding, and planting, but what I could pick up off my neighbors, many of whom were as badly off in this respect as myself, I at last found the bottom dollar in my wallet, and very little to show for an expenditure of a little over \$600,

when I began to dig up some early potatoes, the first fruits of my labour, and then I began to regret that I had not taken the advice of an old man when he offered me his farm of 50 acres, and 25 acres fit to plough, with a good log house and frame barn for the sum of \$800, one half down, and the other half on easy instalments. But I weathered the hard times, though at times without tasting flesh meat for nine months at a spell, until I could raise my own pork and mutton. I shall now give an estimate of what capital a family of five or six would require to buy a farm of 50 or 75 acres with, say 20 or 25 acres fit to plough, on the terms usually given for payment:

A farm of the extent I name could be bought for \$800.

Pay one half down.....	\$400
One pair oxen, yoke and chain.....	80
Ox cart.....	20
2 Cows.....	30
6 Sheep.....	30
Plough and Harrow.....	12
Seed and six months' provisions.....	48

Total.....\$620

The cows will keep the house-wife in tea, sugar and all those little articles of groceries needful for a house, and the first crop will be in the barn before the last of the \$600 is spent, and the farm half paid for, and all the stock and crop clear of debt. I have put the number of stock of all kinds at the lowest figure, so that the farmer can sell all his grain not required for use in his own family, and he will have \$40 or \$50 worth of hay to spare also; and during the fall and winter, if he choose, he can sell all the cordwood one man can chop, and make some money to pay on his farm, and pay the hire of his chopper, and live as well. His increase in stock will amount to something also; his sheep will double at least, and his cows will have added each a calf, and one and a half dozen hens will have multiplied ten fold, and given his family a good number of eggs as well, and he himself will have time to learn to chop more or less before beginning his winter's chopping of cordwood. I have given my opinion drawn from my own observation of how a city-bred man can employ a small capital to the best advantage in making a home on a farm. If I have eased the mind of any anxious enquirer I shall be amply repaid. Hoping you, sir, will be able to secure the desired circulation for what is regarded in this part of the country as the best family paper published, I am, sir, yours, &c.,—  
A GLASGOW CHAFFIE, in *Montreal Witness*.

POULTRY are rising in importance in the Western part of the Province as well as in the city of Halifax. It is proposed to hold a Poultry Show in Yarmouth in January.