

sandy for Turnips to grow, but the Mangels even in that great centre of manure factories, were not better than we have seen on the Halifax Peninsula: about Leipzig (where the soil is heavier, much like our own) we found the most extensive cultivation of Roots of all kinds; but a Nova Scotian farm, with the same cultivation, would most certainly yield as large and as fine crops. We refer to this subject now in order to commend to the special attention of our readers an article of very great value which appears in the present number, and which, without some such indication, might be passed over as a mere piece of heavy reading, on a par with what scientific Professors are supposed to produce for the mystification of Farmers. The article in question is a complete treatise on Root Crops, by Professor Voelcker, in which the whole subject of their cultivation and comparative values under varied circumstances is dealt with in a masterly and thoroughly practical manner. We should like to have Dr. Voelcker's paper read at length before at least one Farmer's Club in every County of the Province, and its various points discussed by our Farmers. But, if that cannot be done, every Farmer can at least read it for himself and explain it to his boys, and talk over moot points with his neighbour of a long winter evening. Then, if any doubts arise, if any further explanation be wanted, if any position seems to be untenable, he can write a note or a post card to the Editor of the *Journal of Agriculture*, and we shall be glad to reply and explain as fully as possible in a succeeding number. Roots feed the cattle and the sheep, roots make beef and mutton and wool, roots furnish material for manure to fertilize the fields, root cultivation ameliorates the soil and extirpates weeds, roots bring money into the farmer's wallet, roots do just everything that is wanted to make farming pay. Every Farmer in Europe knows this, and yet every Farmer knows also that there it costs more to raise an acre of roots than the produce is worth after it is raised. This is the reason our people don't take to roots. Roots are a paradox, an enigma. Roots are only a part of farming. The "pay" in roots, is indirect, is derived from other crops: none the less certain, however; but that is a branch of the subject that we must work out arithmetically at another time.

The following notice from the *Journal of Horticulture* refers to a very neat, and, in every way, very remarkable plant, which we saw during the Summer, not only in the Rockwork at Kew, but in Mr. Bull's plant pits at Chelsea, and in several other public and private gardens in Edinburgh, Dundee and other places. It scarcely rises above the surface of the

soil, forming in fact a mere coating, like some flat lichen, and the fruit also has a resemblance to the apothecium of a lichen. Strange to say, (if we are not mistaken) the nearest affinities of this plant in botanical structure, are the buckwheats:

NERTERA DEPRESSA.—On the Rockwork of Kew there is a nice patch of the charming *Nertera depressa*. It is thickly studded with berries like of those *Solanum capsicastrum* reduced to the size of small peas. Though cultivated for the last five years, it seems only now to be receiving the favor it deserves. It is a native of bleak antarctic mountains, and, notwithstanding, grows rapidly and well in a forcing pit during the spring of the year, and may then be increased to any extent by means of the creeping rooting stems. In summer it does well in cold frames. It is known to some as *N. scapanioides*, which name was given by Lange in his seed catalogue of 1868. *N. depressa* is the oldest, and should therefore be upheld. It is found on the Andes from Cape Horn to New Grenada, on the Island of Tristan d'Acunha, and in New Zealand and Tasmania.

MILK FEVER OR "DROP AFTER CALVING."—Believing prevention to be better than cure, will you kindly allow me a little space to give my opinion. Many methods are advocated, but many of them seem contrary to nature, and in such we have no faith. Nature may be helped but not run against if any substantial good is to be the result. Our cows are kept mostly for butter making and cream, as we have a large consumption in the mansion. We have cows calving all the year round at the rate of two per month, and mostly all in high condition, and some milking as heavy as 22 to 24 quarts of milk daily. These we term good milkers even in Cheshire; and, having been uncommonly fortunate in our simple treatment, I thought it might benefit the country to make it public, seeing so many notes treating on the same disease. Our treatment is as follows:—Should the cow be at grass we bring her into the stall or loose box at night (the latter preferable), about three days before calving, and give her 1 pint best linseed oil. We let her go out all the day up till the very time of calving. When she calves we take 2 quarts of the beestings and leave the calf with the mother for two or three days, and we adopt the same treatment if we take the calf away when dropped. Ten hours after calving we take about 4 quarts, 10 hours after that we milk nearly clean, and the next meal as clean as you like. Our treatment in winter is the same, only give a little more linseed oil and watch the udders, and especially if they have been eating much, give dry food. I

think the most dangerous time of the year is the months of March and April, not so much from milk fever, although called by that name, but through constipation of the bowels, the cold east winds being also very fatal at that season on cows newly calved. But such cases may be greatly averted by letting the cow calve in a loose box instead of being tied by the neck. If they do go down in the back, get a good sheepskin newly flayed and put along the cow's back and give a little opening medicine. Should any reader have faith enough to try the above simple treatment, by so doing his faith will be increased. — *W. Gray, The Rookery, Nantwich, in Agricultural Gazette.*

THE Halifax County Agricultural Society is looking about for another Ayrshire Bull,—a match for Pictou Charlie, if such can be found. An order has been sent to Mr. Fleming, of Strathaven, to make a raid among his neighbours Herds.

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1876.

CANADIAN COMMISSION—AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Objects for Exhibition will be received at the various railway stations during the third week in March, 1876. Woods, grains, grasses, wool, flax, cotton, agricultural machinery, and all objects, *except* Fruits and other perishable articles and Live Stock, must be received at that date. Fruits will be admitted in their season. Models in plaster or wax may be substituted for tropical fruits. Vegetables and other perishable products will also be admitted in their season. Dairy products will be admitted during the period of the Exhibition.

Cards supplied by the Canadian Commission will be affixed to goods, stating the Exhibitor's name, address, and place of manufacture, class of objects, catalogue number, and price. Exhibitors' business cards, circulars, and samples, will be placed within their space for distribution, but visitors shall not be solicited to receive them. All products arriving at the doors of the building by rail, wagon, or otherwise, will be received by the Bureau of Transportation, and delivered on the space granted. The Canadian Commission will then unpack and arrange the goods without delay. Provision has been made for the removal and safe storage of empty boxes and cases immediately after unpacking.

LIVE STOCK.

The exhibition being open to the whole world, it is of the first importance we bring forward the best of their kind