

a cross with a Prince Albert, Suffolk and a Chester Co., white Sow. The progeny of of this cross come early to maturity. With an abundant supply of good food given at stated periods, they will at the age of thirteen months turn the scale at 400 pounds. They are well adapted for hams and bacon, and for the pork barrel all that can be desired. The phrase that 'the breed goes in at the mouth' contains more truth than poetry, but it should be borne in mind that the mouths of some pigs are more extravagant than others, requiring a greater amount of food to produce like results. There is one important point worthy of notice—these grades as breeders are not to be trusted. Their fertility may not be impaired, but the results are not always satisfactory, sooner or later they are sure to revert—hence the remark so frequent with farmers—'bad luck with the pigs.' This is further confirmed by the anxiety of purchasers to have the 'first pick,' and also, in the fact, that in a re-crossed litter it is rare to find two pigs alike.

The funds of this Association having been appropriated, for many years, to the purchase of improved breeds of cattle, the subject, naturally, is in connection with this report, a few remarks relative thereto may be not inappropriate. Stock raising is a prominent feature in our agriculture, but the system pursued by farmers generally, if it can be called a system, is very undefined. A man who gets the credit of being a stock-raiser does so from the circumstance of his being possessed of a greater number of poorly fed animals than his neighbor, and, in whose stock are to be found as many varieties of shapes and shades, as there were in the flocks of Jacob when he left the service of his father-in-law.

The advantage derived from crossing is not questioned, but if satisfactory results are expected, it is essential that animals of the same breed, not closely allied, should be chosen. The Directors regard the character of breeding stock as the first point for consideration by farmers. It is gratifying to be able to state that more attention is given to this subject now than heretofore. That an improvement so far as stock for the stalls and for draught are requisite is perceptible, but we have failed to discover that the quantity of butter and cheese has been augmented. Individual enterprise has contributed much towards improving the character of stock in this Province, laying a foundation upon which the intelligent farmer may build up a flock or herd, best adapted to the condition of his farm—without this collateral assistance many districts would have remained notoriously backward in agricultural progress. The officers of this Society may be not in possession of facts sufficient to warrant some portions of this disquisition to be construed in its broadest sense—but we are satisfied that, with some honorable exceptions, the breeding of farm stock as an art is not yet known among us. One remarkable feature in the Agricultural Department of Nova Scotia, is the absence of statistical information and accurate data by which practical truth may be known. The institution of Agricultural Societies was designed, among other important objects, to furnish and diffuse information on all matters, *not speculative*, in connection with Agriculture and Horticulture. Hitherto the intellectual food provided for farmers has been like the thorough-bred animals imported—it would be quite a relief to have some of our own 'get-up'—this bor-

rowed information is as very well as far as it goes, but in connection with Nova Scotia practice, our farmers need the details quite as much as the tails. We 'go for them facts.'

It is rather discouraging to intelligent farmers, and others not directly engaged in agriculture, who have been at the expence of procuring animals of high character, to find, instead of receiving the patronage of their neighbors, their Pedigree-stock viewed only as extravagant curiosities—not unfrequently accompanied with invidious comparisons and disparaging remarks, by persons who think, and guess they know, but *ought* to know better. It is plain that all this crossing and amalgamating has not effected any permanent improvement. We have no better cows now than we had 40 years ago, neither have we a larger proportion of them. If a good cow turns up occasionally, may it not be attributed to 'luck' more than good management. It is not expected that farmers who keep more or less stock of a mixed character can be breeders of first-class animals, neither would it be prudent for them to do so. As yet, it has been the privilege of a few only, to furnish animals of high character. It is a branch of husbandry that to rush thoughtlessly into, would be folly. It requires long practice and study, and a peculiar temperament for a person to become familiar with the art. The progeny of a full-blood sire with good native stock is generally better than anticipated—while that of a grade sire is in most instances inferior to the dam. Economy appears to be the governing principle with many farmers, and a 25 cent mongrel in a neighborhood is sure to be patronised to the utmost of his powers. Therefore the attempt to establish an uniformity in stock or improve the dairy-cow, so far, has been a failure. The increasing demand for the products of the dairy should induce farmers to devote more attention to that portion of their stock from whence so many of the luxuries and essentials of life are derived. The question has been asked—do we make butter and cheese sufficient to supply the local demand, the latter we do not, and the ruling high price of butter is a strong indication that the dairy is receding further every year from the point of improvement.

The officers of this Society desire to impress upon the minds of farmers the importance of giving this subject their fullest consideration. We, also, desire to enter our protest against an error generally countenanced—that is, permitting drovers and butchers to select the best of their flocks and stocks for the shambles. If this 'penny-wise' practice is allowed to continue we shall have to 'drive up' this importation hobby, conspicuously sheep—otherwise, the stock of the country must inevitably deteriorate. Societies are spending large amounts annually for this purpose, and the results are far from being commensurate with the expense. Farmers can alter these figures if they see fit to do so, and they had better see the point at once. Every one who keeps stock can improve it by due care in selection and attention, that is, by liberal feeding and good breeding—selling the poorest, and breeding from the best.

CROPS.

The crops in this section of the County have been, the past season, in some cases abundant. Barley and oats have not been up to an average.

Wheat.—So much has been said against raising this crop that farmers, it appears, have come to the conclusion to take the word for the deed, and look upon wheat growing as a thing of the past. A few carefully conducted experiments, we are satisfied—would place this business in a more favorable light, and shunt labor into more profitable diggings. Labor, no doubt, can often be employed at a better profit in some other pursuits, and buy bread, but these other pursuits are not always to be relied upon, and persons who rely on them are not unfrequently cornered.

Corn.—May be reported an average crop, nothing more, the severe drabbing it received in August was a serious drawback. No extra labor or attention appears to be given to this most indispensable article of food. In its culture, soil and situation are two important considerations, as also the variety and time of planting. Indian corn like a true friend improves upon long acquaintance, therefore our farmers are not disposed to trouble themselves much with new varieties. In selecting the seed, their practice is to preserve the early and most perfect grown ears—the best kind to plant—the distance apart, and after culture are incidents with which Old Homespun-coat is quite familiar. In social converse upon these, and the value of meal as feed for cows, he will dilate with mental exertion both orally and bodily—he will give you to understand that a peck of corn meal with cut hay is as good as a bushel of carrots any day, tapering off his peroration with a friendly admonition and significant nod to be sure that the ears you select for seed are gathered before they are fully ripe. It is a matter of regret that so much common sense, practical knowledge, which many of our farmers possess in connection with this crop, should be little more than metaphysical. That such is the case may be known from the fact that their potato fields are their pet-ions—an effete attachment which, no doubt they cherish in fond remembrance of the past, when a dollar in the pocket was not considered as an equivalent for a bushel in the bin—palmy days.

Hay.—This on the uplands is a fair average, and housed in excellent order. Grand Pre still languishing from the effects of Saxby, in 1869, not up to its usual quantity by one-half. Grass in this district is a staple commodity, and should be first in importance. On all clay lands which have received liberal attention, a paying crop. Difficult as the slopes and ridges are of management for all cultivated crops, they may be made to yield heavy burdens of grass for many years in succession by care and proper surface manuring, attention here cannot be too strongly urged.

Potatoes.—This season they speak for themselves. Hitherto they have been king, and reigned supreme. A great breadth was planted, and the result a large crop. No doubt for some wise purpose; but we would prefer to see their cultivation reduced to comprehensible bounds, and intelligent farming more generally substituted.

Root Crops.—Mangold Wortzel, Turnip, Carrots, and others. In these essentials of the farm we begin to perceive a gleam of sunshine. Mangold Wortzel, this root is being cultivated for stock, with some degree of interest, but we are impressed with the belief that it does not receive the attention its importance demands. By some farmers it is considered a more exhausting crop than the