

the young fibres get hold of the new ground, which, at this period of the year, they do with no sensible detriment to the growth of the plant. In setting out trees, more especially evergreens, the common practice of planting deep is very reprehensible. In their primitive abodes, we find the roots which sustain the plants feeding near the surface; and, although many trees have large tap roots descending vertically into the sub-soil, we must regard these more as a provision of nature for keeping the plant steady, while it receives its pabulum of nourishment through the medium of the small fibres of the horizontal roots. We can seldom go wrong if we copy nature correctly. And in planting evergreens, with a view to success, we prefer planting no deeper than we find them in the forests. To secure them against the effects of storms, the office of the tap root is best supplied by a quantity of stones placed around the tree and over the horizontal roots, the stones can be removed when the plants are sufficiently established. We should also remember that stones perform very important offices in the economy of vegetable life. We often see gigantic trees growing upon the surface of rocks, which we term barren, although they are sustaining some of the most vigorous specimens of the vegetable kingdom. It has been found that the roots of trees have the power of decomposing the constituents of rocks which resist the action of the strongest acids, which shows that by the action of their vital functions, plants can gather part of their inorganic constituents from substances which we would suppose utterly inert, and ignorantly term barren.—Independent of the chemical virtues contained in rocks, the simplest student of nature knows that they exercise very beneficial mechanical effects on vegetation; the heat which they acquire during the day, while protecting the tender roots of plants from the direct influence of a scorching sun, is freely given out at night to preserve a uniform temperature, and protect the vital organs of the roots from the chilling influence of the night air.—Though we mention these facts in connection with trees, they apply equally to all plants, and we believe that as "nothing was created in vain," if stones were equally distributed over the earth's surface there would be superabundance in supplying the wants of man.

PHAROAH'S SERPENTS' EGGS.—The white powder forming the egg is sulphocyanide of mercury, Hg Cy S_2 . Mr. Carpenter by analysis has found one to yield 64.9 per cent. of mercury; one seventh of the mercury was volatilized by burning. Specific gravity of the serpent
 0-069.

Agricultural Societies.

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS, &c. OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

DIGBY COUNTY.

CLARE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Clare Agricultural Society met agreeably to the terms of the act, on Tuesday the 5th of December, A. F. Comeau in the chair, and Ambrose Bourneot, Secretary. The annual report of the Board of Management was read and adopted. The office-bearers for the ensuing year are as follows:—*President*, A. F. Comeau; *Vice-President*, Ambrose Comeau; *Secretary*, A. M. Comeau; *Treasurer*, A. F. Comeau. *Directors*: Ambrose Bourneot, Peter Belvoux, Ustache Comeau, Augustin J. Comeau, and Peter F. Comeau.

The Treasurer's accounts were audited and reported correct, which are as follows:

Cash on hand from last year	-	\$64 40
Grant from government for 1864	114 00	
Subscriptions for 1865	-	64 00
Received for goods sold	-	162 46
Grant from Government for 1865	123 00	

\$532 86

Expended.

For farming implements	-	\$121 44
Grass Seed	-	74 25
Freight, \$2.25, duty \$12.42	-	14 67
Secy's salary, \$4, postages 50cts	-	4 50
Cash on hand	-	318 00

\$532 86

At the December meeting it was discussed the manner in which to expend the balance in hand, and it was unanimously agreed that it should be expended rather in the improvement of stock, seed, and farming implements, than in holding an Exhibition for the current year.

The crops in this district were very poor with the exception of hay, which was about twenty-five per cent. better than last year. Potatoes were exceedingly poor, and very inferior in quality. Grain in general was good in straw, but light in the head. Roots about an average crop. Fruit good.

A. F. COMEAU, *President*.

A. M. COMEAU, *Secretary*.

HANTS COUNTY.

WINDSOR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Windsor, 15th December, 1865.

I herewith enclose the Treasurer's account, showing the amount received and sums appropriated and paid by the Windsor Agricultural Society in the present year. Also, a list of prizes awarded at the cattle show in October last, with the

names of successful competitors. I am instructed by the President, officers, and directors of the society, to state that improved appearance of cultivated fields, systematic draining, and persevering application to the accumulation, economizing and application of manure from all sources within their reach, and increased care and attention to the selection of such animals of live stock for breeding purposes, as will be most likely to produce stock best suited to the wants of the country, climate and markets taken into consideration, afford evidence that the farmers of this district are exerting themselves to improve their circumstances and make the best use of their means and time. The neat cattle of the district are believed to be in no way inferior to those of any other part of the province of the same extent, and the present system of management gives promise of improvement.

Sheep are generally good; some flocks are thought to be nearly up to the standard, these would be most profitable for the wants and markets of the district; careful management and judicious introduction of new blood are most essential in keeping up this description of stock and making them profitable.

Pigs are good, and comprise some of most approved breeds, and the locality being considered more adapted to growing neat cattle and sheep, and more attention being given to the cultivation of grass than grain, very little pork is made for market.

The crop of the last season was a good average one; good upland fields and the best qualities of dyked marsh were better than usual, while there was a partial failure on the inferior quality of dyked marsh, owing to the excess of moisture in the spring, and in some places a considerable destruction by grasshopper.

The very general failure of wheat in 1864 prevented the sowing of anything like the usual quantity this year. Where sown the crop was fair and very slightly injured by the fly. Some very fine winter wheat was grown in the neighborhood, which has been an inducement to several farmers to give it a trial and a considerable quantity has been put in the ground this autumn.

Oats are but a middling crop and did not come up to what they promised; in July the greater part of the late crop was rusted in straw and gave a light yield on the threshing floor; oats sown before the 25th of May were well filled and a heavy crop.

The crop of barley was probably the best ever grown in the district. More than the usual quantity was sown, and the yield almost invariably good, while the grain was superior in quality.

Buckwheat and Indian corn not extensively grown, but where either was put in the returns were good.