

Dorsetshire, this was inspected by myself and a large party in 1829 or '30. Ignition appears to originate in the decomposition of Iron Pyrites.\* In bringing under notice corresponding illustrations in the great North American Coal fields, spread before you the map of North America, and draw a line from the great Coal field near Richmond, in Virginia, to the Coal field in Michigan; this line will be about N. E. and S. W., and may be supposed to be some miles wide; in tracing its course from Virginia it will be found that it passes through, or near, the great Coal regions of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and also passes through, or near, the Townships of Adelaide and Enniskillen, in Western Canada. From both these Townships invitations have been sent to me to examine various Bituminous indications, and in all the developements examined, the strike and dip are generally about S. E., at different angles, but with some variations. The invitations alluded to were chiefly communicated by a Mr. Robert Johnstone, as exhibited on estates belonging to himself and Mr. Whitley in the said Townships; gentlemen who are entire strangers, but I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Johnstone for his communication, which shall receive the earliest attention my health will admit. I have indeed no doubt of the existence of seams of Bituminous Coal, but the quality and extent can only be ascertained by boring or sinking, or probably both.†

On a question of so much public interest I had expected some co-operation from the Government and had written to the Hon. F. Hincks respectfully to ask if, under the circumstances, assistance may be expected, to aid in the intended examination, but I regret to say that my letter was not honored even with a notice.

As the object of this communication is intended to refer to matters of general interest, I have to offer a few remarks on our Agricultural organization, &c., the theory indeed appears to be very well chalked out, and by way of encouragement I remind our friends that they have an excellent precedent in the records of the late Board in Sackville Street, although we can scarcely expect, until after a few years experience, that we shall approximate to the attainments of Arthur Young and Sir John Sinclair. The farmers anticipate an intellectual treat from the high attainments of the gentleman now at the head of the Department; but for practical purposes an agriculturist would be desirable: it must indeed be kept in mind that if practical efforts are not judiciously made, irrespective of sectional or party feeling, the people will soon become tired of the thing, and desire its abolition.

\* Facts in further illustration may be seen by referring to Dr. Buckland on the London and Dorsetshire Basins the numerous occurrences in the great Chalk and Oolite formation have been traced from its N. W. commencement in England, through Europe, and forming large tracts in Ancient Palestine, and again extensively found in the distant S. E. forming the fine sheep walks in Australia, as described by Sir George Arthur.

† The Geological Report of Mr. David D. Owen on the mineralogy of Iowa, Wisconsin, &c., recently published, describes the recurrence of large Bituminous Coal fields in the north-west and west, as far as explored to the lands of the Hudson Bay Company.

In connection with the results of railway communication, and the pressing demands now made on our flock masters, not only for our own domestic use, but also for our superior stock to ornament the farms of our neighbors in the United States; every assistance should be given to facilitate the important branch of sheep farming. It is indeed quite a new and delightful feature in Canada, in which an old farmer from Salisbury Plain may be supposed to participate and know something. Our gypsum, especially the cretaceous variety, will in many cases supply the more expensive agency of guano, particularly in acquiring early green food, such as rye, *the very best thing that can be had for ewes*, to raise a flow of milk for lambs in April and May; these facts suggest the desirableness of an increased supply of this valuable mineral.

Apologising for this intrusion on your valuable time and labors, which are duly appreciated,

I remain with great respect

Your obedient humble servant,

HENRY MOYLE.

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## Editorial, &c.

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### HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

As but few field operations can now be attended to, a few practical suggestions, in regard to the winter economy of the farm, will not be out of place. During several months, the scene of a great portion, and a most important portion, of the farmer's labor will be in the barn, and in the stock yards. We cannot too often, or too strongly, urge the necessity of proper attention to the comfort and feeding of live stock during the winter months. Although we trust that most readers of the *Agriculturist* bestow some thought on this branch of farm business, yet we are well aware that through the country at large it is much neglected.

Care in the selection of good animals to breed from, although most important to the production of good stock, will be fruitless without a due supply of the proper quantity and quality of food, and due protection from the weather. The construction of the farm buildings, is a primary consideration, but if the farm is not already provided with a good establishment in this respect, it will, we fear, be too late to remedy the deficiency for this season. All that we can reasonably look for, will be the repairing of minor dilapid-