

QUESTIONS.

Dear Sir,—Could you oblige me by replying to the following questions in this issue of the JOURNAL?

(1.) Name a few standard agricultural works you would recommend for farmers in Nova Scotia—that is, suitable for our climate?

(2.) At the next Provincial Exhibition, and at every succeeding one, would it not be a first-rate idea to give a prize to the city or country paper in the Dominion, (with a preference of course to Nova Scotia,) that devotes a certain amount of space weekly to the interests of agriculture and of farmers in general, I mean a well managed and carefully selected department; and also, a certificate of merit to every provincial paper that has a farmer's column or two in every issue? Amongst the many benefactors of Agriculture, we must never forget the Press, and, therefore, the subject is worthy of respectful consideration by those interested.

Would it not be better for the country in many ways, were such branches as Botany, Natural History, Chemistry, especially the elements or rudiments of Agricultural Chemistry, taught regularly in our country schools, especially in agricultural districts? Also, to encourage the good work, by giving prizes for essays on "The Farm," "The Vegetable Garden," "The Fruit Garden," &c. &c. in the Board of Agriculture to obtain the services of a lecturer on Agriculture for a limited period, to stir up our farmers in their profession? And now, when I think of it, a certain gentleman holding the position of Secretary to the Nova Scotia Board of Agriculture, (that is to say, if his multitudinous engagements would permit him,) would be an excellent instrument for that purpose.

RURALIST.

[Replies in next number.]

WALTER McDONALD, Esq., of Glendyer, Mabou, C. B., writes us as follows: "We imported from Plantagenet, Ont., via Montreal and North Sydney, two Ayrshire Heifers, purchased from Mr. Wm. Rodden, both in calf. One (Miss Cecilia) dropped a bull calf Feb'y 24th." The following notice of Mr. Rodden's stock at the Centennial, (a slip from a newspaper,) is enclosed:—

"The Centennial Live Stock Exposition should certainly have done much for the live stock farmers of the United States, as it showed to what advantage cattle could be bred in this country, and what perfection might be attained by very little pains. If all parties were fully alive to the importance of introducing a pure breed of cattle into this coun-

try, if the farmers understood that it costs no more to raise a pure blooded animal than a hybrid, and that the pure animal will make both beef and milk of high quality, while the other cannot compare to it for either, the breeding farmers would meet with much more encouragement than they do. In this connection, I cannot refrain from noticing the display made in the Centennial Live Stock Exhibition by Mr. William Rodden of Montreal. Mr. Rodden exhibited a herd of fine Ayrshire cattle, among which may be mentioned several of great beauty. The Ayrshire bull, Carriek Lad, four-and-a-half years old, winner of first prizes and diplomas in Canada and United States, was one of the most conspicuous animals in the show. He was beautifully shaped, joints all perfect, a "monarch of the herd" such as is seldom seen. The bull calf General Montgomery, nine months old, evidently possessed all the fine points of the older animal in the rudiments, and was developing rapidly to show his blood in every form and feature. The Ayrshire Heifer, Lily, only two years old, was one of the finest animals I have ever seen, with all the promise of a splendid maturity in the future. The fine appearance and size of the cows secured much attention. The race to which this fine herd belonged is famous everywhere for its unrivalled beauty of form, and for its milk and beef. It will fatten quicker than any other same fodder. Mr. Rodden is an experienced importer and breeder. His stock is derived from the very best strains he could obtain, and each one of his herd has an unblemished pedigree, as may be seen in the herd book. His perfect reliability will be attested by all who know him. The International Jury of Award were much pleased with his standard of exhibit, and awarded it unanimously a diploma of the highest merit and the U. S. Centennial Exhibition medal of honor. Some of the animals were purchased by enterprising breeders of the United States to improve their herds. The prize bull Carriek Lad, and three others, were retained by Mr. Rodden to keep up the character of his stock, with a view to future sales from the large herd kept on his prize stock farm, Plantagenet Springs, Ontario, near Ottawa City, Canada."

20th April, 1880.

SIR,—It has long been a moot question whether the Pen is mightier than the Sword. The Report of the Board of Agriculture for 1879, gives a decisive answer in favor of the Pen. With two little comments, The Pen or the Press has transmuted my beautiful Jersey cows into bulls. Neither Sacred nor Profane

History records any instance of such wondrous power. Long ago this same Press in the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, sired a calf with a cow, but this last feat eclipses even that astounding performance. It may be safely said that the Press knows no sex.

Very truly yours,

B.

Halifax, April 8th, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—I see by the morning paper that you are about having our farmers try the Sugar Beet. Have you given any attention to the Early Amber Sugar Cane? It seems to do well in the United States, where corn ripens. I enclose two extracts from seed catalogues, which contain notices of it.

Yours respectfully,

D. BLACKWOOD.

(From Bliss's Catalogue, 34 Barclay Street, New York.)

KENNEY'S EARLY AMBER SUGAR CANE.

In this variety we have a plant that is destined to prove of immense value to the northern portion of our country. It has been tested in Minnesota for several years past. A large grower gives the following statement to the State Commissioner:

I planted a piece of this cane this year, on the 27th of May, on new land, and before any frosts it was entirely ripe. Its saccharine qualities are of the first order, fine and rich, and its earliness highly recommends it to the whole country. It has another desirable quality, it stands up well, does not easily blow down, usually grows eleven and twelve feet high, and is planted between the first and tenth of May, the seed almost invariably ripens, thus giving one the advantage of a double crop in one year from one planting, some 20 or 25 bushels of seed, and 140 or more gallons of the fine syrup per acre, that is, if it is skillfully handled. All kinds of farm stock are fond of the seed; when ground and mixed with bran it makes a good heavy feed for horses; hens are very fond of the seed, and I believe it makes them produce eggs more abundantly than almost any other kind of grain. We have seen sugar produced from this variety equal to the best coffee sugars in the market.

By mail, 40 cents per lb. When sent by express at the expense of the purchaser, 20 cents per lb.

(From Gregory's Catalogue, Marblehead, Mass.)

EARLY AMBER SUGAR CANE.

This new variety of sugar cane is making quite a sensation among the farmers of Minnesota, from the perfect success which they have met with in the manufacture of both syrup and sugar. Over 200,000 gallons of syrup were made from it in Minnesota in 1878, and this season a single firm has sent to market 43,000 lbs. of sugar. It has been experimented with in Massachusetts on a large scale, and the results have been most satisfactory; so I think it may now safely be said, that after many years experiment and hosts of failures, with several varieties of Sorghum or Imphee, in the Early Amber, which is the most improved form of Otahetan, a grand success has been reached at last.