

very cheap, easy to keep, not liable to disease, cleanly, harder hoofed and less vicious than horses or mules, willing, capable of strong attachments, having a good deal of stupid intelligence, very sure footed and careful of themselves, long-lived and willful but not malicious.—“Where there’s a will, there’s a way” to get along without rousing it to one’s disadvantage as a general rule, and we have never seen a halkey ass that had not abundant provocation. Their bray is the only really annoying thing about them. There is good use for both the donkey and the ass in this country—the former as a poor man’s beast of burden and draught, especially in the neighborhood of large and small towns where vegetables and fruits are brought in a few miles for sale upon the streets; and were they once common, many other uses would be found for them, churning for instance. Besides, there would be a considerable sale for them as children’s pets, to which purpose they are especially adapted, being smaller and much more trusty than ponys, and not so liable to stumble, bite or kick, that is, if not made vicious by bad treatment.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U. S. A. For March, 1866.

This Report is chiefly occupied with reports, selections and communications on the cholera, cattle plague, hog cholera, and Trichinis, indicating in the first place, the great interest that is being judiciously manifested in those subjects in the States, and secondly showing us how thankful we ought to be that we have hitherto been spared these inflictions. In reference to Trichinis, it may be satisfactory to the citizens of Halifax to know that some of the pork butchers and sausage-makers have been receiving instruction in the use of the microscope in Dalhousie College, and that although the shambles and markets have been diligently searched for specimens for purposes of illustration, yet not a single Trichina has been found.

The Commissioner of Agriculture takes rather strong ground on the question of the Reciprocity Treaty, styling it a most gross injustice to the American farmer, “a selling of him for a fishery and a New York transportation;” but the U. S. *Economist* stated the case in rather different words, declaring that “narrow protectionist jealousies have blinded congress to the fact that we have been doing a most valuable trade with the Provinces, which we can ill afford to throw away.”

NORTH BRITISH AGRICULTURIST. April 11th and 25th, 1866.

The North British Agriculturist has been very much enlarged within the last few years and is a most complete agricultural and commercial weekly newspaper

of 24 folio pages. We have an account of the death of Professor Dick, so long favorably known as the head of the Edinburgh Veterinary College. He died at Edinburgh on 4th April, in his 73rd year. William Dick was the son of a blacksmith and farrier who came to Edinburgh from Aberdeenshire. He assisted his father in the forge, and attended the University classes of Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physic. In the comparative Anatomy Class his fellow students told the Professor that Dick was a common blacksmith. “Well, well,” said the Professor, “whether he be blacksmith or whitesmith he is the cleverest chap among you.”—Having subsequently studied at the Veterinary College, London, and obtained the diploma, Mr. Dick commenced to lecture in Edinburgh on Veterinary subjects in 1819. In 1823-4 he gave a complete course of instruction in Veterinary Science under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. In 1833 the Hall in Clyde Street was first opened, as a Veterinary School, which in 1839 became the “Veterinary College.” 791 veterinary surgeons have graduated there, and 1000 more students have received instruction. Professor Dick has so disposed of his property as to insure the upholding of the Veterinary College.

THE COLONIAL FARMER OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

This paper we continue to receive regularly. Recent numbers have contained much interesting matter in regard to the functions of an Agricultural Board, the proposal to establish a stock farm in New Brunswick, and other matters of agricultural interest. Whilst wholesome criticism is beneficial to a public Board, it is well to bear in mind that in a country like New Brunswick, an Agricultural Board requires above all things the hearty co-operation of the people, without which all efforts at agricultural improvement must be futile.

STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATIVE TO CANADA WOOLS AND THE MANUFACTURES OF WORSTED. By John L. Hayes, Secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, U. S. A. Boston, 1866.

We are indebted to the kindness of Joseph Kaye Esq., for a perusal of this pamphlet. It embraces matters well worth attention on the part of our Nova Scotian farmers and those of our Nova Scotian capitalists who are inclined to embark in manufacturing enterprise. We shall therefore endeavor to give an outline of its contents, merely premising that the term “Canada Wools” is applied in the States in a general sense to all wools imported from the Provinces, and that in our quotations British America may be

substituted wherever “Canada” occurs.

This pamphlet was called forth by the discussion of the commercial bearings of the Reciprocity Treaty, and is an able document, consisting of a statement of facts in relation to the demand for consumption in American manufactures of the class of wools known as “combing wools,” as distinguished from card or cloth wools.

“The former class are wools specially fitted for the process of combing by hand or machinery, which consists in drawing out the fibres, so that they may be straight and parallel; the shorter portions called “noils” being removed by this operation. The fibres having been rendered straight and parallel, are twisted, and the yarn is called worsted. The ends of the fibre being covered by the process of spinning, the yarns are smooth and lustrous. Card or cloth wool is wool fitted for being carded. By this process the fibres are placed in every possible direction in relation to each other, adhering by the serratures of the fibre, which are more numerous in the wool fitted for carding. They are thus fitted for felting, and the ends of the fibre are free to be drawn out into the nap.—While card wools are required to be fine, short in staple, and full of spiral curls and serratures,—qualities possessed by wools of which the merino and saxon wools are types,—the combing wools, on the contrary, must be long in staple, from four to seven inches in length, comparatively coarse, having few spiral curls and serratures and possessing a distinct lustre. These qualities are possessed in perfection by the English sheep of the Lincolnshire, Leicester, and Cotswold races; and, in a less degree, by the Cordova wools of the Argentine Republic, and the Donskoi wool of Russia. Comparatively long fine wools of the merino race, from two and a half to three inches in length, are combed for making delaines and similar fabrics; but they are not classed in the trade as combing or worsted wools.

“An unprecedented demand for these wools has arisen in all manufacturing nations within the last ten years, and the prices have more than doubled in that period. This is due, first, to the vast improvements in combing by machinery made within the past fifteen years; secondly, to the late scarcity of cotton; and, thirdly to the introduction of fabrics from alpaca wool, and the discovery that by the use of cotton warps, with a filling of combing wool, an admirable substitute might be made for alpaca fabrics. There is an immense demand for these fabrics for female wear.

“The goods manufactured from combing wools or worsteds, are alpaca fabrics, poplins, grenadines, and an infinite variety of fabrics for female wear, the consumption of which is constantly increasing; the texture and patterns of the fabrics