

## AGRICULTURE IN NOVA SCOTIA.

A very neat and ably written Agricultural Report, published by the Gloucester Agricultural Society came duly to hand, from which we make the following extracts:

"The great extent which the products of the soil within this County the past season, exceeded those of all former years, must of course be mainly attributable to the favourable weather experienced between seed time and harvest, as well as to the numbers which the suspension of commercial and mechanical employment forced into farming to secure the necessities of life; at the same time your Committee deem it proper to state their conviction, that the interest excited, and the impulse given to cultivation through the operations of this society, have largely tended to the accomplishment of so gratifying a circumstance."

"The consequences that must inevitably follow a disregard of the advantages which the rapid and surprising progress of Agricultural science now affords, will be the surest, but the severest remedy for the evil. Every Agriculturist of common observation may already see that the best farm managed on the system of the last century, cannot successfully compete with an inferior one receiving the benefits of modern practice, so it becomes evident that the indolent or reckless follower of the old school in husbandry, must be at once aroused to a sense of his situation, or he must be prepared to suffer from short crops, and the decay of his land. To those who are disposed to improve, your committee have endeavoured to inculcate the following advice, as therein is comprised a corrective for the worst, and most prevailing errors of our farmers, viz:—Be more provident of your stable and barn yard manures—erect more substantial fences—provide yourselves with ploughs and plough your land oftener, and occasionally deeper—divide your cultivated land into fields or patches, and establish a rotation of crops, for these divisions—raise no crop two years in succession on the same patch or field—use the choicest seeds for sowing and planting, that you can possibly obtain, if you have to travel one hundred miles to obtain them, and use no poor seed if you get it for nothing—keep your breeding cattle enclosed, and at the proper season take them to those animals which obtain premiums at the preceding cattle show of the society—kill your young cattle that show defects, raise those that appear pure; but above all keep no more cattle than you have the means to FEED WELL."

"If your committee can manage to get these few practical rules observed by a majority of the farmers in this and the adjoining parishes, they are sanguine that the fruits will be plainly distinguishable before three years elapse, and the parties who adopt them, will then be prepared to make experiment of new suggestions for enriching the soil, and facilitating vegetation, as well as be able to give substantial support to the society in the advancement of agricultural knowledge in more remote districts."

"The recommendation of your committee, respecting the formation of compost heaps by every small cultivator, has been very generally adopted in the parish of Bathurst, and partially in the parishes of Beresford and New Bandon, with some success. The black mud found in the Coves of the harbour of Bathurst, and the bay, mixed with lime or stable manure, has been found to answer well on the sandy soil of this Promontory: In the parish of New Bandon, marl which is found there in great abundance, mixed with sea weed, proves best adapted for general purposes, to the heavy gravelly soil of that district. In the parish of Beresford, manures containing a mixture of lime in any great degree, have utterly failed in nourishing or enriching the soil; this your committee know can be satisfactorily accounted for on chemical principles, but it would be here unnecessary to do so; the fact being now fairly substantiated, it only behoves the members of the society to discountenance the use of lime there as a manure, and to substitute swamp mud and sea weed, which your committee are satisfied will answer every purpose."

"While your committee are on the subject of manures, they beg to observe that although it may

be within their power to encourage very generally the collecting and using manures, yet the judicious and proper adaptation of each description of manure to the various soils and situations within the sphere of their operations, they have now only the tedious mode of testing by a series of experiments; whereas if they had the benefit of a periodical visit from a gentleman combining scientific with practical knowledge; a lecturer on agricultural chemistry—who would analyse the soils, they would then be enabled to anticipate this knowledge, and save years of toil and trouble in arriving at it. The encouragement of such a person well deserves the attention of our Provincial Government; and a small annual grant from the Provincial Treasury, with the assistance of the Agricultural Societies of the counties visited, would amply provide for an itinerant lecturer on Agricultural Chemistry."

"Amongst the articles of domestic manufacture which your committee were pleased to observe exhibited at the Fair, was a Fanning Machine, on a new principle, the invention and manufacture of Mr. Daniel Hadley, of Little Nipisiguit, which was very creditable to the inventor, and they regretted that no proposal was made to purchase it, as an encouragement to the enterprise of Mr. H. and other resident artists and mechanics."

"The condition attached to the grant of premiums at the Cattle Show—that is to say, that the animal for which a premium was received should be kept efficient as a breeding animal within the county, (so far as it was within the owner's powers to do so), for the twelve months succeeding the exhibition, was judicious, as it secures the means of extending the breed of the best animals, and many from distant places have already taken advantage of it to improve their stock."

"At the Annual Ploughing Match held on the 1st of November, the number of competitors was not so great as was anticipated, owing to the state of the weather, but your committee were delighted to observe that the native Acadians predominated. The ploughing was exceedingly well performed, and your committee have every reason to believe that if these matches be annually repeated, in two years the natives of our county, to whose acquaintance the plough is comparatively but lately introduced, will be able successfully to compete with the best old country ploughmen, a circumstance which can be attributed alone to the influence of this society."

"At the time appointed for the Grain Show, the county was agitated by the proclamation of a general election; and the attention of some of the principal farmers was so occupied that it was found desirable to postpone the show of grain till the last week in January; your committee, however, are prepared to acquaint the society that in the article of Wheat our farmers continue to excel, some Spring white Wheat raised by Thomas Armstrong, of Youghal, last year, weighed 66lbs. to the bushel, some raised within the town plot of Bathurst was over 65lbs, and a large crop of the same description of grain raised by John Richey, Esq. of New Bandon, exceeds the above in weight. Your committee would recommend that instead of importing inferior grain for the use of the members, the society would determine to secure from the persons named a quantity to dispose of next spring, for they are confident that so good grain as the best raised in this county, cannot be obtained elsewhere. Your committee will cause the proceedings at the grain show to be published separately, as it proves too late to include in this report."

With all the boasted excellence of the capabilities of the western portions of this Province, for the growth of bread stuffs, there is no parallel case on record where the extraordinary weight, per bushel, mentioned in the report has been produced, nor have we ever seen or heard of an instance wherein the weight of spring wheat equalled it, unless the one mentioned in a report published by the Restigouche Agricultural Society, of the sister province of New Brunswick, in which it is stated that a prize of twenty shillings was granted to John Currie, of Pointe Le-Laine, which weighed 66 lbs.

34 oz. per bushel, the seed of which was imported by the society the year previous. We have long since been aware that the friends of agriculture in Nova Scotia were exerting their utmost influence in placing that colony in a healthy state; we consider that the report referred to, and others of a similar character, which have reached us, and the efficient steps taken by the Boards of Agriculture of that province, are sufficient grounds to strengthen the belief that our sister province is destined to rival in the growth of agricultural produce, the Canadas or the adjacent States of the Union. We assure our readers of the sister province that they have adopted the right course to attract the redundant population of the British Isles to their shores; and it will only require the other provinces to follow the noble example which has been so liberally set them, in order that each may obtain a fair share of the wealth and skill of Britain. Mark, what is said of the farmers of the old school! The assertion here made is verified to a nicety, in many portions of this province, and we are happy that it is in our power to add, that now and then are instances to be found, where an enterprising farmer is patriotically devoting his energies in exploding the errors of the system of cultivation practiced in this province. They have not lost sight of the aid of the press in the province of Nova Scotia, to further the advancement of agricultural improvements. Independent of the county periodical agricultural reports, which are gratuitously circulated among the inhabitants of all classes, that province alone, has two ably conducted and efficiently supported agricultural papers, which are subscribed for liberally, by the several agricultural societies of the province. We noticed in one of the reports, that 500 copies of the *Colonial Farmer* had been subscribed for the use of the society. We earnestly entreat the farmers of the province of Canada, to examine into the cause of the distress which every where prevails throughout their land, and adopt every legitimate means of permanently alleviating the complained of evils. A cure is within their own grasp, but to obtain that cure, they must make use of the means which have been so bountifully placed in their hands. All the patch-work that legislative enactments can do for us will avail nothing so long as there are so many drones in the hive. Too great a proportion of the population are endeavouring to live by their wits, who, instead of producing an extra blade of grass, or an ear of corn, are consuming the produce created by the toils of the husbandmen, which should go to pay for the tea, sugar, coffee, and other necessary importations, and thus aid in clearing the country of debt. The only immediate remedy for the times is to produce more articles for export, and import less—and the best permanent remedy will be found in the fostering care bestowed to the agricultural and mechanical branches of industry.

It is a fact that cannot be denied, that the cultivators of the soil are much to blame for the low standing which their profession bears