JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

VOL. I. *HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1865.* *No. 9.*

CONTENTS:

The Field and Farm Yard.

LUCERNE—WHAT IT IS, AND HOW AND WHERE IT MAY BE RAISED.

In addition to horses and sheep there was sent out in the *St. Lawrence*, by the Hon. W. A. HENRY, some LUCERNE.—We are asked what kind of an animal that may be, and we shall endeavor to answer the question. Lucerne is an old friend that we have not seen since we saw it in England.

Lucerne is a forage plant of which horses are very fond, and which is found to be very suitable and very beneficial for them; its cultivation is of unknown antiquity in Italy, Spain, and the south of France; it is also cultivated in England, in Persia and elsewhere in Asia, in Peru and other parts of South America, and in the United States. In Canada its cultivation has not become common. It is a perennial plant with a thick branching root, which penetrates very deeply into the sub-soil, and upright branched stems three feet in height, with compound leaves and racems of purplish flowers, not much unlike those of red clover. Sheep do not like it, or at most eat only the tips of young leafy shoots.

The following extract from Lawson's *Agriculturist's Manual*, will indicate the soils and situations for which this crop is best adapted:—

"In Britain a great deal has been said in its favor as an early plant for yielding fodder before the red clover, and its cultivation has often been attempted, and attended with various degrees of success. The climate of Scotland has been considered by some as too cold for the growth of lucerne, but the numerous failures which have taken place may be more justly attributed to an improper choice of soil than to any other cause. The soils which appear most congenial to it are those of a very light sandy or dry nature, in which it is found to thrive well, altho' exposed to the direct influence of the sea breeze, and to be fit for cutting at least a fortnight earlier than common rye grass and red clover. Provided, however, the sub-soil be always dry, and particularly if it be of a calcareous nature, it is not indispensable that the surface soil be very sandy, as lucerne, in such cases is found to grow freely on medium black loams; but lands which have a damp sub-soil, or are of a tenacious nature and damp in winter, are totally unfit for growing it, even although they may be, in the general acceptation of the term, very good soils.

Various modes of culture have been employed in the case of lucerne, as sowing it broadcast or drilled, either with or without a corn crop; but that which is decidedly best is to sow it in drills (about eight or ten inches distant) without any other crop whatever, and keeping it quite free from weeds by hoeing and hand-cleaning during the summer; also, thinning out such parts as may be too thick, so that the plants left may stand at the distance of three inches or thereabouts separate.

If proper attention be paid to the young plants, they will yield a considerable crop the succeeding season, but it is the third season after sowing, at least, before they arrive at full maturity; and afterwards they will continue to produce good crops for eight years, and even more, provided they receive a good top-dressing occasionally in winter, and be kept free from couch grass and other perennial weeds. The quantity of seed generally allowed per acre is about 15 lb. when drilled, and 20 lb. when sown broadcast."

The scientific name of lucerne is *Medicago sativa*. It belongs to the natural order *Leguminosae*.

REPORTS OF EXPERIMENTS WITH THE GOODRICH SEEDLING POTATOES.

It will be recollected that in the first annual report of the present Board of Agriculture, attention was called to the potato disease, and to some of the means of lessening its effects. A detail was given of the attempts of the late Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich to raise varieties from various wild sorts which he had obtained from the native country of the potato.—Although Mr. Goodrich's original anticipations of originating from the wild plant a race that would completely resist the effects of disease, were not fully realized, yet he succeeded in raising several va-