

except in a few favoured localities. (the blight having taken them as early as the 1st of July.) the smallest crop perhaps ever raised in the County. Other root crops, as Turnips, Mangolds and Carrots, were a fair return. Apples (where raised) gave promise of an abundant yield, but the heavy August gale almost completely stripped the trees of fruit, foliage, and in many cases, limbs.

Yours, &c., JAMES CROSBY.

P. S.—In reply to the circular requesting the nomination of a member of the Board of Agriculture, a successor to G. L. Brown, Esq., this Society has nominated as their choice Mr. Frank Killam of Yarmouth.

JAS. CROSBY, Sec'y.

WHEAT IN CAPE BRETON.

Most of our farmers have given up the raising of wheat, for the simple reason that it was a partial failure for some years past. But it turned out very good in 1866, and the present year, and certain it is that half an ordinary return would pay our farmers better, considering the high price of flour, than any other kind of grain they can raise. Many others seem desirous to try it again, and I am glad that they agreed to send for some of the wheat imported by the Board at our annual meeting on the 1st December. Dr. Jeans was elected President, in place of Mr. Bown, and I am satisfied that the Doctor will take a lively interest in the affairs of the Society.

S. ROBERTSON, Sec'y.

WORD ON BEHALF OF THE LADIES.

I notice in a late number of the *Journal* that there are no prizes offered for home manufactured Woolfens, Linens, &c., and must think that this is yet to appear, as the General Committee cannot so far have forgotten the Ladies as to exclude them from helping along this laudable undertaking.

C. B. W.

Antigonish, Jan'y, 1868.

PLOUGHING AND DRAINING.

BY A COLCHESTER FARMER.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Agriculture* :—

SIR,—Having to travel much over our Province, I could not but look into the farming and stock, and see what a great difference between now and forty years ago. Then there were fine crops and fine horses, and other stock about equal to what they are now; but such farming no one ever saw. Now, in former times good teams were kept for ploughing, &c., but now many own but one pair of steers and a small horse,—which is said all for economy. Now I state that God and

nature has given us one of the finest countries for almost, if not altogether for, anything that man wishes to turn his mind to for a living; but we do not embrace it as we should;—just summer enough for a farmer to do his work, and a winter to brace up his nerves, and give him time for thought and gather information. But, Sir, let us turn our attention to agriculture. First, and in looking around, what do we find? The farmer often complaining, when the fault is his own; he will not assist nature in carrying off the rains when much has fallen, by drainage, nor yet in ploughing deeper and making his soil more porous to absorb the water until it rises again. Now what is generally the case? The farmer keeps a light team,—say there or four old steers and a light pair of horses, and not such as were formerly kept forty years ago,—and having that weak team, he ploughs four or five inches deep, and that on lands with much of an incline, and a poor crop generally follows. All depends upon Providence, by giving just such a season as would suit, with neither too much rain nor yet too dry; but if the season is one or both, which in all probability it will be, then a poor crop must follow, because the farmer has not assisted by drains in carrying off the water, nor yet by ploughing deeper to give the water more room. Now, take a piece of green sward and plough it four inches deep in the fall, and by spring, with the washing and decrease of earth in moving—as earth loses about one-fifth when it is moved,—and by the time it has raised grain and roots, and laid down again, a very large part is gone of what was first ploughed, therefore cannot be expected to produce much, because the rain washes it, and the water on it can go no depth down, and the heat burns it up because it has no depth of moisture. Look to the highways, and what do we find? with half an inch of dust, a shower of rain will wash it all away, and by a little heat the road is dry again. Further, a good rain falls about two inches, and is it to be saturated in four inches of ploughing? Having rained previous, it must and will carry off much of the fine particles of the soil, as well as the manure which should be retained to produce vegetation.

Now, Sir, it is said that our country will not produce as it used to do some thirty or forty years ago; but let us look at the fact. The new land from the wilderness produces grain or hay much as it used, but the ploughed land is not so. The fault is in the people; there is something wrong about their farming, and it is time that they should see otherwise when we have such remunerative prices as at present. We are now far too much beholden to Prince Edward Island for our oats and barley, and to Canada for our bread. Now this is too bad, with such a

country as I said we have. Therefore, I would say, let the farmer have open and under drains as far as possible to assist nature in carrying off the rains, and plough his land deeper, say six or ten inches. If land were so ploughed, and a rain of two inches comes, it will hardly be felt; but if it was ploughed four or five it would be floating away, and much of the best gone off, just in the same way that the highway does that I spoke of.

Many farmers will be disappointed next year, because the lands being much ploughed shallow, as I stated, and a wet season as it has been, it has taken much of the manure by soaking and washing, with the finer particles that should have been retained, and would, provided it had been ploughed deeper and open, or under drained. It may be said that lands ploughed deep require more manure. True, but a very small part more; and then you have something for your labour. It may be said, how shall a farmer know that his lands require draining? This he should know, that no land should allow the rains to run on the top except there is frost in it. And to get this draining done, it is hard we have no tiling being made, as in St. John and the old country; but parties are about starting. They can be got in Shubenacadie just now, which will be a great thing for farmers, provided the price is reasonable.

I am, &c.,

A COLCHESTER FARMER.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

SHUBENACADIE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

AUDITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows :—

Treasurer received from 40 members the sum of.....	£11 10 0
Paid to managing committee.....	11 10 0
	£23 0 0
Society owed the managing committee at commencement of year.....	£33 7 2
Balance of account to James Nelson....	2 5 0
Amount paid for the keeping of two bulls for one year.....	28 1 3
Amount paid for the keeping of sheep for one year.....	10 11 9
	£74 5 2
Provincial Grant for 1866.....	£15 15 0
Received from the Treasurer.....	11 10 0
" Ram service....	8 16 3
" Bull service....	7 2 6
	43 3 9
Due the committee at date.....	£31 1 5

There have been 46 paying members in the Society for the present year.

The committee has sold two of their Leicester rams; we likewise find that one of the Leicester ewes has died. The committee has bought one Shropshire ram, which makes, belonging to the Society, one Leicester and two Shropshire