

Agriculture in New Brunswick.

By the last annual report of the Board of Agriculture for the Province of New Brunswick, it appears that the progress of this important interest in the sister Province has kept pace, on the whole, with the increase of the population, and the development of other national industries. There is a wide field, however, open for future achievements, and we can only regard the practice of scientific agriculture as just starting on its course of improvement among our maritime neighbours. The Government seem to be taking a lively interest in the subject. Assistance is given by grants of public money to agricultural societies. Of these there are thirty-four receiving such aid throughout the Province, and they appear, to judge by their published reports, to be carrying on their work energetically and efficiently.

The Board of Agriculture are inaugurating amongst other measures, the establishment of a Provincial breeding farm, with the view of importing and raising stock of the best breeds, and thus increasing and improving the stock of the country. It is estimated that the first year's cost of such a farm would be \$18,780, and the subsequent annual expenses \$1,509. This scheme, liberally and judiciously carried out, will no doubt prove of great service to the country.

Hitherto, the Province has not raised sufficient in the way of breadstuffs for its home consumption, and New Brunswick merchants have been large importers of all the varieties of grain, and even of butter, cheese and lard. There are two principal reasons assigned for this deficiency in the agricultural produce of the Province. In the first place, lumbering operations have engrossed too large a proportion of labour and capital; and in the second place, the system of husbandry generally pursued has been of too rude a character to produce the best results. There can be no doubt that the climate and capabilities of a large portion of the soil are such as, under a truly economical and scientific method of farming, would produce ample supplies of food for the population of the country. The crops raised are mainly the same as our own. Indian corn is grown successfully in a few counties. Roots, and potatoes especially, are extensively cultivated, and with large yields.

The crop reports for the past year give results which may be considered, we are told, above the usual average for the Province.

The Board of Agriculture very strongly recommend that correct statistics be collected of the agricultural operations of each year; and for this purpose suggest that the collector of taxes in each section be the person authorised by the Government to obtain the necessary information. We are not sure whether that official, unpopular as he often is, would not be, from his peculiar position, far better qualified than the secretaries of agricultural societies, or any others, to secure the desired returns.

Editorial Notes.

A good deal of unnecessary trouble is given by the want of determination and decision on the part of farmers towards the labourers they employ. In too many cases, under a mistaken idea of kindness towards the feelings of others, there is a great laxness of expression used by the employer towards his men. Let it be distinctly understood that unless the farmer exercises proper authority over all that are under him, he cannot expect his work to be thoroughly done. A man is hired to work and it is presupposed as part of his contract, that he is to do, not only whatever work he is able to accomplish, but to do it in a workmanlike manner and in a given space of time. It is all very fine and philanthropic to show seeming kindness to labourers in the choice of their work and use of time by giving ambiguous orders in soft words, like "I think you had better" do this or that, as the case may be. It is the workman's business to do just what his master requires, and he is paid to do it, therefore the master should be prompt and decided in giving his orders; and not only so, but he should also know exactly how much labour can be performed in a given time, and allow of no dilatoriness about it. A good deal of the failures to make root crops profitable, we are convinced, arises from the want of system on the part of farmers, in making the most of the labourers they employ as well perhaps, as placing them on a footing of too much equality with their masters. Many valuable hours, that might be profitably turned to account, are lost in early mornings, on wet days, or while repairs of machinery are going on, from want of telling the men firmly and decidedly to hoe the corn or roots, instead of allowing them to be seen loafing idly about, till the work they are expecting to be put at is ready for them. Those workmen who are worth employing will not take offence if they are given their instructions decidedly and definitely.

There are two ways in which land may be ameliorated and brought into good tilth and condition for grain crops, and then seeded down to grass. The first is by growing roots with the help of manure, to restore fertility and get rid of weeds, which can be done to most advantage on fields already well worked and smoothed down by the action of the plough. The other is by summer fallowing. The latter is often objected to as entailing a loss of one year's crop, but this is more in theory than in practice, for there are fields on many farms that have remained in a state of rough pasturage, yielding but little grass for years, full of old stump roots, cradle knolls, wild grasses and weeds of every description, that can only be got rid of, and the land brought into a proper system of rotation, by first giving them a thorough summer fallowing, followed by fall wheat or barley, as the crop on which to seed down with clover or grass seeds.

There has been a vast amount of talk indulged in of late in American agricultural papers in regard to the relative advantages of deep or shallow ploughing. The truth is that so much depends on the nature of the soil, the rotation pursued, both now and formerly, the presence or absence of certain inorganic elements in the soil that can be rendered organic, or assimilated into food for plants, by chemical and mechanical action combined, that no certain rule can be laid down that will apply to all cases alike. A course of procedure that succeeds with one farmer, or in one place, as given by Dr. Trimble, of New Jersey, might be quite inapplicable to the circumstances of another farmer or section of country. The individual characteristics of the cultivator himself also have much to do in the matter, and the only safe rule to follow is that of actual experience, remembering that the object of all good farmers should be to keep up the fertility of the soil, while yet obtaining remunerative returns from it.

A good deal is being said just now in a few of our exchanges about hilling potatoes or corn, and it is maintained by some that better crops can be obtained without hilling than with it. As regards corn, we do not know enough to venture an opinion, but are convinced that the potatoes, unless it be the Early Rose, or some of the other dollar a pound hot-house sorts, will give far the best crop when properly hilled. Aye, there's the rub, and to find out how that is to be done, set an Irishman, fresh from the "ould sod," to hill the potatoes, and give him leave to do it at the right times, which he ought to know. We did so twenty years ago, and have not forgotten how to practice since the lesson then learnt from him.

Great complaints are made by farmers of the constant annoyance caused by the use of round screw bolts in agricultural implements, and machinery worked by horsepower. They easily get loose, and are difficult to tighten, where nuts are used. The bolts will keep working round and outwards, and wearing out their sockets. Let the implement makers use square bolts, and the trouble will be avoided.

In Holland, that country of canals and high farming, fences are rarely seen, and the value of the manure is too great to allow of its being wasted by pasturing cattle and horses in summer.

Instead of pasturing the stock, they are kept in the stables all the year round, and fed on the soiling system during the summer. In this way a very much larger number of cows can be kept on a limited area. When they are turned into a good crop of clover they will trample down and destroy a vastly greater proportion than they eat, which destruction and loss are entirely saved by adopting the eciling plan.