

in the harbours of Nova Scotia; "it is to a limited extent prepared in the same manner as the Finnan haddocks of Scotland." Of the halibut it is said "the flesh is somewhat coarse and dry," whilst the "mud cat" is in Maine and Massachusetts "highly esteemed." Every one to his taste, as the old woman said when she kissed her cow. In the Lower Provinces "the brook trout scarcely exceeds 3 lb. in weight, and no well authenticated case is on record of one having reached the weight of 6 lb." The "delicate and savory" smelt abounds in Nova Scotia; the shad "attains the highest perfection" and feeds on the shrimp; why are shrimps not brought to the Halifax market?—From two to four gallons of oil are obtained from the blubber of a full grown common seal; the Greenland seal produces from ten to twelve gallons; the grampus yields but little oil; the white porpoise gives good leather; the common whale a coating of oil-yielding fat fourteen or sixteen inches in thickness; the blubber of the hump-back whale furnishes 300 to 2300 galls. of oil. The crab is rare, and the abundance of the lobster renders it a food of marvellous cheapness. We have oysters, both the "native" and Virginian, scallops of three kinds, two mussels, the Iceland venus, clams, periwinkles and whelks. Lastly the French Societe d'Acclimatisation has sent to Brother Jonathan for a few hundred bushels of venus mercenaria.

#### THE BRITISH AMERICAN BEAVER.

(*Castor Canadensis*.)

In Europe the Beaver has become almost, if not quite, extinct. In the British Isles he has been so long extinct that there is hardly a trace of him to be found either in Antiquarian or Zoological Museums. We recollect that while Dr. Wilson of Edinburgh was writing his most elaborate Treatise on Beaver History, he had the greatest difficulty in finding a skull or other memento, and had to ransack not only old dusty Museums, but the sunny memories of the oldest inhabitants likewise, in order to ascertain with certainty whether beavers ever had existed.

In British America we are more fortunate. It has been long well known that beavers exist in some numbers in the more remote parts of Upper Canada and the Company's Territories. In the County of Halifax there is an extensive meadow on the Beaver Bank farm that is understood to have been entirely "cleared" by beavers. And at the December meeting of the Nova Scotian Institute we had by far the most interesting paper that has been read before that body for a long time, being an account by Colonel HARDY of the Royal Artillery, of the habits of

the beavers around lake Rosignol, between Liverpool and Annapolis, where it appears there are many beaver-houses, but the inhabitants are so vigilant that it is difficult to find them either "at home" or abroad.

It was stated that the Beaver is to be found along the Port Medway River, near its head waters, in the rivers in Shelburne county, and in the waters across the country to Annapolis. On one of the rivers in that last direction, a dam of large size was found, which was described as a model of solidity and strength, built straight across the stream, to which it communicated the appearance of a small water-fall; it was built concave to the current, but in other instances they were found convex; on the top of the dam three men could walk with ease. The opportunities were frequent of examining Beaver's houses, which were all similarly constructed. There was but one chamber to each, connected with the water by numerous tunnels; the beds of the animals were raised above the stream which formed the floor of the domicile, and laid with meadow-grass, and with finely-shredded shavings of branches. Several branches of trees were exhibited as forming part of the material of the houses, one nearly three inches in diameter. These had been cut off the trees, with mechanical precision, and as cleanly by the keen teeth of the Beaver as though the work were done with a chisel. Some notes quoted showed that instances were not rare where the Beaver dams had been the instruments of flooding several hundred acres, and a wonderful instance of reasonable calculation, or design, on the part of the animal to promote either pleasure or comfort, if so considered, but probably the result may be attributed to accident.

A very pretty and ingenious model of a Beaver's house, interior and exterior, as constructed by the Nova Scotian animal, and with the appropriate adjuncts of scenery and locality, was exhibited by Colonel HARDY. It was suggested that to those who had taken their impressions of such edifices from the regular dome like structure attributed to the Beaver in pictures, it might be a disappointment.

#### THE PROFITS AND LOSSES OF GOOD AND BAD FARMING SHOWN FORTH IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

Money properly used is the source of many of the comforts of life; hence the great end of farming is to make money. It is not to embellish the land, to build fine houses, barns and fences; to raise fancy stock, or in any other way to make a show in the world. It is to make money, to acquire property, with the ultimate view of taking the comfort of it. The grand question is how can a farm be rendered the most profitable? And the answer is, first and last, by improving the soil so as to make it most permanently productive.

The great defect of American farms, at least this side of the Alleghanies, is their impoverished condition. They have been cropped and recropped, their products sold, and but little returned to the land to keep up its fertility. Any body can

see that the net products of a farm which yields 50 bushels of corn to the acre, are much greater than one that gives 40. For, if 30 bushels will pay the expenses of tillage, there is a profit on the former of twenty bushels, and on the other of only ten. Supposing this to hold good on all the crops of the farm, is not one acre of the first farm worth two of the second? In whatever way we can increase the income of the land above the expenses, we gain so much more profit, and this decides the value of the farm. If land which gives a clear gain per acre of \$7, is worth \$100 to the acre, then that which gives \$14 gain is worth full \$200 per acre.

It costs nearly as much to till land which yields only a profit of \$3.50, as that which yields \$14. Why not, then, apply the extra manure, and the extra brain-work, and get the \$14? The first man barely gets a living; the second grows rich. The best agriculturists here and in England, have found out this true principle, and it is the key to their success. They make it a settled, invariable rule, to enrich the land in proportion as they crop it, and to invest their surplus money in the soil if they can be sure of fair interest for it.

And this brings us to the old question, how to enrich the soil? Few farmers have the means to bring up their lands at once. When the land holder and his land are both poor, the farmer is in a pretty tight place. There is so little to begin with. The great reliance must be on the barn-yard, pig-pen, poultry-house, privy, and green-crops, and the muck-bed.

By some means, let him contrive to raise more grass and fodder crops; this will enable him to keep more stock, and this of course brings the increased manure. By buying a few tons of manure to start with, this will give the increase in the grass, and so the ascent will surely follow. Grain and root crops will then come in for a share of the profits. The importance of draining, of deep-plowing, etc., we need not now dwell upon. No good farmer will neglect them. It must also be understood, at the outset, that the work of renovating an old worn-out farm is the work of years, and must be prosecuted with patience.

[The above remarks from the *American Agriculturist*, apply very well to farming in Nova Scotia, and we commend them to the careful consideration of our readers.—ED.]

#### LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture requests that all Agricultural Societies intending to hold Exhibitions this year (1867), will send him definite notice of the precise time and place of such Exhibitions, as early in the season as possible.