

fully prepared and stored, is two dollars per ton, and that in nutritive value 2½ tons of this preparation are equal to a ton of hay. It would have been more satisfactory if the grounds upon which these conclusions were reached had been stated, because there are persons who are slow to believe that green-fodder corn possesses any such value, and who, therefore, refuse to accept unquestioned a bald statement to that effect. They have an idea that Swedish turnips and mangels are not inferior to fodder corn, and argue from this, that, as 4½ tons of Swedes are not more than equal to a ton of hay, the estimate of 2½ tons of Ensilage is too low. This may be all wrong, but, if so, it is important that analyses, if made, should be published, as well as experiments bearing on the point mentioned, that the ignorance of these people may be enlightened.

Mr. H. says, "Ensilage alone does not contain all the ingredients required to put flesh on an animal." Will ensilage and straw succeed, or has the experiment been tried? We know that turnips and straw have been largely and successfully used in the fattening of cattle, and that sheep will thrive on turnips alone, as proved by the practice in Britain of hurdling on the unpulled crop.

The fact that stock fed partly on Ensilage look well, is no argument in its favor, unless we know what other feed has been supplied, and in what quantities in proportion to the amount of Ensilage, and likewise the amount of the whole to an amount of a given weight. Mr. H. says, "a feed of hay was given to the cattle in the morning to regulate the system;" but he does not say how much, nor whether any meal or other concentrated food was added, although that is implied. If so, it would have been of consequence to know the quantity.

I have made these remarks, not from any hostility to Ensilage, but solely for the sake of obtaining more light on the subject; because, if Ensilage from corn-fodder is all that its advocates claim for it, it is quite time that farmers generally realized the fact and were more alive to its importance. COLCHESTER.

Editor Journal of Agriculture :

SIR,—In your January issue I commented upon the prospectus of the Nova Scotia Immigration Society, and pointed the necessity that obviously exists in this Province for a work of that kind, and promised to follow the matter up still further in a future issue. The subject of immigration has a very direct bearing upon, and is closely allied to, our agricultural interests. Since nothing is produced without labor, it follows, that upon this basis must be reared the structure that truly represents our material wealth and

progress. It must be admitted by all farmers, that the scarcity of agricultural laborers throughout the rural districts of our Province is a great drawback and hindrance to the carrying on successfully and profitably the cultivation of our farms and the proper development of our farming industries. Our farmers in general are awakening to the fact, that, in order to secure competent farm laborers through the summer months, when of course they are most needed, they must in the future be willing to make yearly engagements in hiring. Although the help through the winter months cannot, as a rule, be so profitably employed as during the more important working seasons of spring, summer, and autumn, the manifest advantages of having on hand, at all times, trained and reliable helpers who are bound to yearly engagements, are so far superior to the uncertainties of chance-hiring, and the consequent risks of obtaining the help at the critical time wanted; for instance, when the sweep of the whole season's operation depends upon the harvesting of a crop at just the right time. Now, as it is evident to our farmers from sad experience, that such help is not, as a rule, to be now obtained in this Province, the question naturally arises, from where can it be obtained? I think, with the aid of the Nova Scotia Immigration Society, that question can be satisfactorily answered, and not only in the matter of farm laborers, but also as regards female domestics, of which there is throughout the whole Province a great scarcity, causing an undue burden of hard work and household cares to rest upon the patient and overworked wives in numberless households.

With a practical farmer from Nova Scotia, as agent abroad, the wants above indicated could be supplied, and a reliable trained class of help could be engaged, and sent out as wanted under yearly engagements. This is one of the many advantages the Society is calculated to confer upon the patrons. Another is the improvement of the unoccupied lands and farms that are year by year sadly deteriorating in value and productiveness. There are several such in each district, and the fact is prejudicial to and detracts from the value of the adjoining farms that are better tilled and properly cultivated. To have these neglected farms and lands occupied by a class of farmers who have made agriculture a study, and who know by practical tests whether a theory is sound or otherwise, would add untold wealth to our Province, by proving, as has been done in some instances that could be quoted what can be accomplished by the intelligent application of science to agriculture. As the scheme progresses, I may again point out further reasons why it should receive the hearty support of our farmers. F.

We have to acknowledge a package of Flower Seeds from the firm of James Vick, Rochester, N. Y. State. The late Mr. Vick was the most enterprising Flower Seedsman of his time, and the business appears to be carried on by his sons with unabated energy.

Mr. H. A. STEWART, Secretary of the Hamilton Farmers' Club of Prince Edward Island, has sent to Mr. Rennei, seedsman, of Toronto, some samples of grain, clover, and other seeds grown on the Island from seeds purchased last year from Mr. Rennei. The samples are very fine, the timothy seed, the white clover wheat, and the oats are especially good. Mr. Stewart is strongly in favour of importing seeds from Ontario for use in Prince Edward Island.

HISTORY OF THE PICTOU CATTLE DISEASE.

No. VI.

Preliminary Report on the Disease of Cattle at Pictou, Nova Scotia, and adjoining Districts, addressed to Hon J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, by D. McEachran, F. R. C. V. S., Inspector of Stock.

(Continued from October Number.)

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE, HALIFAX, }
October, 1881. }

SIR,—In August last you were pleased to entrust to Dr. McEachran, Veterinary Inspector of the Department of Agriculture, and myself, a mission of enquiry in relation to the Cattle Disease of Pictou County. I have now the honor to submit the results of that portion of the investigation assigned to me.

In accordance with your letter of instructions of 17th August, I proceeded to Pictou in company with Dr. McEachran, visited with him farms in the infected district around the Town of Pictou and neighborhood, examined the soil, water and herbage, and collected samples of the same, which were taken to Halifax and subjected to chemical and microscopical analysis.

The prevailing soil of the district consists of a light surface loam resting on a clayey subsoil. In natural pastures, the surface loam is frequently very thin, and varies in character from a fine sandy loam to a compact clayey loam. In low lying wet places this is covered with a thin deposit containing much vegetable matter. The formation of swampy places and stagnant water holes in the pastures is favoured by the impervious character of the subsoil. The soil is everywhere coloured more or less by iron, which is washed out and deposited in pools and ditches. Manganese also occurs; there is but little lime. The soils of the Pictou pastures do not differ materially, either