A similar plan is tried successfully in some parts of Lower Canada, but in addition, a head of corn is fastened to the top of each pole. Thus the more thoroughly convinced is this suspicious bird, that there is a design on his life.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

A Weekly Council was held on Wednesday, the 22nd of February: Mr. Pusey, President, in the Chair.

Nitrate of Soda.—The President read to the meeting the following extract from a letter addressed to him by Mr. Stevenson, of Edinburgh:—

"February 16, 1854.

"Yesterday, Mr. A. Howden, Lawhead, East Lothian, informed me that he had tested his experiment of last crop with nitrate of soda, 1 cwt. nitrate, and 2 cwt. of salt per imp. acre. The increase of produce was 9 bushels of wheat per imp. acre. It is only by pressing such experimental results upon the attention of farmers, that will produce a general feeling in favour of this valuable fertilizer."

Fish-manure.—Mr. Bullen read to the Council the following Notes on the subject of Fish manure from Cod and Seal offal:—

Fish Offal as Manure.—It appears that about two-thirds, say one-half, the cod fish caught is thrown away as waste offal, so that out of 100 tons of fresh fish you have 50 tons for curing, reduced to 25 tons when dried; and 50 tons of offal. In 1853 there were upwards of 595,000 quintals of dried fish exported from Newfoundland, equal, at 20 quintals to a ton, to about 30,000 tons of cured fish, the produce of 60,000 tons of fresh fish, and 120 tons of offal. This offal, at the calculation of one ton to five, ought to give about 25,000 tons of fish manure in a perfectly dried state from cod refuse alone, at present available. As little or no value is set upon it at present, it may be estimated at little more than the price of collection, which, however, would be considerable.

Seal Offal at Newfoundland.—It appears from Governor Hamilton's last report, that there are no less than 367 vessels of from 70 to 180 tons, amounting to 35,760 tons, and carrying 13,000 men, engaged in the seal oil and skin trade alone at Newfoundland. About the 1st of March this fleet proceeds to sea, and falls in with what is called the sealing on the pipe ice, where the seals breed and rear their young, sometimes on the coast of Labrador, and at others on the shores of Newfoundland itself; and, after killing the seals, they strip off the skins, and blubber and on the skin, and in abandoning the carcases, they stow them in the hold. The voyage lasts about a month or six weeks, on an average, according to the locality where they fall in with the seals; and sometimes ship a return fully loaded in a week or a fortnight, while at others the voyage is a total failure. "Last season, which was considered a most disastrous one to the shipping, there were 550,000 seals killed, from which 7,334 tons of oil were extracted, amounting to £237,957 sterling, or near £30 per ton; and seal-skins, to the value of £76,790 sterling, also exported. The bodies of these seals, which constitute their chief bulk, must have given 50,00 tons, at least, of animal matter. In addition to these sources of the raw material, the seas and bays round Newfoundland abound with fish of every kind, particularly the capelin, as it is called—a species of small sprat, upon which the cod fish live, together with the dog-fish and others, which are peculiarly rich in oil, and can be taken in great quantities by the slightest exertion on the adoption of improved machinery and system. The chief difficulty to a successful manufacture is the want of labour, which is dearer at certain seasons in Newfoundland, and more scarce than any where else; as there are only 120,000 inhabitants in the island, and they are so exclusively occupied in the fishing and sealing seasons, in summer and spring, that they cannot attend to anything else. But Governor Hamilton, in his excellent report, most judiciously remarks, that "unfortunately in that colony there is little or no employment for the labouring population during the long period which intervenes between the close of the cod fishery in summer and the commencement of the seal fishery in spring," and that "in the mode and processes of conducting the fisheries themselves there is a great want of economy, and a disregard for improvements which the application of modern science would suggest, and which might be rendered available in advancing the industrial pursuits of the colony." In conclusion, he says that "there are few parts of the world where the process of converting labour into capital is so speedy, or for the extent of it, so efficacious, as at Newfoundland; and if the catch of seals alone be an average one, upwards of £300,000 is raised off those sealing meadows, as they are called, in a few weeks. The sea in this brief season yields a harvest more profitable than the plain, and it without the labours of a seed-time, it toil." He also remarks, that, "since the abandonment of the deep sea fishery on the banks, the cod fishery is now confined to small boats on the coast and in the bays and harbours, and could hardly be carried on without the aid of the seal fishery;" but how vastly would the whole community be benefited by utilising the entire of the produce of both fisheries, in the combined manufactures in question! It is evident that the manufacture cannot be carried on effectively, and profitably either at Newfoundland or elsewhere, except by commanding the raw material to an indefinite amount, and at a nominal price, or the price of collecting it. In the cases mentioned, large quantities are now procured for other objects, and wasted; and it is well worthy of consideration how far the increased demand for the articles, and the enterprising spirit, combined with the science and machinery of the present day, might not have the effect of establishing a new and profitable trade in this colony, and of utilising the whole animal supply, and of combining the present curing of cod fish, and the cod liver and other oil trades, directly with the manufacture of manure from their refuse. But to effect this, it is evident that the capital, machinery, and skill must be chiefly supplied from this country. Suggestion.—That a series of experiments should be instituted in this city, under the immediate superintendence of the Society, at their expense, for the purpose of ascertaining the best modes of manufacturing the manure. For that purpose, that a couple of tons of ordinary fish offal should be procured, at Billingsgate, or elsewhere, for experiment, and to ascertain the exact and relative proportions and prices of the oils and manure, &c., whether made by simple desiccation, or by the action of acids, so as to become thoroughly acquainted with the process, and to suggest such alterations as may be advisable for establishing the system elsewhere.

The reading of this communication was followed by an interesting discussion on this and some other proposed substitutes for guano, in which the President, Mr. Raymond Barker, Mr. Fisher Hobbs, Mr. Cuthbert Johnson, Dr. Calvert, Mr. Caird, Professor Way, Mr. Mainwaring Baine, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Slaney, Mr. Bullen, and Mr. Pocock, took part.

Mr. Hutchinson, Secretary to the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland, favoured the Council with a supply of several copies of the last Journal of that Society, containing the papers of Dr. Apjohn on the subject of fish manures, recently read before its members.

Sheep Shearing.—Mr. Caird submitted to the inspection of the Council one of the new instruments for shearing sheep, invented by Mr. Henry Francis, of West Strand, London, along with testimonials of its value. Professor Simonds expressed his approval of the instrument in question.

The Council having ordered their usual acknowledgments for the communications then made to them, adjourned to their monthly meeting on Wednesday next, the 15th of March.

Weekly Council, March 23.—Mr. Pusey, President, in the chair.

Gelatinous and Saline Manures.—Mr. Tucketts, of Lobeo, near Looe, in Cornwall, communicated the results of trials undertaken by him for the conversion of fish offal into manure; and a statement of his mode of reducing animal substances, in the course of three hours, into a pulp or jelly, preparatory to its being diluted with water for the liquid manure drill, or mixed with a fine powder for drilling with seeds. He also referred to the plan he employed for separa-