

AGRICULTURAL.

[FOR THE BEE.]

FARM BUILDINGS.—No. 16.

Mr Dawson, Sir,—Much of a farmer's comfort, and not a little of his profits depend upon the buildings being properly constructed, and in a suitable situation: Utility, convenience, and elegance ought to be combined in the design of a farm steading. As a general rule, it may be well to proportion the house to the weight of the purse, the barn to the size of the farm. This in general, as yet, has composed the most of a Nova Scotia farm steading; but, as there may soon be a change in other respects, so I have little doubt but there will in this. Where circumstances will permit it, the steading should be near the centre of the farm, the house in front of the court of offices, five or six yards from the barn yard, the barn standing parallel to it, the wings composed of other buildings, forming three sides of a square, the other side being left open to admit the free ingress and egress of cattle, carts, &c.

I shall submit the plan of a barn, adapted to stall feeding, to the consideration of your readers, that I conceive would answer a good purpose. The length of the barn to be 38 feet, divided into 16, 12, and 10; the width to be proportioned to the stock; the most convenient site is a rising little hill or from ten to fourteen feet elevation: a space the whole size of the barn to be dug into the side of this hill, to the depth of six feet, to be completely walled round (doors excepted) to the height of seven feet and a half, and the sills of the barn to be laid on this wall. The 16 feet below for the largest cattle, the 10 feet space for the smaller stock, and the 12 feet space below the thrashing floor, a cellar for turnips and other roots, through the winter. The cattle to stand with their heads towards the thrashing floor, and a walk for the feeder three feet wide before them, running all the width of the barn. The stalls for cows & fattening cattle should be partitioned off double, and one tied at each corner; this will be found preferable to the practice that now prevails of putting the cattle up in stand-sills. The other parts of the barn to be built in the way they now are, the large door being in the opposite side from the barn-yard. Those who may not think it proper to have the horses in the same apartments with the other cattle, may have a stable very conveniently by the side of the barn next to the yard, and adjoining the thrashing-floor, off which they are to be fed.

A house for holding the implements of husbandry and firewood, with a granary above, may make the one wing, and places for the sheep, hogs, and poultry, the other: there should be a dung-pit in the centre of the yard, over which a shade may be erected.

Yours truly,

OLD RUSTICUS.

COMPARATIVE PROFITS OF COWS AND SHEEP.

From my own observations, and other lights on the subject which I have been able to obtain, I judge that on an average, it will require one ton and a half of hay, or its equivalent in other keeping to winter a cow. This will be rarely estimated at less than \$12. To keep her through the summer will require about two and a half acres of good pasture. This will be estimated differently, according to the different valuations of land, but I will say it is equal to \$7. The interest on the capital vested in the cow, may be \$1.50. According to this estimate, which I am satisfied does not vary far from the truth, the annual expenses incident to keeping a cow, are equal to \$20.50.—It is generally understood that cows are about as much to keep a cow one year as she is worth. Such

appears to be the fact, and yet she is a very profitable animal. It is believed that none is more so. The value of her produce is next to be estimated.

A good cow, (and when I say good, I mean no other than an ordinary cow of the native breed,) may under proper management be expected to produce annually at least 200 pounds of butter. This will be yielding at the rate of about four and a half pounds a week for ten months, during which time it is supposed the cow will give milk. The butter then at 9d. the lowest price, will be worth \$25. The skimmed milk, which may be given to the calf, or to hogs, may be worth \$3. The dung which the cow will be the means of making, may be worth \$1. According to this estimate, the annual produce of the cow will be equal to \$29, and the balance standing to her credit, after paying the expenses of keeping her, will be \$8.50. Nothing is here estimated for the expenses incident to taking care of the cow, and making the butter. Be these what they may, it is clear that a handsome profit will remain after all charges are paid. Butter making is probably the most profitable use to which dairy cows can be applied, especially when the scale of business is small, and only a few cows are kept. But when cheese making is the object, the average produce of cows, in that article, is said to range between three and four hundred pounds annually.

In regard to sheep, I assume it as my data, that it costs about the same to keep twelve sheep through the year as one cow. It requires also about the same investment of capital to gain possession of that number of sheep, as to become the owner of a cow. It may appear to cost less to winter 12 sheep than one cow, because sheep are not usually fed from the barn as long as cattle are. Yet they derive their living from the farm, and are justly chargeable for what they consume. If then it costs the same to keep twelve sheep as one cow, which I am satisfied will not vary from the truth, the expense of keeping that number of sheep through the year will, according to preceding estimates amount to \$20.50. Let us see now what will be the value of their produce.

The fleeces of twelve sheep may weigh 36 pounds. This quantity of wool, at 50 cents a pound, may be worth \$18. The lambs which the flock will produce, may be worth \$6. The annual income then from twelve sheep, will be 24 dollars, while the expenses incident to keeping them will be \$20.50. The result is a clear profit of \$3.50. From these estimates it appears that keeping sheep is a profitable branch of husbandry, but I think it appears that keeping good dairy cows is still more profitable. In either case the husbandman receives considerable more than a full compensation for all his labor, and the use of the land which is devoted to these purposes. Under such circumstances, how can he fail of becoming a thrifty farmer.—*Genesee Farmer.*

CULTIVATION OF FOREST TREES.—It is to be wished that the value of trees might be still better understood than it is, even by those who take the pains to plant the few that are planted. The time will come, when trees must be cultivated, not for ornament or for shade merely, but for all their various and important uses. Then shall we lament that those who planted forgot to plant for others, as well as themselves. Even now, our spontaneous forests are felled faster than new ones can arise to supply the demand. In France, the cutting of the forests which supply nearly all their fuel, is conducted on a very good system of economy, enforced by law.—*Nov Scotia Herald.*

COLONIAL.

[From the Novascotian, Oct. 26.]

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

If, in other countries, the right to return, by voluntary suffrage, an entire Branch of the Legislature, be regarded as a great privilege—still more highly valued should it be by the people of Nova Scotia, for it is almost the only privilege they have. In the United States—in England—even in Prussia—all the local affairs are under the direct controul of the people, who appoint their own Magistrates and other public functionaries, and dismiss them when they please.—Here they have no such power. In this town, for instance, the Governor may appoint two or three Magistrates—some of them the most worthless and incompetent to be found, who exercise very extensive power for good or evil—levy taxes—purchase property—mismanage our Institutions—and do what seems right in their own eyes, and yet the people have no means of redress. Thousands of pounds are annually levied and collected, not only without the consent of those who pay them, but often in direct opposition to their wishes, and against their sense of justice—and, although we know that the money is improvidently squandered, we cannot enforce economy by stopping the supplies. A freeholder has no voice in the general Government under which he lives, but once in seven years—by the local Government his wishes and opinions are never consulted at all. From end to end of Nova Scotia, there is not one office in the gift of the people but that of Member of the Assembly. They cannot choose a Healthwarden, or a Firewarden, or even a Scavenger. One hundred men may organize a Volunteer Militia Company, and may spend one thousand pounds of their own money in purchasing dress and accoutrements; and when they have done, they cannot choose an officer, from the Captain down to a Corporal—and, indeed, some of the very best companies that have ever been created in this town, have been broken up and destroyed, from the arbitrary and contemptuous disregard, in the selection of Officers, of the feelings and wishes of the bodies over whom they were to exercise command.

If this be true, and we believe we shall not be contradicted—how highly should the People value the privilege which they will be called upon shortly to exercise? With what jealous watchfulness should they scan the merits and claims of those who ask for the only office which, in seven long years, they have to bestow? with what firmness and decision—with what indignant scorn—should they resist any attempt to influence their judgment by means other than those which reason and argument afford.

The Savage who builds a camp to-day that is to be deserted or thrown down to-morrow, is not very particular about the materials with which the structure is raised—but he who erects a stately edifice which is to last for years, weighs well his plan, and chooses a framework in which permanence and security combine. If we were in Rhode Island, where the Representative body is chosen every year, it would be of less consequence if improper selections were made; in one Session but little mischief could be done; and the opportunity for correcting errors would very soon come round. But the building which is about to fall to pieces, has lasted long enough to satisfy the Constituency of the necessity for the greatest care and deliberation in the erection of a new one.

The new House will—like all preceding ones—be partly composed of old, and partly of new materials. It would be an invidious task for us to point out to the Country—even if we had the vanity to believe that our advice would be taken—what portions of the former should be discarded or what preserved.—Though our opportunities have been ample—and though, perhaps, upon individual cases we may have formed an opinion, this is a responsibility which we will not assume. Those who have served the Country,