

some sort of notion that there was a great virtue in sheep to restore pastures. There was no innate virtue in sheep to do this, but there was a virtue in time—time allowed portions of the grass to be decomposed, and fresh food was thereby given for the other grasses to grow upon. It was quite true that sheep-folding did an amount of good, but the sheep added no new food, and it was folly to say that they added manure. What they did was simply this; they returned that grass which they ate, in a new form, and in that form it was food, but there was nothing new added. If they constantly fed cows upon meadows in that way, it would for a time get better than what it had been, but it would eventually get worse, and he would give an instance of this:—In Cheshire, where a most remarkably good cheese was made, he found ten years ago the meadow full of rushes and sedges, grasses with hollow and triangular stems, and exceedingly rough pasture. Sedges grew for the most part in wet sands. He found that the people had been constantly exporting an immense amount of cheese and the flesh and bones of cattle, and the result was that the meadows were constantly getting poorer. The phosphate had been taken out of the land and converted into the bones of the cattle, and then the sedges came up in the impoverished condition of the land, and replaced the true grasses, which required better food. In order to remedy this, the farmers in Cheshire—which is a great country for salt—put a quantity of salt over the meadows, and this killed every one of the rushes and sedges; and, as soon as the salt had dissolved the frame-work of these grasses, this formed a kind of manure, and refreshed the pasture again. But this refreshment was very much like that which was given by folding sheep—nothing new was added; they got no new conditions, and the meadows gradually relapsed into the same poor condition. But the Cheshire farmer now, to compensate for the bones and flesh which had been sent off the meadows in his cattle, was bringing back a compound containing similar materials—a guano which contained bone-dust in great quantities, and also a large amount of superphosphate, and they were using this to a larger extent than any other county in England, and the result was that the pastures were becoming thoroughly restored. Here, then, was the true theory of sheep-folding. They might bring a meadow into a certain condition by feeding sheep upon it, but it would not always remain in that condition. Whatever they took off it in the shape of mutton was so much impoverishment of the land. Whenever they wanted to restore a pasture in a very bad condition, they might very readily do it by taking the sheep from the turnip field towards evening, and folding them on the meadow the whole of the night. Then the sheep would bring something from the turnips, and add to the meadow new manure. There was no question they would do an enormous amount of good in that way.

HAY MAKING.

As regarded hay-making, they would get hay in quality and quantity just in proportion to the manure they put upon the soil. And if they took away hay, they must return something more than merely folding sheep upon the land in the usual way, otherwise the meadow would become impoverished. He would caution the farmers against letting the hay grow too long before making it. He was often told that there was no hay to make, and they must let it grow three weeks or a fortnight longer, in order to get a greater quantity. But, depend upon it, this was unwise. They should not let the grasses seed on any account. If they had not sufficient quantity previous to this, he did not think anything would increase it; but even if it did increase, the injury they would do to their pasture would be more than any benefit they would derive in the increase of hay.

To be continued.

Horticultural.

The Fruit Grower's Association of Upper Canada.

This association held its Annual Meeting in the City of Hamilton, on the 22nd and 23rd January 1862, which was very fully attended.

The President read a very interesting address on the objects and importance of this association.

On motion of D. W. Beadle, seconded by W. Holton, the thanks of the association were tendered to the President for his able and interesting address, and he was requested to furnish a copy for publication in the *Canadian Agriculturist* (A copy of the Address is subjoined.)

On motion of D. W. Beadle, seconded by Mr. Arnold, Mr. George Leslie was appointed committee to obtain the publication of the President's address in the *Leader and Globe*, Toronto.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

President.—Judge Logie, Hamilton.

Vice-Presidents.—George Leslie, Esq., Toronto.—Alexander Leslie, Esq., London.

Secretary and Treasurer.—D. W. Beadle, Esq., St. Catharines.

Fruit Committee.—Messrs. Gray, Messrs. Holton, Freed, and Laing.

Publication Committee.—The Secretary, Messrs. Bruce and George Leslie.

Answers had been returned to the question issued by the association from over thirty different parties, and these were now read by the Secretary.

After the reading was finished, on motion Dr. Hurlburt, seconded by George Leslie,