

## HOME AND FARM.

## THE MARITIME EXPERIMENT STATION.

Nappan is a small station about five miles south-east of Amherst, in the county of Cumberland, N. S. It is only a few cented farmhouses overlooking the junction of the Maccan and Nappan rivers. About half a mile from the railroad station by the highway, (which might have been made straight but for some unaccountable reason was straightened by being made crooked a short time ago, probably on the principle that the farthest way round is the shortest way home), is the Dominion Experiment Station.

An experiment station is a place where all manner of experimenting in connection with farming is carried out. It is a place where they try to do not only good farming but also poor farming, in order to find out the reasons why a certain method is good and another is bad practice. There they try to find out new methods as well as test the old. All kinds of seeds are tried to find out which is the best adapted to the various conditions under which they are grown. Cattle are experimented with as well as all other kinds of stock, to see what feed and in what proportion is best adapted to make them grow. In fact, every line of work that is connected with the farm is investigated. In most experiment stations a rigid watch is kept on the fertilizers sold in the country. All frauds or adulterations of foods are suppressed. They try to make themselves as useful as possible in every way to the farmer.

The station consists of three hundred and twenty acres which lie facing the Chignecto Bay. It is divided by the railroad as well as the highway, and as the marsh is in a separate piece, the farm is really divided into four. The marsh lies, curiously enough, adjoining the dike in a long narrow strip. The current of the Nappan river is such that it is constantly encroaching on the dike, and evidently compelled the former owner to dike inside of the old dikes. The Government have a big job on their hands if they succeed in preserving this marsh from the inroads of old Neptune. The marsh itself is very variable in character, some of it being good, and some of it from present appearances not much good. Indeed some will not yield over a half a ton of hay to the acre this year. The soil of the upland is of a variable character. It varies from sand to clay, and is well adapted to experimental work. It will all require draining. On the top of the hills are water holes that it is said were never dry since the country has been settled.

As the Government have only had possession for a short time they have been busy clearing up the ground, taking up old fences and plowing the ground preparatory to future use. There are no buildings of value on the place except the farm dwelling, which is a good looking house.

It seems good to see a drill for putting in grain in use instead of the universal custom of sowing by hand. There are other instruments which would be of value to have introduced to our farmers which are not on the farm.

There are some experiments under way already. Various plots of the different varieties of oats, wheat and barley are growing. Most of them are Russian. It is interesting to note how much better the Canadian varieties do than those which have come from near the arctic circle. It is difficult to see just what benefit these experiments will do us. If no other kinds would grow here we might hope to find one that would. But these grains grow here to perfection, and we cannot hope to improve on them by importing the dwarfed plants that have survived the Russian colds, nor does it seem necessary to import larches, firs and spruce that are native here.

In the way of fruits the prospects of valuable work are splendid. It is proposed to try all the numerous kinds of fruit, both large and small. Already they have a number of kinds of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, etc. Vegetables are receiving their proper share of attention. They intend shortly to build a green-house.

The station is just beginning its work and it would be unfair to offer any criticism. It is evident to any thoughtful person that it takes time to perform valuable experiments, and the public should expect no very valuable reports for a year or two, as everything will have to be prepared before the real experiments can be begun. There is a great field of work and usefulness before this station, and the superintendent has the best interests of his fellow farmers at heart, and can be trusted to do all that can be done for them. It is a pity that the Government do not provide him with more assistance than simply a horticulturist. There are fields of work that cannot be touched because there is no chemist there to assist in the work.

## ENSILAGE.

## PART III.—CROPS FOR ENSILAGE.

Some enthusiastic propagators of ensilage theories have claimed that it made no difference what crops were used, and that it worked equally well with all. Every now and then someone still comes out in an article advocating this view, but its advocates are rapidly growing less numerous.

Maize in some of its various forms is now the generally accepted crop which is used universally for this purpose. The reasons for this are numerous and valid. In the first place this is the only way that some varieties can be preserved, except by leaving them in the field and drawing them in as wanted. Even those kinds that can be dried so that they may be put in a stack or mow are always difficult to cure properly, and lose a great deal even when the conditions are most favorable. Hence wherever corn is grown this method becomes as soon as introduced very popular for preserving this crop. This accounts for its popularity with maize, but does not show why it is not valuable with other crops.

In a favorable season for hay-making practically none of the valuable materials of the hay are lost. Some may be rendered a little more indigestible but that is all. Clover is harder to cure than grass, but even in

this case the clover-hay has about the same composition that the green clover had except the water. It is impossible to preserve either grass or clover as ensilage without a serious loss at the best. It is safe to say that it cannot be preserved with the present knowledge of ensilage-making any better than it would be if exposed to a moderate storm. It might be more palatable as ensilage, but no more nutritious. The chances are all in favor of making hay rather than ensilage out of grass and clover. If it does not get a storm it will be better by far than it would as ensilage, and if it does get wet, in nine cases out of ten it will be as good.

It has been shown by numerous experiments that the loss of making ensilage out of corn is great, but it has also been shown that so far there is no better way known. Our climate is such that hay can usually be made without very great risk of injury if it is properly managed. The unfortunate season is the exception, not the rule. It would be an unwise thing to attempt to use grass or clover for ensilage.

## FROM TRURO TO MATTLAND.

The Province of Nova Scotia abounds in beautiful drives, fine landscapes, and charming scenery. Wherever one turns, the eye is charmed with beautiful sights. One of these interesting drives is from Truro to Mattland. All along the road, without exception, there is nothing but what pleases. The farms are so fertile, the houses are so attractive, everything looks so prosperous, that one can scarcely help envying their possessors.

There are many lessons to be learned from this drive. The yards around the houses and barns are so clean and kept in such order. Things are not thrown around without regard to appearances. The farms are well tilled, as shown by the absence of weeds. But few cattle were pasturing in the road.

How many roads twelve miles long can have these things said of them? It is too commonly the case that quite the reverse is true. The cattle pasture in the road, the weeds grow promiscuously, and the dooryard looks as if it had been made the general receptacle for all that was not in use on the farm, and for all the trash that could be found.

## NOTES.

The prospects are splendid for an excellent crop of fruit this fall. In every part of the Province the trees have been covered with an immense number of blossoms. The fine weather will assist the setting of the fruit.

The grass has made wonderful growth the last few weeks in most parts of the Province. A little more rain would have assisted it.

See that all repairs are made on the mower and the other tools for haying before it is necessary to use them.

How many know about the "Rural New Yorker's trench system" of growing potatoes? It is a capital way. It will be described in a few weeks.

Never sign your name to any paper for a stranger, no matter how innocent it may look, for it may return as a note.

Coarse, medium, and fine ground bone meal are all sold at the same prices. The fine is worth double the coarse. The coarse pieces of bone may lie in the ground for years before becoming available.

The Provincial Exhibition will be held in Truro this year. A committee was recently selected by the citizens of this enterprising town in connection with this exhibition. The president of the committee is Mr. James Norm, and the secretary is Mr. W. D. Dimock. Considering the great experience these gentlemen have had, it is difficult to conceive how two men better fitted for their work could have been found. Their selection assures the success of the exhibition as far as it can be assured.

The Bath and West of England Society have been conducting a series of experiments. They have undertaken a novel, and certainly wise, method of performing them. This is to have the same experiments performed by a number of farmers at the same time. This allows them to draw general conclusions in one year, which it would take long years to arrive at on any single farm, or at any experiment station. These experiments cannot help being of the greatest benefit to the farmers themselves who perform them, besides the instruction they give to all others.

THE ENGLISH SPARROW.—Nova Scotia fruit growers have been discussing the English sparrow, which has become so numerous in the provinces since its introduction a few years ago. They were unable, however, to decide whether it was their enemy or friend, no one present being prepared to say that he had suffered any injury by reason of it.

A day's extra work preparing the soil may make many bushels difference in the final yield.

Moderate confinement and plenty of corn meal and boiled potatoes will put the desired "pound of flesh" on the young goose.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives strength and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.