

on good vinegar enough to allow of the clay being mixed up to somewhat the consistency of cream, or buttermilk. In the act of stirring, it will effervesce if lime is present in any sufficient quantity. Such soil, if put on, and well spread during the fall, to the extent of 40 or 50 loads per acre, and brush harrowed in the spring, will greatly benefit any poor grass land, that is naturally dry, or well-drained.

It is a curious fact, that some clays are naturally so rich in red clover, and some the same in white clover. At this place, we have two hills almost running into one another. The one through which the railway is cut, produces along the slopes of the embankment a splendid crop of red clover,—while the clay of the adjoining hill, when brought to the surface, produces spontaneously a thick coat of white clover. The question as to where the clover seed comes from, has often been asked: but I do not know, nor have I ever heard a satisfactory answer. The fact, however, is patent to all, and as a general rule, a top-dressing of clay will produce clover on even the most barren soil.

Yours, &c.

BEDFORD.

September, 1865.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

That the interest manifested in the improvement of Agriculture by the Government and Legislature in passing a New Agricultural Act to encourage the formation of Agricultural Societies in different parts of the country, and the importation of improved breeds of stock is approved of by farmers generally, is evinced in the increasing number of members uniting with the Agricultural Societies generally.

The Society in this town formerly consisted of about twelve members now we number something over forty, including several from the adjoining townships. This year the Society resolved to hold an Exhibition of horses, horned cattle, sheep, grain, cloth, &c. The show took on the 20th inst., at Mantua. The day was all that could be wished, bringing out a large number of spectators from the surrounding country.

In horses a goodly number were exhibited, some rather superior Mares were brought forward, still there is room for improvement, and it is hoped that a cross with the recent importation will have the desired results. There was a large number of horned cattle on the ground, and some very superior fat oxen were shewn; working oxen and cows were just middling, with here and there an exception, and so with the young stock. In Sheep there was a marked improvement on former exhibitions, samples from three or four flocks. A cross between the Leicester and natives shewed a good size and shape, with a thick heavy fleece and an aptitude to fatten.

The number of bags of Grain entered, shewed the deep interest taken by the farmers in this branch of farm produce, and considering the unfavorable seed time, proved equal to an average in quality, winter wheat weighing 64 lbs to the bushel; oats 48 do.; barley

55 do. In Indian Corn some very superior heads were shewn, measuring twelve inches in length, well ripened and filled out. There were also several webs of well made Cloth, which spoke well for the skill of the manufacturers. The show as a whole was superior to any hitherto held in this place, and will stimulate farmers to greater exertions for the future. Exhibitions of this kind are well calculated to improve all descriptions of Stock, and farm produce generally. Our Sister Provinces are fully alive to this, and Nova Scotia ought not to be behind in this matter.

Trusting that your Journal will be well sustained, and prove a benefit to the Country, I remain, yours, &c.

A.

Newport, Sept. 22, 1865.

THE CHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—A CHEAP DURHAM BULL—IMPROVEMENT OF SHEEP—COTSWOLDS.

Chester, Sept. 15, 1865.

We now number 54 members, paying \$1 each annually. We had a meeting of the society to day, and considered it not well to have a fair or show this season, as no preparations had been made, but to devote the funds chiefly to the introduction of improved stock. The Society's threshing mill and horse power is to be repaired, and be used in the district, as has been customary. The Bull, a very good one, is to be sold, and his place supplied again next spring, probably by two younger ones, one an Alderney, the other of larger breed for stock. The present Bull is 4 years old, a fine, well made creature, Durham I think, and is not to be sold under £6—should bring more—is breachy for fences, but gentle when up—would be useful in places where they are always kept in. We passed a motion to obtain one each Cotswold Ram and Ewe, (young), price not to exceed \$50. The vote passed in the spring to expend \$20 in young boars and sows of improved breed, was again renewed, the Provincial grant not being obtained as then expected. A much better feeling than formerly is now exhibited, and the desire appears more to be for general benefit than personal profit, as was hitherto prevalent: and I think much good may result from the Society's re-organization. We shall always be pleased to have suggestions and information from head quarters. Perhaps you would inform us where best pigs and sheep can be obtained, distance and hardiness considered. Halifax is our nearest spot. I am writing Mr. Decie, Bridgetown, in reference to both, but more particularly the sheep. By the way, I also got liberty to expend \$4 to \$6 in Agricultural periodicals for the Society, and think of taking our own journal, "The American Agriculturist," "The Canadian Farmer," (I think), and "The Country Gentleman." Is the se-

lection good? I Nova Scotian, I Canadian, I American, and I English, or can you suggest a better? [It is as good a selection as you can make for the money. Ed.] For about ten years I have thought the Cotswold sheep to be the best breed to introduce for many parts of this Province, and am pleased now to see they are being brought in. I may write you a piece on them from information picked up concerning them, and possibly on other subjects, during the winter. [We shall be glad to hear from you.—Ed.] I suggested at our meeting, and shall endeavor to introduce here, the practice of holding monthly Agricultural meetings alternately in the several districts and towns, each meeting for the discussion of some one Agricultural subject. Our Hay crop in general was a large one, especially on lands in decent order, and the grain crop is good; but potatoes on the coast are badly affected with the blight. The chief remedy here is to plant early, and then pull or mow off the stalks as soon as affected, and this saves the tubers and secures a crop of sound ones as far as matured. I have often noticed that where surrounded by tall weeds or grass, the blight does not injure the stalk; and I have an idea that at time of planting, or after early hoeing, to plant oats or grain between the rows will give a sound crop, free of taint, the overtopping grain warding off the blight, keeping the air pure, or in some way shielding the potato from the evil influence. I think also that the culture of flax should be more encouraged, and the attempt be made to introduce flax mills. Beans also are a very sure and paying crop, much neglected. Root crops also should be more cultivated. But I must close, and subscribe myself, yours, &c.

H. B. MITCHELL,

Sec. of C. A. S.

[The name of the Chester Society has been placed on the list of those organized under the new Act, and will receive its share of the Grant after next meeting of the Board, in October next.]

EXHIBITION OF THE BRIDGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society will hold its Exhibition for the current year at the Sessions' House, on Saturday October 7th. The Exhibition will embrace Fruits, Roots, Grains, Seeds, Dairy Produce, and certain Domestic Manufactures, &c., and will be open to visitors at eleven o'clock, A. M., of the day appointed.

The Grain Exhibition will be held on the first Saturday after New Years day, at 10 o'clock. The quantity of turnips, together with the clover and timothy seed, will then be handed in, certified by two persons.