

to each other about their experiments and their results, suggest improvements and receive suggestions from others. Mind is brought into contact with mind, and they return home with increased knowledge, zeal, and energy to carry out their various plans of improvement.

Having given a brief outline of the past history and present condition of the agriculture of Sunbury, I may perhaps be permitted to offer a few suggestions resulting principally from my own personal experience.

During the thirty years that I have dabbled in agricultural pursuits, many books on theoretical and practical agriculture have been read, many of their suggestions tested, and many original experiments tried with decidedly favourable results, in the benefits of which I would wish others, who may have had less leisure and means for experimenting, to participate.

One of the most important conclusions to which my experience has led, is, that the present mode of feeding cattle is far from being the most profitable. Cattle are usually in this County confined to dry food during the whole of our long winter. Hay and straw compose their bill of fare from November till May, and on our intervalles till June. Where hay is abundant and of good quality, and the farmer is not tempted by high prices to transfer too much of it to the camp of the lumberman or the barns of the citizens of Fredericton or St. John, his cattle get on pretty comfortably, and come out in the spring in fair condition; but where hay is scarce or of inferior quality, and straw is largely used, stock must, as a necessary consequence, *rapidly deteriorate*. I think it will be found an invariable rule that the *longer cattle are fed on straw the lighter they become*. Instead of young stock increasing, as they should do, largely through the winter, they will be found, when fed upon straw, smaller and lighter in May than they were in November. Even supposing they have good pasture during the summer, they must, under this treatment, rapidly degenerate. If we begin with good stock and expect to keep them up to their present standard, they must be well fed during the whole period of their growth. The young animal, especially the first year of its existence, must have an abundant supply of nourishing food, if we expect it to arrive at anything like excellence. But many of our close fistled money saving farmers may be ready to say, if I give my calves all their mothers milk for three or four months in place of stinting them for six or eight weeks, and then turning them to grass, I shall have very little butter and cheese for market. Be it so; go on nevertheless. Let your calves have plenty of new milk for four months, then give them plenty of good hay and half a bushel of roots each a day through the winter, and you will find each one of them at a year old worth two or three of the starvelings under your old system. After the first winter they will do well on straw and roots. I seldom feed hay at all during the winter to neat cattle, except calves. Even milch cows will do well and yield a fair quantity of milk on good straw with half a bushel of roots daily, which I allow to each animal until toward the end of March, when I commence giving hay and still continue the roots if the stock holds out. In this way a farmer can keep a much larger amount of stock in better condition and at less expense. The straw, in place of being used to *starve* the stock or thrown out into the yard for manure, as is usually done, may be largely employed in bringing forward valuable animals for the dairy or the butcher. The manure heaps, which may well be called the *Farmers Bank*, largely increased in quantity and improved in quality, will respond freely to his drafts when the root crops in the spring demand supplies.

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