

BIG POTATOES.

A correspondent at Nashwaak Village writes as follows to the *Colonial Farmer*:

"I noticed in the *Telegraph* of the 11th inst. mention made of a large potato grown in Annapolis, N. S., that weighed 1 lb. 5 oz. This had led me to boast of larger potatoes in this locality. Mr. W. H. Bradley raised three potatoes of the early rose variety, which are now in the possession of the writer, that weighed respectively 3½ lbs., 3 lbs., 1½ lbs. The largest and smallest have been seen by a number of persons.

"The potato crop is very abundant and has never been better. C. L. Goodspeed, Esq., has raised about 1,500 bushels, and H. Sloat, Esq., a like quantity. Crops of every description with us are above the average, with the exception of wheat; the failure of this crop is attributed to the extreme heat at the time of filling. In some cases early sown buckwheat has met with a like fate."

Prince Edward Island.

CATTLE SHOW AND EXHIBITION.

The Cattle Show and Exhibition, which came off in Charlottetown on Thursday and Friday of last week, was, we understand, both in respect of quality and the number of animals on exhibition, superior to any previous effort in that line in the Colony. Of horses 122 were entered, horned cattle 72, and 67 sheep, while pigs were out in great force, and are represented as splendid specimens of that genus. The advantage of securing improved breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, &c., was very evident, but we trust to see this feature more generally attended to in the future.

The Exhibition in the Drill Shed is spoken of as being more than ordinarily good. The exhibit in woollen goods was very superior. Vegetables, fruits and grains were quite up to the mark. The carriages and sleighs are represented as more than ordinarily fine. Our neighbor Mr. Hunter, brought down a very superior piece of workmanship in the shape of a wagon—all made of Island hardwood; but we do not find his name among the successful competitors. It is evident, however, that if we are to have Provincial Exhibitions, we must have buildings erected for the occasion; as all who were present last week declared the crowded state of the Drill Shed to be insufferable, and that many of the goods could not be shown to advantage.—*Pioneer*.

We understand potatoes are an excellent crop this season, and they seem to be in good demand. Capt. Foley, of Alberton, is loading the *Minnie J. L.* for Saint Pierre, Nfld. Twenty-five cents are the figures so far.

Manitoba.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Winnipeg, Oct. 6th, 1876.

Last Wednesday and Thursday were gala days in the capital of the Prairie Province. On entering the room the first thing that catches the eye is St. Boniface in motto form suspended across the room. On entering the door is Class 18—Domestic Manufactures—consisting of blankets, socks, shawls and cloth; there was a very good show in this class, especially in socks and blankets. Next we came to Class 19—Needlework. Of this class I shall only say the display was equal in quality, if not in quantity, to the Provincial Fair of Ontario. Miss Spencer carried off the 1st prize for worsted work, a mantlepiece cover, and it is well worthy of it. In raised Berlin work Mrs. H. Y. Hoskins takes 1st with a piece of work which is by far the finest in the class; it represents an old-fashioned country family, and the expression on the faces is wonderfully well worked in. Next we come to Class 20—Leather Work. In this class we especially notice two very nice sets of harness, and a bridle and saddle, shown by Cain & Steinhoff, which carry off three prizes, also one or two very fine moose deer skins, and a very fine case of boots and shoes, shown by W. Wellhand. Class 21—Fine Arts. The show is as good as can be expected for a new country. Class 22 is Miscellaneous. Cabinet work comes under this head. There are only two exhibitors; Messrs. Bishop & Shelton having a black walnut parlour suit, and Messrs. Gorrie & Co. show a Turkish parlor suit, both entered as home manufacture (that means Manitoba). Flour also is in this class, and is of excellent quality, being white and dry. And last, but not least, we come to 35 lbs. of timothy hay, 3 feet long, and sown last spring, and I have seen finer timothy in my travels through Manitoba than I ever saw in Ontario. Class 13—Manufactures.

The only thing worthy of mention at all was the show of implements by Mr. Dick, who takes the diploma, as there was no competition. Class 14—Grain—was the worst part of the show. There has been hardly any threshing done yet in the country, and the consequence is there was very little grain shown, and what was did not come more than 10 or 12 miles. The prize wheat weighed 64 lbs. There were two very good samples of marrowfat peas, one sample of good oats. Class 15 A—Roots. This class is the head of the tree, being far ahead of what I expected. There was a Swede turnip weighing 36½ lbs., but it only came in second, as the rest in that entry were not so good; the 1st prize lot averaged 21 lbs. The 1st prize white turnip weighed 19½ lbs. Carrots were common from 1½ lbs. to 2½. Parsnips were common weighing 2½ lbs. There were plenty of onions weighing 1 lb. each. Mangolds were not at all good, the best ones weighing about 12 lbs. But the cabbages were tremendous, one showed weighed 36½ lbs. with its outside leaves. There was a very large show of potatoes, chiefly Early Rose, Peerless and Regents; 2 lbs. was a common weight. Kohl rabi are ahead of anything I ever saw. There were winter radishes weighing 6 and 7 lbs., and they had a very fine flavor. Citrons, which are very fine, being 10 inches in diameter. There was a large assortment of beets, which are very good. Class 15 B—Fruits, Preserves and Wines. There was only one sample of apples, shown by W. B. Hall, Headingly, who carried off the greater number of prizes in this class. Class 17—Butter, Cheese and Honey. There was a large display of excellent butter, no doubt stimulated by the handsome prizes offered (all together about \$150). The 1st prize, \$10, for a firkin, was given by Lieut. Gov. Morris. The show of cheese consisted of three or four very tasteless cheese, home made; at present there is not a factory in the country, but there is an excellent opening for one. There are two boxes of honey, shown by Mr. Robertson, Roseau River, who says that bees do very well with him. Class Live Stock.—Nothing very particular to note about them. Amongst the horses there were two very nice general purpose teams, and a very nice general purpose stallion. In the cattle class there was only one animal of note, a thoroughbred yearling bull, Isabella's Oxford 1st, by Fegil's Oxford 3rd, dam, Isabella 2nd, imported by Robinson & Willson, of Rockwood; he is fuller in the chest than any yearling I ever saw. There are only one or two entries for pigs and sheep. The Directors had offered very large prizes for some small things and only small prizes for stock, and therefore the stock is badly represented. Cattle is going to be one of the mainstays of this vast prairie country for some years to come; and if good breeding is not encouraged it will be an immense loss to the country. The Directors deserve great praise for their indefatigable exertions to make everything go off well, especially Mr. Stewart, the treasurer. W. H. D.

MORE ABOUT PEACE RIVER.

(From the *Manitoba Free Press*.)

A number of leading gentlemen of the city, who have a lively interest in the new North-west, were invited to inspect some samples of wheat and barley gathered from fields and gardens on the Peace River. To say that they were interested is too mild an expression; they were enthusiastic and wonder-struck by the simple evidences of such wondrous samples of grain from a county hitherto considered too far north for hunting purposes even. The wheat sown was gathered at Fort Chippewyan, on Lake Athabasca, in latitude 58½, and is undoubtedly the finest sample ever seen here; it will weigh about 68 pounds to the bushel. Some of the same, shown in the ear, displayed five grains to the cluster, and seventeen clusters to the ear. As two is the average of grains to the cluster in the Eastern States, and three grains in Northern Minnesota and Manitoba, the superiority of the Peace River country for grain is apparent—the average there being five, and Prof. Macoun has noticed six grains to the cluster. This goes to substantiate Blodgett's theory that all grains reach perfection at the northern limits of their growth. The barley shown was also magnificent; Mr. Gouin, a good authority, said it was the best he ever saw. Regarding its growth, Prof. Macoun saw where it had grown thirty ears to a single root, twenty of which were fully ripe. He had counted a hundred grains of wheat to the head, and found many numbering eighty. The wheat shown was sown on the 22nd of May, at Fort Chippewyan, and he found it in the sheaf on the 22nd of August. Planting is usual from the 1st to the 16th of May. He did not see any Indian

corn, but he met a man named Shaw, (mentioned also by Butler), who had raised ripe corn for three years consecutively. Professor Macoun remarked, most timely, that it should be remembered that this cultivation from which his observations were made was only casual, desultory, and carried on chiefly by half-breeds.

A most remarkable point was mentioned by the Professor, viz., that he found arborescent plants just as he left the Mountains; proceeding north-easterly he saw no more, but found kinds indicating warmer and drier climate until he turned at Athabasca Lake to come south-eastward to the Saskatchewan. This will not be wondered at, however, when it is known, as Professor Macoun heard there, that at Fort Laird, in lat. 60, the climate was considered better, and wheat was easily raised. Respecting other resources, he stated that petroleum, crystal salt, and gypsum were seen by him in large quantities.

This magnificent country, which Prof. Macoun estimates to contain one hundred millions of acres, where wheat reaches its highest perfection, apparently merits greater attention than has hitherto been given to any portion of our North-west.

British Columbia.

A gentleman in Ottawa has received a letter from Mr. Thomas Atkins, who left there in the spring with a party of some thirty persons to locate in British Columbia. He says it is a splendid country, and his neighbors have informed him that he can plough all winter if he wants to, as there is seldom any snow. The letter is dated the 30th of July, and was twelve days on the way. The crops were reported as looking well. Wheat grows about five feet in height, and the average yield is fifty bushels to the acre. Barley and oats return sixty bushels to the acre. The following, which relates his own experience, will be found interesting to many of our readers. He says:—"I took a farm from the Hudson Bay Company, composed of 200 acres, for which I pay a rental of \$100 a year. I began to plough on the 1st of May, and have now fifteen acres of oats, eight acres of barley, two acres of potatoes, and two acres of turnips; was two late to plant wheat this year. They all look well. I had a good crop of hay. My stock consists of 14 cows, 2 horses, and 14 pigs. From the cows we make 40 pounds of butter a week, which we sell at 50 cents a pound, and when the miners come down in the winter season it sells for 60 cents a pound. Our wild bush is full of pigs; and there are plenty of grouse and deer. Farms can be got on the Island of Vancouver, where we are, at \$1, an acre; but labour is high. Men get \$30 a month and board, right along. Free grant land, 160 acres, can be got on the main-land for nothing. Any man who is contented can do well out here. It is a splendid farming country, while the mountains are rich with minerals; the streams are teeming with fish, and the forests abounding with game. With the railway it would open the country to settlement, and many who now find their way to the Western States would prefer to settle upon Canadian soil and live under the British flag.

Feeding Fowls.

A correspondent of the *Poultry Nation* says:

My experience in feeding fowls is that medium-sized hens will consume about one and three-fifths gills of grain and vegetable matter each, daily, in winter, when in active laying condition; and also that it makes no difference as to the amount consumed, whether food is kept constantly before them or whether they are fed twice or thrice daily, provided they are allowed all they will eat up clean. For the past two years circumstances have compelled me to feed but twice a day—morning and afternoon—but I find that the fowls get very hungry before the afternoon meal, and will bolt their food like hogs, and, if allowed all they will eat up clean, are liable to overeat and become diseased in consequence. Then it sometimes happens that hens are on the nests to lay at the time of feeding, and cannot be coaxed off to eat, and they must either be fed on the nest or go hungry until the next meal, which, in cold weather, seems a little unmerciful. Heretofore I have believed in and advocated regular feeding—twice or three times each day—for all breeds, but my experience during the past two years inclines me to the opinion that, unless the smaller varieties can be fed three times a day, it is better to keep food constantly by them.