

the aggregate this constitutes a serious public loss. There are several ways in setting the loss thus incurred plainly before the people. One of these would be, by entering into a calculation, and showing in figures how much it actually wasted by this loose mode of saving, taking as a guide either the quality or weight of the manure when first made by the animals, and contrasting with it the quality and weight of the manure left in the spring to be applied to the land.

By this it would be seen at a glance, that the sun and heat have taken away a large portion of the best quality that the manure possessed,—that the rain had washed another large portion away—that some again had drained itself away either into the soil the heap laid on, or into some neighboring pool or ditch, and that what remained was intermixed with the snow of all the storms that beat on its unprotected head.

Now if this is so, of the solid portion of the excrement of the cattle, what would the result in figures be, if we in like manner were to set forth the loss incurred by the almost utter absence of any attempt to save the liquid voided by the cattle? Why, sir, if the figures representing this loss could be properly placed before the public, it would be fairly alarming to contemplate. I am not just now in a position to do this; but let any owner of these exposed muck heaps I have above alluded to, take this piece of information, as a well grounded fact, that even if they were to take all the care possible of the solid portion of their cattle's excrement by housing and otherwise protecting it from waste, they would then have only saved the smaller and least valuable heap of the manure made by their cattle. Yours, &c.,

BEDFORD.

#### WESTERN HALIFAX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting was held in the Christian Association Rooms on 18th March—His Honor the Chief Justice in the chair.

The Report of a committee appointed to prepare a draft of bye-laws was submitted, and approved of, with certain slight emendations.

The following office-bearers were elected—President, His Honor the Chief Justice; Vice-President, Charles Hamilton, Esq., Sackville; Secretary, Prof. Lawson; Treasurer, W. C. Silver, Esq.; Directors: Dr. Avery, Henry Wright, Esq., Joseph Kaye, Esq., S. Tupper, Esq., Charles Hester, Esq.

About 120 members have joined the Society. The annual subscription is two dollars, of which the Treasurer is now ready to receive payment from members.

#### MANAGEMENT OF MOWING MACHINES.

The farmer who possesses a good mowing machine, a pair of good horses, and understands how to drive and keep it in order, may almost set the elements at defiance. But there are many who purchase machines, who do not possess either the ability or the inclination to keep them in order, and to such, they are a hindrance rather than a help. A word to those who belong to this large class:—

First, then, it is your interest to understand the nature and wants of the mower, because without this familiarity, it will soon become worse than useless. We know of machines in good repair, and almost as effective as when new, which we sold seven years ago. On the other hand, we have seen the best machines, in careless hands, rendered nearly useless in a single season. The cause of these strikingly different results is readily explained. In the case of the first machines, their purchasers were men, who, before using, made themselves familiar with all their details. They ascertained where the friction was greatest and how to relieve it,—they comprehended the importance of sharp knives, and consequently understood fully the value of a good grindstone—a first-rate whet-stone, a suitable file, surplus blades to replace damaged ones, and abundance of rivets to replace worn out or broken ones. They knew the virtue of abundance of oil at the proper points—the removal of gummed grease from the journals, and rust from the parts which were brought in contact with the ground. Every nut was properly drawn every day, and suitable wrenches were always at hand for this important purpose. When the season was over, they did not permit the machine to lie in one of the fence corners of the field in which it was last used, until the succeeding summer; but carefully cleaned and housed it at once—applied a coat of paint to the wood work in leisure hours, removed the knives and oiled them, to prevent rusting, and scraped away the accumulation of gummed grease on the journals. These attentions were the cause and the long and effective use of the machine, the result. Take their opposites, and you have an explanation of the rapid destruction of the second machines.

In addition to the above, much depends upon the driver. There are those who do everything by main strength. They start, or attempt to start a mowing machine in heavy grass, as they would start in a horse race—with a blow and a sweat for the horses. The sudden jerk, and the increased resistance consequent upon the knives being brought thus suddenly in contact with a heavy body of grass, cause a strain upon the frame, which not infrequently deranges the whole machine, and unfit it for further use, until the damage is repaired. This sudden starting in heavy grass is especially to be condemned, where, as is now almost invariably the case, the frames are made of iron. The starting of a mowing machine should be gradual. Far better spend a minute in backing, so as to get the knives fairly into play, than follow the unwise plan alluded to. Nearly all of the machines in use may be backed as readily and easily as a cart, and if the horses could speak, they would tell their foolish driver, how much easier backing would be to them.

A word more and we have done. Buy only a well approved machine. Almost any

of those in general use may be purchased with safety. In fitting up your tool box, (which, by the way, should always accompany the machine,) buy none but the very best tools. A tip-top monkey wrench—a good Washita whet-stone—a steel polled riveting hammer, a file of the first quality, and above all, oil of the best kind and enough of it. In the end, the best things are always the cheapest, and those necessary to the management of the mowing machine, are not exceptions to this well established rule.—Culturist.

#### CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY.

Poultry raising is very interesting, and it is exceedingly convenient at all times to have chickens, which can be killed and put on the table so quickly on the arrival of unexpected visitors, or in case of sickness. What a delicacy for the invalid or those in a state of convalescence, while for a party how well the turkey of 20 pounds and the goose of 12 or 15 pounds sets off the hospitable board, besides the profit of having, at all seasons, varieties for sale.

Like all other kinds of live stock, early reared young ones pay best, for spring chickens make double the price of later ones, and the pullets saved for laying will commence when eggs are scarce, and as they do not molt the first fall, will, with good feeding, keep on, and where it can be contrived for the hens to roost over any warm place, as for instance where by tubes or natural ascent the breath of cattle will go to their apartment, they will not cease laying entirely in the coldest spells.

By managing to have the young broods where none of the old fowls resort, and not confining them to the same spot of ground after they have soiled it with their dung, very pleasing results will follow, for more than half the losses of the feathered tribe occur through keeping the coops so close together, and so long in one place—have no bottoms in them, and daily move on fresh ground; then the broods will be sweet and clean, always healthy, and will grow as fast again.

When the hen deserts her young it is best to have them roost apart from the general stock of old fowls, to escape the perpetual pecking and worry which occurs when chickens first go among the hens; any place that is safe from vermin will do by placing a few sticks for them to roost on, as their welfare is the same in a common shed as in the finely built poultry-house of the wealthy, and very much greater than in many gentleman's places where the range is limited. Where great numbers of cattle are wintered, the buildings are extensive and the premises have litter, horse dung, &c., here and there in different parts—it is at such homesteads poultry may be kept ten times as numerous as where they are restricted to particular quarters, for it is their own droppings which to them poison the ground and the atmosphere, but the more of other animal manure they have access to, and the less of their own lying about where they feed and resort, the better.

Don't coddle the young turkeys too much; don't have any kind of fowls always round the kitchen door; a few steps farther to feed will be well taken, and don't begrudge food and give too much sop to young or old. The digestion of poultry is stronger than a mill-stone.—J. B. in Cultivator.