

\$6,000 to the second, \$5,000 to the third, and \$4,000 to the fourth. Horses from Europe will be allowed \$1,500 for travelling expenses, and from east of the Rocky Mountains \$1,000.

Mr. O. A. Hickok has challenged Occident to trot against Judge Fullerton, over Dexter Park in Chicago, or over either Fleetwood or Prospect Park in New York, two races for \$5,000 or \$10,000 a side, the races to be mile heats, three in five, to waggon, and to be trotted between the 1st and 15th of June. Half forfeit on each race.

A Camden, (N. J.) house, has built a sulkey weighing 48 pounds, ordered by Budd Doble, for the California wonder, Occident; a sulkey weighing 54 pounds for A. C. Hickok, for the trotting horse Sam Purdy; a sulkey weighing 48 pounds, for Goldsmith Maid; and a sulkey weighing 50 pounds, for the bay mare Nettie.

Messrs. John and Howard Smith, Fort Lawrence, bought at auction from Mr. Chris. Delesdernier, last week, a fine pair of yearling steers for which they paid \$101.—*Amherst Gazette.*

WE had the pleasure, the other day, of examining a choice selection of Hardy Ferns in the Greenhouse of Ex-Alderman Barron. They came out to him in the *Caspian*, and, they are, with very few exceptions, the first plants of their several kinds that have been imported into the Province. We must defer any critical remarks upon them until their fronds, only now beginning to start, have acquired their full growth. But some of our readers are botanists and may, naturally, like to hear what the novelties are like. We may therefore notice, in anticipation, some of the more interesting ones. There are "Fashions" in Ferns as in everything else in England. Mr. Barron has succeeded in obtaining the most fashionable sorts. Of the Lady Fern he has got that magnificent variety called by botanists *Victorie*, which in grace and beauty is not excelled in the vegetable kingdom. Then he has the fern for a cottage on a Cambrian wild, *Polypodium Cambricum*, which is one of the most elegant plants that can be hung up in a greenhouse in an oyster shell. Likewise there is the remarkable Walking Fern. It does not profess to walk as fast as Weston or O'Leary, but sends out shoots like the strawberry, and thus monopolises the ground wherever it grows. It is American in origin and may seem to be actuated by a faith in the manifest destiny. *Asplenium marinum* is a bright and dark coloured fern that lines the caves on the east coast of Scotland with a brilliant verdure. Mr. Barron's plant is the strongest of the kind we have ever seen. *Asplenium*

*fontanum* is an English fern by tradition only. Its home is on the Swiss Alps, and it is just possible that tourists may have rooted it out there. It is a very small species, and the neatest of all the ferns. Of the Hart's Tongue fern (*Scolopendrium vulgare*) Mr. Barron has obtained several varieties. There is first the fastigiated or stag-horn form, then several others, but the greatest beauty of all is the plaited or gophered sort, whose particular name we do not exactly know, with ribbon-like fronds gophered on the margin as regularly and neatly as a new-style lady's collar. But the great feature of the collection is the number of tassellated and other ornamental varieties of *Lastrea filix-mas*, *Lastrea angulare*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, &c., which have originated in England during the recent fashionable Fern Mania, and which our excellent friend Mr. Barron has introduced to Nova Scotia. We must visit these ferns again after they have expanded their fronds, and tell our readers more particularly what they are like.

THE best reply we can make to the following is to print it. We have had numerous applications for Bulls this spring, but cannot find many really desirable animals for sale:

"We wish to purchase a Bull for the coming season. We decided to have a 2 year old or 3 year Ayrshire—good size—dark red colour, or as near as possible. We want a good one, for two reasons—1st. Our stock is reduced to almost *minus* nothing; 2nd. Good animals will tend to strengthen our society. Could you inform us where we could get one of that stamp, or where we can get the information. If you could it would save us expense and trouble, as we have no idea of the whereabouts of any. We are willing to pay a good price for a good animal, rather than a low price for a poor one. I remain, &c., JOHN M. BAILLIE, Rossville W. O., Earlton."

WITHIN the last ten years very great improvement has taken place in some branches of Rural Economy in this Province. Increased attention has been given to the rearing of live stock,—so much so, indeed, that in various Counties we now meet with whole "Herds" of thoroughbred Short Horn, Devon, and Ayrshire Cattle, whose births and pedigrees are individually recorded as carefully as if the bovine Dukes and Duchesses were prospective heirs to broad acres, and inheritors of veritable titles of nobility. In like manner, an immense impetus has been given to the Dairy department by the establishment of Cheese Factories, both in the Western and Eastern Counties, and in Cape Breton. Extensive orchards have

been established in localities where they were unknown before. In and about Halifax and other towns, Conservatories and Vineries have been reared, Garden Culture has been greatly advanced, and many Nurseries, for the supply of trees and plants, have been established. It is certain that in some districts the cultivation of Root Crops has been extended. The means of harvesting the Hay Crop have been improved by the general introduction of Horse Mowers, Horse Rakes, Tedders, and other labour-saving machines. And, whilst we survey these substantial evidences of advancement, whilst we complacently say to ourselves, In these ten years we have greatly enhanced the value of our Cattle, we have transferred, perhaps, one-third of the hardest labour of the farm from our own shoulders to the proper beast of burden, we have established a Dairy system that relieves our households of drudgery, and brings a handsome annual return, we have formed orchards that now fill our cellars with the most beautiful fruit,—in the midst of these contemplations the feeling naturally arises that, if these are the advantages secured within the last decade, how much more shall we be able to accomplish in the ten years to come, should peace and prosperity be vouchsafed to our Province.

The improvement of live Stock, the use of Machinery, Fruit Culture, Cheese manufacture, these have already taken such a hold that their continued success and progressive development may be looked upon as almost secure. But, with all this accomplished, there is still a terrible defect in our Agriculture, a defect that exists all over the Continent of North America, and which it is, hence, very difficult for our native farmers to thoroughly understand. If our farmers will only seriously set before them the removal of that defect as the work of the next ten years, we can promise that the improvement will be more conspicuous than all others together that have ever been made in Nova Scotia, that it will tend more to elevate the farmer, to increase his comfort and wealth, to cheapen the food of the people, to encourage the rise of other industries, and to promote the development of our country's resources in general, than anything else whatever that can be devised or reasonably hoped for.

The defect we refer to is the want of any proper system of ROTATION OF CROPS. We know that, on individual farms, a methodical system is followed, the result often of much observation and thought and experiment. and in such cases he would be a bold man, and inconsiderate withal, who would undertake to suggest improvement. But, taking farms generally over the Province, it is obvious that no definite system of rotation is pursued, except what may, out of courtesy, be