

AGRICULTURAL.

[FOR THE BEE.]

Mr. Dawson,

Sir,—According to your request in your paper of Nov. 11th, I send you the following account of the process by which I have been enabled to raise such an excellent crop of potatoes this year.

In the spring of 1833 I took a new method of preparing my seed, merely for an experiment. I selected the largest and most healthy looking, and cut off the seed end—say about one-third of the potatoe, which I then cut into small pieces containing only one eye if possible, not regarding the small size of the seed, if the eye were uninjured. I planted about three bushels of seed prepared in this manner, and the produce was 110 bushels; and I think the finest ever raised. I have since then, prepared my seed in this manner, and my crop has increased every year. There are three advantages in this method, viz. You have the best seed to plant; the remainder is the best part to eat; and there are comparatively no small ones in the crop, as there are in those raised from the other eyes, even if they do grow, of which you are not always sure. It is well known by every farmer who has potatoes remaining in his cellar after planting, that the sprouts from the seed end will be two weeks earlier than those from the other eyes, and that many of them do not sprout at all. With respect to the size of my potatoes this year, I do not think that there were 20 bushels of the whole which would not average three ounces, which is a very good size for eating. The weight of one this year, which I tried, was 1 lb. 13 oz. I plant my seed in drills, about 4 inches apart if whites, but if blues about 5 or 6 inches.

The 14 bushels of seed which I planted this year were cut from upwards of 30, but the remainder was the best to eat. Land for potatoes should be drilled a day or two before planting, at least, left until it be perfectly dry. Seed planted on manure should be covered immediately. I would prefer waiting eight days for my ground to dry than to plant it wet, even if the season is pretty well advanced. There are many other things in the cultivation of the potatoe which would be of general benefit if attended to, but I have already trespassed too long on your patience:

And remain

Your obt. serv't,

GEORGE McDONALD.

West River, Nov. 30, 1835.

COLONIAL.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

The following is the substance of a Speech delivered by Mr. Joseph Howe, Editor of the Novascotian, at a meeting of Freeholders, convened at Halifax on the 23d ult., for the purpose of nominating a fit and proper person to represent the Town of Halifax in General Assembly, in the room of the Master of the Rolls, resigned.

Mr. HUGH BELL, and Mr. J. HOWE, having been severally proposed, the latter said—

"That being well aware that many had looked to him as a person likely to come forward or be put forward, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Master of the Rolls, and his name being then before the Meeting, he felt himself called upon briefly to explain to the electors his sentiments upon the subject which now engaged their attention, and his feelings and wishes, so far as they might be permitted to have weight with the Meeting. No man, said he, who looks to the

state of this town and country, and to the structure of the two Branches of the Legislature, can be indifferent to the business in which you are engaged—I wish not to charge the misfortunes we have experienced upon any individuals or upon any body of men in the Legislature or out of it, but I will merely call your attention to the condition of the two Houses, that you may judge how far we can look to them with confidence—and how far the old system of election, by which abuses have been accumulated and upheld, deserves to be preserved. The Assembly we find governed and controlled by twelve Lawyers—who, possessing nearly all the speaking talent, and carrying in with them from their several towns and counties some one or two persons who follow their lead, have in all cases the chief influence—and in very many a clear majority of the Assembly. I need not turn back to the acts and sentiments of the last seven years, to show how that influence has in most cases been made subservient to the views of the Government—how steadfastly it has stood in opposition to the interests of the People. I have no wish to raise up a vulgar prejudice against that Profession—perhaps it may be that I am a truer friend to it than some of those who have brought it into disrepute, many of its members I esteem—some of them are my intimate personal friends—they know well the grounds of my opposition—I have put it to them in private, as I put it to you now, to say, if it is fair and right that any one profession should enjoy in this Province a fourth of the votes, and the whole of the influence in both branches of the Legislature? Is it fair that there should be 12 out of 40 in the Assembly—3 out of 12 in the Council—that a profession embracing some 80 or 90 persons, should enjoy more political power and influence than the other 170,000 persons, who compose our population, put together? But, sir, when we look to the Council, what else do we find there? A Bishop—the head of one religious body in this Province, insulting by his presence at that board the 40,000 Presbyterians—the 25,000 Catholics—the 20,000 Baptists—the numerous body of Methodists—and all the other sects and denominations who are not there represented? Why, in such a country as this, where the utmost toleration and fairness in religion should prevail, is one church to have its representative in the Council, while all others are carefully excluded? Looking further into that Branch of the Legislature, we find the Chief Justice—who, presiding as he does, over the jurisprudence of the country, should be kept apart from the heats and contentions of politics—but who, while he sits there, must be insensibly affected by their currents, and be suspected of bringing his influence to bear upon the opinions of professional men, in the House and throughout the country. Another portion of the Upper Branch, is composed of public officers, who, enjoying good salaries and much patronage, have an interest very often opposed to the interests of the people. At the foot of the board, though not a member, sits the Secretary of the Province, with his extravagant salary—while five of the remaining members are partners in one mercantile concern. When I hear persons opposing the application of the elective principle to that branch, I cannot but ask them, if they suppose for a moment that if the people had the power to create it, they would select such a singular collection of Bishops, Judges, Public Officers, and Bankers.

But, Gentlemen, let us come now to the bearing which these things have had on our elections—how have they affected the elections for the town and county of Halifax? It is well known to you all that so soon as a person gets immoderately rich in Halifax, he aspires to a seat in the council—past experience teach-

es him that sympathy with the mass—patriotism and intellect, are not the passports to that Board—that it is of little consequence what he carries in his head provided he has a sufficiency in his pocket. So soon therefore as a man fancies that he has nearly enough, he begins to think what he shall do to render himself acceptable to those who are already in, and to the high officers of the Government. He knows, as we all know, that these persons have a direct interest in securing a majority of the Assembly—that they may not be disturbed in the quiet possession of power—that the pruning knife shall not be carried home to the corruptions of the departments over which they preside.—And what does he do? brings the whole influence which his wealth gives him to keep out all troublesome fellows that might give uneasiness to the men in power, and to put in those who will generally be their obsequious friends and defenders. Such candidates he knows will be sure of the votes of all Government officers and their connections—and by using the influence which wealth or an extensive business gives him with the Fishermen around the shores—and, corrupting the poorer and least intelligent class of voters with bad rum and porter, he succeeds in effecting the object, and is usually rewarded for his pains. I regret extremely that the notice of this meeting has been so short, that the numerous and respectable voters, who reside at Margaret's Bay—along the roads—and at the Fishing Settlements around the shores—could not possibly get here to join in your deliberations. I know they would sympathise with you—and I wish they were all within the sound of my voice, that they might hear and understand how, in times past they have beenajoled. I would tell them, as I now tell you, that we can never prosper till the system of election be changed, that Lawyers will continue to rule the Assembly and public officers and Bankers to reign in the Council, till the people take their own affairs more into their own hands—until the middle class, which in all Countries should possess the power, as they usually do the industry and intelligence—that class which in our elections have been scarcely consulted at all, but which I now see gathered around me, make their voice heard and assert their claims to influence the composition of the Legislature and the measures of the Government. Hitherto the elections for this town have often been decided by two or three officers and two or three wealthy merchants over their wine—I trust in future they will be determined on principle, and by the voice of the great body of the Electors, freely expressed."

From the Halifax Royal Gazette.

Provincial Secretary's Office,

Halifax, 2d December, 1835.

(Extract from the Minutes of Council.)

At a Council held at the Government House on the 9th day of April, 1834.

PRESENT:

His Honor THOMAS N. JEFFERY, President, &c. &c. &c.

"On reading the petition of a number of freeholders, settled on the western side of the Gut of Canso, in the Lower District of the County of Sydney, praying that a certain portion of the said District, being the North-Eastern part of the Township of Manchester, may be set off as a separate and distinct Township, agreeably to a plan annexed to their Petition, and it appearing by the Certificate of John Young, Esq., one of the Representatives of that County, that the proposed measure had received the approbation of the Magistrates of the said District:

It is Ordered, that a Township be established accordingly, under the name of the Township of Melford, and that it be bounded,