

Agricultural Report of 1865.

The report of the Minister of Agriculture for the calendar year ending 31st December last, has been laid before Parliament. It contains the report of that Minister himself, the report also of Mr. Chapais, in charge of the return of the Colonization Roads for Lower Canada; and a memorial from Mr. Tache, Deputy Minister of Agriculture on Statistics. The voluminous appendix is composed of the annual reports of the two Boards of Agriculture of Upper and Lower Canada, of the two Boards of Arts and Manufactures, of the Superintendent of Colonization Roads in Lower Canada, and of the different colonization agents of the Province; to which is added, as a new feature the blue book for the year 1864. In Mr. McGee's report, mention is made of an enquiry prosecuted at New York, to learn the system of management practiced at the Castle Garden emigration office, on which a large report is presented. In the appendix it is stated that very material changes are about to be made in the Patent and Agricultural Laws, but that it would be manifestly improper to make any changes without applying them to the whole country after Confederation is consummated. The report speaks of the importance of vine cultivation, and refers to the experiments already made by Mr. DeCourtenay at Cooksville, near Toronto, as demonstrating that good ordinary wine can be made from the native grapes of the country, under proper cultivation. He recommends aid to that undertaking. The Dublin Exhibition and the part taken by Canada there, is spoken of as a success, although of course very much inferior to the display at Paris, being in keeping with what is more of a local exhibition. Canada ranked eighth among all the nations represented in Dublin. A fair position certainly. The memorial of Mr. Tache to the Board of Registration and Statistics lays down a plan of statistics which has been adopted by the said Board and acted upon since its adoption on the 18th January, 1865. The report of the Minister of Agriculture speaks of the reformatory labours carried on during the year which are to serve in the making up of the books of Canadian statistics intended for future publication. The Blue Book accompanying the report, gives the name, office, salary, and age of every person in the public service—being, in fact, the administration statistics of the country, as far as the general government is concerned. It is the first time that this will be printed and publicly circulated. Formerly it was destined for the Imperial Government, to whom a copy was sent every year. No reference is made to the measures regarding rinderpest, as these did not come within the year taken up in the report.

Cattle Disease in Maine.

ALL information of a reliable character relative to the fearful cattle plague must be of interest to farmers everywhere. We are happy to observe that from the latest accounts from Europe, the malady still continued to decline, in some places rapidly, both in England and Scotland. In Ireland it is not absolutely certain that the genuine Rinderpest had actually occurred at all, and that the very few cases generally believed to be such, had been effectually disposed off, and nothing new of an alarming character, according to the *Irish Farmer's Gazette* of June 9th has since transpired.

We are favoured by Mr. Goodale, the able Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, with a copy of his report on certain cases of disease, supposed to be Rinderpest, that recently occurred in the county of York, in that state. It is satisfactory to observe that while every practicable precaution should continue to be used in the matter, there is no authentic information that has reached us from any part of the United States or British America, that would excite alarm.

Importation of genuine Peruvian Guano.

We hail with pleasure the announcement, which will be found in our advertising columns, that we are likely to have, ere long, a direct cargo of Peruvian Government Guano. This will come from the Chincha Islands, probably to Toronto direct, and if required, the vessel would no doubt deliver portions of her cargo at different ports on the Lake. In order to secure the disposal of the Guano at the lowest possible price, it is necessary that it should be delivered at once from the vessel to the purchaser. In this way storage will be saved, and the other expenses always incidental to handling. As the consignees are desirous that the Guano should have a thorough and intelligent test, they have arranged with the British Agent for the Peruvian Government to sell it at a price very little over that of England, and should the result of the use of this small cargo be sufficiently encouraging to warrant the importation in larger vessels, the price would probably bear some reduction.

We regard this first direct importation of Guano as an era in the agricultural history of Canada, providing, as it does, a highly concentrated manure at a price which will repay itself many fold to the user, and which can be imported in any quantity. The Guano is put up in bags containing from 175 to 200 lbs. The proportion of Guano to be used per acre naturally depends upon the requirements and condition of the soil. From 2 to 5 cwt. (which amounts would respectively cost \$5.50 and \$14.50) per acre may be used, and if the latter proportion, the benefit to the soil will be reaped for some years after its first application. The admixture of bone dust with Guano, while economising the latter, creates as miraculous an effect upon the root crops as the un-mixed Guano, and as a top-dressing for grass, it is invaluable.

To show the enormous extent to which Guano is used, we need only state that the quantity imported into Great Britain during the past year was over 153,000 tons, representing a value of upwards of Ten Millions of Dollars.

It might be objected that although quite suitable to the damp climate of England, it might fail in the dry climate of Canada. It is, however, enough to suggest that it would be quite as foolish to apply Guano in a time of extreme dryness, when seed and plant are thirsting, not for stimulants, but for moisture, as it would be to commence hay-making on a rainy day; and that in our Canadian Spring and Summer, we have times as suitable for the application of Guano as there are in England or elsewhere.

Believing this subject to be of great importance, we trust that this celebrated manure may receive a fair trial in Canada. To this end, we would recommend a trial of the Guano to our different agricultural societies. It would be an easy matter for a few of them to buy up this whole cargo, and distribute it in small or large quantities at a paying price around their several neighbourhoods. If each of them would order 10 or 15 tons, a great proportion of the cargo would be taken up, and the order for its immediate despatch be sent at once, so that it might arrive, at latest, in May next.

The Consignees would no doubt be glad to take orders from individuals as well as from societies, their anxiety being that the Guano may find its way into the best hands, and that the results of a fair trial of the cargo now in contemplation may establish it as the forerunner of much larger importations.

From the source from which this consignment comes, there can be no shadow of doubt as to the genuineness of the article. It comes directly through the agents of the Peruvian Government—one of the leading firms in England—to properly accredited consignees, and will be delivered directly over the ship's side.

HE WILL TELL OF IT.—The editor of the *Farmers' Pearl* (Mo.) in lecturing his patrons for certain shortcomings in their farming practices, gives them the following warning:—"We intend soon to make a trip among the farmers of Missouri, and when we see the house, barn, barnyard, and pig sty all in one yard we shall tell of it. Where we find the gate swinging open for the want of a latch, or leaning against the fence for want of hinges, or the barn door full of rails for want of

a door, or the fence torn down whenever there is a team to be driven out of a lot or field, we shall tell of it. Where we find pigs rooting up the garden, the sheep and rabbits barking the orchard, or the cattle or horses turned in to browse upon it, we shall speak of it. Where we see your farming tools have lain out all winter to rot and rust, and your waggon not run under the shed, we shall speak of it, for such things are not right."

Book Notices.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, for the year 1865.

This volume, which Mr. Sanford Howard, Secretary of the Board, has kindly sent us, contains much valuable information on a large number of subjects relating to agriculture, together with a record of meteorological observations taken at the State Agricultural College of Michigan. It opens with a short account of the season and yield of crops of 1865, from which we learn that the year was chiefly remarkable for a long continued season of drought, which lasted from early in May till late in September, and greatly injured most of the field crops. The yield of wheat, throughout the whole country, was upwards of 12 million bushels less than in the previous year, and at the same time of an inferior quality; barley and hay suffered also to a considerable extent, but potatoes and corn did remarkably well, the latter yielding upwards of 173 million bushels more than in 1865! An account is next given of the advantages of Michigan for the production of fruits, in consequence of its insular position, the quality of its soil, and the protection from winds afforded by its tracts of forest. Some new crops, such as Sorghum, Tobacco, Rhubarb (which some would dignify with the name of "wine-plant") are noticed, and then the writer proceeds to the consideration of such noxious insects as had lately made their appearance in the State, in addition to those commonly observed. The Canker-worm of the apple-tree is described at length, and various remedies and preventives are mentioned, among the most remarkable of which is "Merritt's Patent Tree-Protector" made and sold by a company formed for the purpose in Boston. This invention may be considered, we suppose, the last new "Yankee dodge" for circumventing insects; whether it is really effective or not, we cannot say. It consists of a ring of glass, grooved on the under side, and hung round the trunk of the tree by a tent of cloth. It is claimed for this invention that the hollowed glass presents a perfect bar to the ascent of the wingless females of the moths, and that the tree is thus protected from being injured by fresh broods of their destructive caterpillars.

A large portion of the remainder of the Report is devoted to the subject of Galloway Cattle, Cotswold, South-Down, and Merino Sheep, Horses, the Rinderpest, &c., upon which much valuable information is given. The article on breeding Horses, by the well-known veterinary, W. C. Spooner, taken from the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, England*, and interspersed with notes by Mr. Howard, is particularly worthy of perusal. We would also draw attention to Mr. X. A. Willards' address to the Cheese Manufacturers' Association of the State of New York, on the subject of "American Cheese-Dairying—the means for its improvement and success," to which is appended some exceedingly useful remarks, by Mr. Lowell, on the difference between American and English cheese, and what is necessary to make the former equal to the latter. Both these papers we would recommend to the careful attention of cheese manufacturers in Canada as the same faults there ascribed to American cheeses, are too often characteristics of those made in this country also. A paper or "Some causes of Unproductiveness in Soils" by Dr. A. Voelcker, reprinted from the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, a Report on the State Agricultural College of Michigan, and the Meteorological reports for the past year, complete the volume. We should add that it is illustrated by several wood-cuts of cattle and sheep; among the latter is a figure of a fine Cotswold ram, bred by Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph, C. W., and afterwards owned by Mr. White, of South Framlingham, Mass.