

Agriculture.

New Brunswick Farmers in Council.

The New Brunswick Farmers' League met on Feb'y 5th in the Agricultural Hall, Hampstead. In the absence of the President (Mr. Sharp), Harmon Humphrey, Esq., of Sackville, took the chair. The list of accredited delegates present was read by the Secretary, S. L. Peters, Esq., as follows:

Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society—D. S. Sinnott, O. R. Arnold.
Queens Central—John Slipp, B. F. Merritt.
Queens Co. Farmers' League—S. L. Peters, L. P. Farris, Thos. O'Donnell, J. McD. Belyea, Geo. L. Colwell.
Westmoreland Co. League—Wm. George, Howard Trueman, Harmon Humphrey.
Sunbury Co. League—W. Dell Perley, C. B. Harrison, G. A. Sterling, R. W. Foster, H. B. Mitchell.
Cambridge Agricultural Society—Israel Slipp, Chas. E. Colwell.
St. John Agricultural Society—Thos. Davidson, F. W. Hatheway.
Kings Co. Farmers' League—J. E. Fairweather, J. D. M. Keator, Chas. J. Smith, J. B. S. Raymond, George Barnes, A. Kennedy.
York Co. Grange—Chas. McGibbon, Leverett Estabrooke.

There was a good attendance. Many of the farmers in the neighborhood were present.

From the report of the Secretary we take the following interesting extracts:

OBJECT OF THE MEETING.

Among the agriculturists of our Province there exist hearts as true and loyal to all principles of right as are found among others of our citizens whose associations in life give greater opportunities for the cultivation of social amenities. Meeting as we do for the discussion and deliberation of questions affecting the most important interest of the Province, and that without aid from the Provincial exchequer, I think we may fairly claim to be in earnest in our efforts and particularly desirous that our Province shall not be a laggard in the progressive agriculture of the age.

NEW BRUNSWICK BECOMING A WHEAT-PRODUCING PROVINCE.

From advices received from different sections of the Province, we learn the very gratifying fact that many of the counties have quite sufficient wheat for home consumption, while in all the counties more or less has been grown. Probably at no period within the last twenty years have our farmers been in less fear of an advance in the price of flour. The success of the past year will probably cause a still greater quantity to be grown in the present year. Other grains have given an average yield, and have been cultivated to about the usual extent.

THE POTATO CROP AND MARKET.

Our farmers have been able to dispose of their surplus stock at fair prices for shipment to the United States, to dealers who have bought for that market. And just here permit me to remark that it would seem to be a fair subject for inquiry why our people who desire to take advantage of the American market are required to pay a duty at least three times the amount that Americans are required to pay to enter our markets. Potatoes going into the American market from the provinces are subject to a duty of 15 cents per bushel, or about 33 per cent. of their value, while Americans can enter our markets paying only a duty of 10 per cent. We do not know the exact quantity, but we certainly will not be charged with over-stating the facts when we say that fully 50,000 barrels of potatoes have been shipped from this Province to the U. S. during the year, and the shipments in small quantities are still going on. Now, had we been allowed to enter the markets of the United States with our agricultural produce on the same conditions that they enter our markets, our farmers would be rejoicing in the possession of some \$37,000 for potatoes alone, in addition to the sum usually received by them. Quite an item when times are hard.

FRUIT.

In fruit culture, it is very gratifying to know that our farmers are becoming fully alive to its importance, and orchards are being planted very generally throughout the Province, many of which are fast coming into bearing. There appears to be

no good reason why New Brunswick may not produce fruit of excellent quality, and at least sufficient to supply the demand for home consumption.

STOCK.

There appears to be a growing desire on the part of many of our farmers to secure imported stock of horned cattle, and consequently animals of pure breed are sought after. Great advantages are to be derived by becoming members of a good agricultural society, in order to secure the services of pure-bred animals. We take it for granted, of course, that an agricultural society that is alive to its own interests will support or purchase nothing but animals of pure breed.

OUR BEEF AND PORK.

Pork has probably not been so low in price for the last 25 years as it is to-day. Our markets are to a considerable extent supplied from the West, and many farmers are holding their stock in hope of a more buoyant market. The same may be said of beef, of which we are now receiving large supplies from the Upper Provinces. To determine how and under what conditions the farmers can take advantage of the English market for their beef, pork and poultry, is, I am pleased to say, one of the subjects proposed to be discussed during the present session.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

For the last four years our own manufacturers and mechanics have shown a firm determination not to allow our own markets to be altogether supplied from abroad; and the spirit of enterprise and perseverance which they have shown in striving to meet the wants of the country, is very praiseworthy and should be heartily encouraged. We trust that the farmers of this Province will not lose sight of the fact that when it is possible for them to secure the article they desire of Provincial manufacture, it is greatly in their own and the country's interest for them to do so. To encourage home manufacture must certainly mean a market for home products. The greater the encouragement given the more are our manufacturers warranted in producing manufactures giving employment to a certain part of our population. In like proportion is there a demand created for agricultural produce. Thus are the two interests sustained—the farmer buying from the manufacturer, and he buying again from the farmer, each purchasing in a home market such articles as they may need, so far as they can be obtained or supplied upon fair terms.

Results of Agriculture.

Without agriculture there is no wealth. Gold and silver are not wealth—they are its equivalent representatives; commerce produces no wealth—it simply exchanges it, manufacturers and acts combine it. Agriculture is the prolific source of wealth—the rest simply handle it when produced and delivered into their hands.

The earth breeds savages, agriculture breeds enlightened nations; it breeds houses and ships, temples and seminaries; it breeds the factory; sculpture and printing are its offspring. The wheels of the workshop, the sails of commerce, the pen of genius, the pencil and chisel of the artist, the eloquent tongue of the orator, the scheming brain of statesmen, the equipages of wealth, the banquetings of pleasure—all that renders earth in its tides of life anything but a great sculpture, move and have their power of being, because the fields yield their fruits to the patient toil of the husbandry.

We might manage to live without merchants, mariners, orators, poets; perhaps we might possibly survive the loss of demagogues, but sure am I we could not live without plowmen.

The state of husbandry in any country is the test of its enlightenment. The thermometer of civilization rises and falls as drives the plow.—[Western Farmer.]

NEW CLOVER PEST.—Professor Lintner, of New York, says "that last year one undesirable insect was prevalent over the States. This is the clover seed worm, probably a dipterous insect belonging to the same family as the wheat midge and the Hessian fly. The perfect insect has never been recognized. The larvæ feed on the growing seeds in the clover heads, so that whenever they prevail in large numbers no seed attains maturity, and the crop is not worth harvesting." Mr. R. J. Swan states that in Seneca county many fields of clover saved for seed were not cut at all on account of this insect.

Snow Drifts—Our Winter Travel.

No macadamized highway that ever was constructed is superior to our Canadian roads in winter when the snow has once been well compacted by travel. The heavily laden sleighs, as well as the light cutter, skim over the road, scarcely requiring any exertion from the horses. There are, however, drawbacks sometimes met with in the snow drifts that block up the roads in places, and bar all further progress. It is no trifling undertaking to cut through a heavy drift that blocks up the road for a long distance. This winter a person driving five miles was compelled to turn five times into the neighboring fields, finding it impossible to make his way otherwise. The snow had taken entire possession of the road by great drifts filling the road from fence to fence, in one place for a full half mile at one stretch. In not a few places the necessary travel was interrupted for some days, till the farmers turned out in a body to open a way for the teams. It is a question well worthy of our consideration, "What can we do to prevent this interruption to travel and commerce." The great cause of this accumulation of snow on our roads is the close fences on either side. The snow is blown into the road and the fence prevents it going further.

The substitution of wire fences for board fences are recommended by many on this account. The wire offers no impassable barrier to the drifting snow, and the road is not blockaded with drifts. For this reason and others wire fences are now generally used in the United States.

But there is one objection to wire fences along the roads. Some protecting shade is necessary to prevent the sweeping of the snow off the higher and mere exposed parts of the road, and this necessary protection is not given by the wire fence. Were its use generally adopted here the parts of the roads that are exposed to the gales would be quite unfit in some places for sleighing. An effectual remedy for this would be the planting of evergreen trees along each side of the road. This would afford a wind-break such as would prevent the sweeping winds making the road bare in places, as it would if there were no obstacle but the wire fence, and it would not have the same effect as a board fence of collecting heavy drifts.

The row of evergreens would also be beneficial for other purposes. They would add very much to the appearance, and consequently to the value of the property. They would be very useful to shade cattle in the heat of our noontide dogdays, and would serve to moderate the temperature of our climate in winter. There is a perceptible diminution of cold in the vicinity of evergreens in the severest winter. This is a noteworthy fact, to which all who have our yearly experience bear witness. The expense of planting rows of evergreens is very little. It is not necessary to purchase from a nurseryman. A farmer and his team, and one additional help, can dig in the young trees, spruce, hemlock, cedar, or pine, and plant where required in a very short time all that are needed. Of all the improvements that can be made on a farm at very little cost, this will be found to be one of the most profitable.

EXPERIMENTS IN WHEAT CULTIVATION.—Experiments have been made in Michigan in cultivating wheat, and the results are not only satisfactory but astonishing. A committee was appointed to oversee the experiments and make the report. Sixty-eight pounds of seed per acre were sown in drills 16 inches apart, and 90 pounds were drilled in the usual way. That in the 16-inch drills was cultivated with a horse wheat-hoe once in the fall and twice in the spring; the other of course was not cultivated after sowing. The report says that the 16-inch did not lodge or crinkle, while the 8-inch lot did so badly. The average yield was 69½ per cent. greater in the 16-inch drills than in the 8-inch. It is further remarked: It is as reasonable to believe that grain crops should be benefited by cultivation as that potatoes, corn, cabbages and other crops should be. Hoeing wheat in Europe is not an uncommon practice, and farmers in this country have begun it with success.—[St. Louis Republican.]

SUGAR FROM PEARL MILLET.—A few seeds of pearl millet, which had been sown late in the season to test its value as a forage plant, produced a large growth of blades and stalks. The presence of saccharine matter in considerable quantity was so apparent that the stalks were stripped and put through the mill, and the juice gave a fair quantity of readily crystallizable sugar of good quality.