

a boar and sow, whose stock, in after years, fell to the level of the ordinary breed of the country. Very likely, if means were not taken to infuse new blood.

Further it is alleged, in portations of animals are made by individual farmers, so that Societies are not required for this purpose. If so, why should they be required for sheds and compost heaps?

However, Mr. Dickson's letter contains much sensible matter. He points out how the country adapts itself to its most urgent wants, and how Agricultural Societies may prove most effective. In the encouragement of orchards, and grain and root-growing, we believe the Parrsborough Society has done good service to the district. The Board of Agriculture has but one wish in regard to it, and that is that its efforts may be wisely directed to objects that are really worthy of the attention of such a long-established and respectable organization. The Society may be conservative in its ways; if so, let it adopt the D'Israeli motto, the motto of the right kind of conservatism, to keep what is useful of the old, and throw away what is useless, to make room for the new.

We are always glad to see the newspapers notice prodigies on the farms. The following is from the "Pictou Standard":

"Mr. John Meagher has now a three year old heifer that turns the beam at 1010 lbs. The beast was raised by Mr. John Dunn, of Merigomish, on his farm, and is of common, though of good stock. This example shows that our native cattle, if properly cared for, will result as well as more famed breeds, the animal spoken of having received no extraordinary care beyond good feeding and treatment. Those not having a clear idea of the weight of cattle will better understand by the statement that this fine heifer weighs precisely as much as two good beasts of the same age owned by Mr. Meagher."

The above reads like a plea for "our native cattle." We would observe, however, that it is not an occasional exceptional beast that makes profitable farming. What is wanted is stock with a uniformity of character, whether for beef or dairy purposes. This can be obtained only by using thorough-bred bulls that have the capacity of impressing upon the stock the quality desired. Occasionally a giant in size, or a profuse milker, rises up spontaneously out of the common herd, but this is merely an accident. With thorough-bred or high-grade cattle we can obtain any desired quality. Size is one, and an important consideration, and is to be attained chiefly by using Short-Horn Durham stock. The Pictou boss heifer is not so remarkable for size when compared with these. Last month we gave particulars of a three year old steer that weighed 2200 lbs. after being driven 6 miles to the scales, and of a three year old steer that weighed 2555 lbs.

We have to thank the publishers, John Duggall & Son, of Montreal, for a copy of *Venor's Winter Almanac and Weather Record for 1877-78*. It is a neat little sandwich of advertisement leaves and weather reading, spiced by proverbs and personal experiences. The chapter on meteorological instruments is the most useful in the book. Our first thought was that the Almanac might be a nice, intelligible, account of our weather, for Canadians to send to their friends in England, to enable them to realize what kind of a climate we really have in this part of the world. But, alas! when we read "the year 1877 reviewed," our surmise was at once dispelled. The facts stated are no doubt perfectly true to the letter, but they consist for the most part of the meteorological calamities of the year. It is in fact a Winter Almanac that carries stormy weather all through the Summer.

January: "The first of January found us well snowed in." "The last week of 1876 was especially blustry," "trains blockaded," "heavy drifts and snow falls," "snow fell on 19 days, making a total snow fall of 23.6 inches." At Montreal, in January, "14 clear days," "9 of snow," "3 rain or sleet," ten "cold" days, 8 "extremely mild or thawing," "altogether a severe month." Between 11th and 12th, thermometer fell to 21° below zero. Then follows elaborate accounts of the blocking of railroads and roads from Winnipeg to Halifax, and the havoc among water pipes, ending with the thermometer in New Brunswick on 23rd, at 39 and forty degrees below zero. No, not ending, for we turn the page only to find a thunder-storm on 20th, which set on fire the Roman Catholic church steeple at Cacouna. As if all this were not enough, the United States are ransacked for additional weather sensations. In Massachusetts the snow lay from 2½ to 3 feet on the level; ice was 16 inches thick, snowy owls abounded in such numbers, &c. A snow storm destroyed nine houses near Alta, and buried the occupants, the last mentioned being apparently the only benign, redeeming, fact on the page. The estimated loss to New York city by the great snow storm was \$1,000,000.

February: "Memorable for its exceeding mildness," and "the small amount of moisture," &c. The good weather is briefly dispatched. Our author gets rapidly again into his favourite war of elements. "Old Boreas came down to-day good and strong, and everything is freezing up." "On the western road snow-ploughs have gone through drifts 8 feet deep." "The tops of the fences are covered along many miles of road, and there are drifts the like of which have not been seen for many years. In Gaspe, "travel completely stopped."

March: "Heavy gales." "The weather has a very Venor-able appearance." "Street railway blockaded in Sarnia." "A heavy fall of snow accompanied by thunder and lightning." Ice soon disappeared from harbours.

April: Mild, hawks 2 weeks before their time. "Heavy floods," "serious loss of life." The bridge opposite Montreal caved in near both shores, and a general shove took place. "Bridge" is a Montreal localism for the ice on the river. At Ottawa "a little boy was affected by sunstroke;" "a thunder-storm."

May: Favourable spring. "Spring (in France) continues to be as capricious as a woman—one day a smile, and the next a concealment, mocking poor citizens." But in New Brunswick, "a foot of snow fell." "Great bush fires;" "two cases of sunstroke." On 18th a very disastrous storm which blew down the Roman Catholic church at St. Hypolite, killing Rev. Mr. Boileau and his son; heat almost unprecedented.

June: Very warm. "Two nights of frost," crops destroyed, snow, hailstones the size of walnuts, lightning struck down houses, barns and trees, and killed valuable cattle.

July: "The stormiest on record for a number of years." Church spire struck, houses unroofed, trees torn up, a terrible whirlwind in Wisconsin, vessels driven ashore and wrecked at Gaspe, City Hall bell at Ottawa struck. A furious storm, the heaviest hailstones ever witnessed, church windows smashed, ground covered with grain, an earthquake on land and at sea.

August: The driest in a score of years. "Heavy rains of last week have done great damage to the grain." A hailstorm of unusual severity. Whilst our author was driving forty miles north of Ottawa, a terrific storm occurred, hailstones "as large as plums." "The hailstones, during the storms which were of daily occurrence between the 10th and 15th, frequently lay on the ground for 24 hours without melting." "Some of the hailstones were as large as good-sized hen's eggs." "Fowls were killed, and travellers were obliged to take refuge," &c. In Orislow many thought "the end" was at hand. At Aylwin the school-house was struck, the heels of a girl's boots were torn off by the lightning, eight bushels of peas per acre were threshed out by the hail, and the electric fluid shocked a sergeant in the Montreal Central Police Station.

September: The daily record, no sensational facts.

October: Do.

November: Earthquake (two pages) is the only kind of weather set forth in this month.

December's casualties were not ready, we presume, when the *Almanac* was issued.