

[FOR THE BEE.]

MR. EDITOR,

Sir,—The march of improvement seems to be on the advance in this new and happy colony, with the exception of some requisite repairs on some of the roads and bridges. I would draw the attention of the public to the deplorable and long neglected state of the covering of the bridge over the East River, Pictou, at the Albion Mines, the planking of which is at the present time so shattered, decayed, and completely riddled, that the foot passenger (putting the horses and wagons, &c. out of the question), is in danger of falling through, many of the holes being capable of receiving any passenger who may have occasion to travel over it. There have two accidents occurred within the last month, and if nothing is done (now as the winter is fast approaching and the travelling more slippery), you may rely on hearing of some more serious accidents occasioned by this once useful bridge, but now public trap. I would ask the public where the blame and neglect lays, that nothing is done? Whether with our representatives, our leading men, or with the community. If our representatives have been by petition requested to present the above case, when in General Assembly met, and neglected so doing,—if our magistrates and road commissioners are in possession of any authority to cause the main roads and bridges, &c. throughout the Province to be kept in repair, and are silent on the subject,—and if the community will stand aloof and see one of their public passages to church and market shut up,—I say while Judicatory salaries are augmenting, and “on the march of improvement,” the country is neglected, and most deplorably so in the case above stated.

ONE OF THE COMMUNITY.

East River, 3d October, 1836.

[FOR THE BEE.]

MR. DAWSON.

Having observed in the BEE some time ago, a notice of a work to be published, entitled, “An Analysis of the Criminal and Penal Laws of Nova Scotia,” I am not a little surprised that, as far as I can learn, no exertions are making to insure its publication. It is a work which, from its title and the abilities of its author, promises to be of importance and value to all classes of the people. The short extract from it with which the public have been already favored, affords a specimen not only of its utility, but also of the brevity and perspicuity of style in which it is written, and I do think that were Mr Dickson to exert himself a little, a large and respectable list of Subscribers could be readily obtained—such a list as would amply remunerate him for the trouble and expense which must necessarily attend the publication of such a work. I hope sir, that the author may be aroused from the state of lethargy into which he has fallen, that he will be “up and doing” to quote a worn out phrase, that he will appoint agents throughout the Province, to solicit and receive subscriptions, &c., &c.

Oct. 1, 1836.

Yours, R.

AGRICULTURAL.

FOR THE BEE.

THRASHING AND PRESERVING GRAIN.
No. 15.

Mr. Dawson. Sir, As the crops are now gathered in, I think it time to resume my labors, and say something about thrashing the grain. It would be premature to say much about thrashing mills, while there is so little for them to do; it would be something like speaking about making rail-roads while there is so little to carry. I would only just say that any one who has a thousand stooks of grain to thrash should build one.

Before you begin to thrash, it would be advisable to examine the barn floor, in case the dry weather has opened the seams, then with the flail in good trim,

strike hard and fast in a frosty day, and the grain will come dancing out.

The young men in this country seem not to like the job well; it is no uncommon thing to see the father in the barn at the flail, and the son in the tavern—sauntering about a store—or driving along in his sleigh. Is this as it should be? Again, some there are who would rather spend a week in planning and making traps to catch the rats and mice, than a day to thrash the grain out of their way. For my part I know no better work, than two young fellows to get in a good full barn in a cold day and crack away at the flail.

The earlier in the season the grain is thrashed the better turn out there will be, both of grain and fodder, and if the straw is compactly put up, it will lose nothing until needed; whereas if it is delayed until the vermin has destroyed a great part of the grain, the fodder is of comparatively little value. Care should be taken to keep the grain when thrashed as clear of snow and dirt of every kind as possible; after being in the stables the feet ought to be well cleaned before going into the barn, and the floor snugly swept up at night. But in place of this it is no uncommon thing to have uncle Tom's horse tied on the barn floor over night, and unless he is better bred than the most of horses, it is no fit place for him. What would an old Scoteman say of such work as this? Although not proverbial for cleanliness, he would just say “its nae wark ava.”

PRESERVING GRAIN. I have no doubt but a great part of the reason why Nova Scotia flour has such a poor character, is want of care in storing and preserving the wheat properly. The too common practice of putting it into puncheons or barrels is highly improper; it may not injure it much through the winter, while the frost is intense, but if it is allowed to remain so after the warm weather sets in, if it does not mould (which very likely it will do,) it will contract something of an acid taste, from the quantity of moisture that is in it, which is very hurtful to the flour. Oats likewise should be well attended to; if they are thrashed out something damp and put up in a heap, they will soon ferment, or what is called take a heat, which will render them unfit for seed, and be very injurious to them either as meal or as food for horses. The same cause will produce like effects in other kinds of grain according to their quality.

To preserve the grain properly, it should be winnowed at short intervals and carried to the granery, and spread out thin at first, and the depth increased as it dries, turning it over at least once a week to give it all an equal chance for the moisture to evaporate, and when thoroughly dry it may be put up in vessels until needed for use. Those who have not a proper granery, will find it a good plan to spread out the grain as frequently as convenient upon the barn floor in clear weather, throwing the doors open to admit as much of the sun and air as possible. When it is considered what time is spent and grain wasted in drying wheat over the fire, bushel by bushel, it is a wonder that more do not exert themselves in getting a granary: it might be had at no great expense. The place for one will be pointed out when it comes in our way.

Yours truly,

OLD RUSTICUS

P. S. Would it answer any good purpose to propose an experimental farm or farms as a public concern? O. R.

Our opinion on this subject we can give in a few words, and it is this: There ought to be one or more experimental farms in Nova Scotia, at which Agriculture suited to the soil and climate ought to be taught scientifically, to as many young men from each county as could be induced to enter their names for instruction. These persons would return home and disseminate their acquired knowledge to all around them, and the result would be, that in a very few years

Nova Scotia would raise its own broad stuffs, and probably export them. But here another question arises: where would the money be got to maintain these Schools? The answer is at hand: abolish the Inferior Courts, and dismiss four or five of our judges—their salaries would amply endow the Agricultural Schools, and there would still remain plenty of Judges for the wants of Nova Scotia.—Ed.

From the Halifax Times.

NOVA SCOTIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A general meeting of this society was held on Saturday the 17th inst. at Dalhousie College, when the following Rules framed by the Committee were submitted and unanimously approved of:

Fundamental Laws.

No. 1. This society shall be denominated the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society.

2. The number of Members unlimited, and to consist of Ladies and Gentlemen.

3. Any person may become a Member on paying ten shillings on entrance, and five shillings yearly, the latter to be considered due on the 14th of February in each year. Such persons as may give any sum, not less than five pounds, to the Society, will be considered Members for life, so long as they continue to act up to the laws of the Society.

4. The officers of the Institution to consist of a President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and Treasurer, and a Committee of thirteen members, including the Secretary and Treasurer, and as many practical and educated Gardeners as can be obtained—any five of which Committee shall be competent to act, should no more be assembled. This Committee will be elected, and the officers named at the first general meeting in each year.

5. The Institution to be under the patronage of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, or Commander-in-chief for the time being, should he so far honour it, otherwise of some influential person of the community. As ladies are eligible to become Members, a Lady Patroness is to be obtained. The Admiral on the station shall also be requested to patronize the Society.

6. There shall be two General Meetings of the Society in each year, the last Saturday in February and the first Saturday in November. At the first meeting the officers of the institution for the year will be appointed, the accounts examined and audited, and matters relating to the Society clearly laid before it and discussed, the days appointed on which the competition meetings will be held, and the description of fruits, flowers, vegetables and seeds, for which prizes shall be awarded, distinctly explained. At the second Meeting in November, such matters will be brought for discussion, as may be considered for the good of the institution.

7. The prizes of the Society shall be open to all persons, but the Committee shall have the power of withholding any Prize, should they be of opinion that even the best specimen produced does not merit one.

8. Should there be any improper attempt discovered to deceive the Committee, in any person unfairly obtaining a prize, such person (if a Member) will be excluded the Society, and prevented from ever coming forward at any future competition.

9. The funds of the Society shall be expended under the direction of the Committee, all propositions to be regularly entered in a book kept for the purpose, and not carried into execution until approved of at a Meeting of such Committee. Due attention will be paid to the suggestions of all persons, provided they be transmitted to the Secretary in writing.

10. Every exertion to be made by the Society to obtain an eligible piece of ground for a Garden, for the growth of fruit and orna-