

An Agricultural Revival in Nova Scotia. EXPORTS INSTEAD OF IMPORTS—DAIRYING AND LIVE STOCK REARING—SUITABLE BREEDS— INDIVIDUAL EFFORT RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT AID.

(BY R. W. CHIPMAN, SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE.)

A brief reference to our agricultural work and progress for the past 25 years will enable me more easily to begin with our present tendencies. I regret to say that during the last quarter of a century we have not made that progress in stock raising and general farming that, in my judgment, our opportunities demand; in fact, in the raising of all kinds of live stock, taking the Province as a whole, we have not held our own,—have been actually importing beef, mutton, pork, and poultry for home consumption, and also import from other provinces oats, barley, peas, and beans; all of which can easily be grown at home. Thus, you will see, we import too much and export too little; but in fruit-growing, I am glad to say that in the last 25 years we have made most marvellous and rapid progress in the counties of Annapolis, Kings, part of Hants, as well as in many other counties. We have also, in the last few years, made a decided start in producing a better quality and larger quantity of butter and cheese.

Having visited during the past season and attended meetings in sixteen out of eighteen counties in the Province, I am glad to say the present tendencies are a general waking up or revival among our farmers, and a full determination to make a forward move in advanced farming.

The fruit-growers, who have trebled and quadrupled the production during the last 15 years, are still extending, with energies strengthened by successes in the past. The same may be said with the dairy industry. In sections where fruit cannot be grown so extensively, farmers are beginning to learn that dairying on the co-operative plan is the next most profitable branch of farming.

In stock raising, hogs will naturally follow and grow with the dairy. In beef and mutton we have stood still or gone back so long that the slight start we are now making is scarcely perceptible, but I think I can see the beginning at least of a forward movement. Many of the counties of this Province, while not adapted for fruit-growing, are equal to any in the Dominion for stock raising,—some favored with extensive dykes and marsh lands, with good uplands adjoining; other counties, notably in Cape Breton, with miles of broad and fertile intervale, and hillsides and mountain slopes, where thousands of cattle and hundreds of thousands of sheep can be profitably raised, our home market supplied and a surplus exported to the great London market, as easily as from any other Province in the Dominion, and I think I am safe in saying the inclination and tendencies of our farmers at the present time are to take advantage of our opportunities and start a progressive and forward movement. Having spoken of our past and present tendencies, our needs will not require much space. I am not one of those who think that governments can do much to aid the individual farmer; but, rather, let him alone, except in aiding him to obtain the best facilities for transporting the productions of the farm to the best markets in the world.

Agriculturists must not depend upon governments, but rather on their own individual efforts; they need to improve their stock. This idea is now growing among the several agricultural societies throughout the Province, as well as with individual farmers. To be successful in this, they have no trouble in starting right; they need not spend time and money experimenting to find the best breeds for beef and dairying; past generations have done this, and I am convinced that, for beef, no improvement can be made on the three great beef breeds—Shorthorns, Herefords, and Polled Angus; all are good, and can be obtained at prices within the reach of all; they mature young, and produce the best quality of beef, commanding the highest prices. In dairying, the same may be said. We do not need to experiment for a breed; this has been settled by the highest authorities years ago;—the Ayrshire, Jersey, and Guernsey are the three great dairy breeds. [NOTE.—It will be a surprise to many to notice the omission of the Holstein-Friesian in this enumeration of the "great dairy breeds," in view of their achievements during recent years.—EDITOR.] It is as useless to try to produce butter and cheese from a beef animal as it is good beef from a dairy cow. You cannot deposit your feed where it will produce both butter and beef at the same time. You might as well sow rye and expect wheat to grow. We also need in parts of our Province, where some of our best farming lands are producing little or nothing, a fresh importation of live, up-to-date, progressive farmers, or, if possible, we need some inducement to persuade some, at least, of our young men who have left these beautiful farms to return and give their native Province the benefit of some knowledge they might have gained in advanced farming, and thus help to keep the few remaining boys at home.

A few words on our prospects will bring this hurriedly-written letter to a close. I believe the Province of Nova Scotia possesses a greater variety of natural resources of wealth than any other Province in the Dominion. We have our mines, containing unlimited quantities of coal, gold, iron, gypsum, and other minerals, and our lumber and fisheries; all of immense value; but our agricultural resources are greater than them all, and these facts are very generally admitted. What better prospects can our young men have in any country in the world than by taking advantage of and giving their best energies and ability to develop the great natural resources of our own native Province, and immigrants or intending settlers coming to Canada landing first in Nova Scotia may go further and fare worse than making a home on some of the good farms, with fairly comfortable buildings, that can be purchased at prices within the reach of men of moderate means.

Plum Growing in B. C.

The accompanying illustration represents part of a typical plum tree on the Experimental Farm at Agassiz, B. C., which is a fair sample of how fruit grows in the Prairie Province. "I need not tell you," writes Mr. Sharpe, Supt. of the Experimental Farm, "that moderate care will and does



PORTION OF PLUM TREE ON EXPERIMENTAL FARM,
AGASSIZ, B. C.

produce as good results anywhere in this Coast region. So many people when they see our trees say, 'Oh, but you have the Government at your back,' forgetting that the soil and climate never ask who owns or tills it, but respond as readily to fair treatment at the hands of any one."

Washing Fowls for Showing.

To properly wash a fowl is somewhat difficult to accomplish, if not gone about in an understanding way. Hard-feathered fowls, such as games or dark-colored birds, should not need washing; but, as a rule, buffs, whites, and other light colors need a water bath in order to be presentable in good company.

Two ordinary-sized tubs answer well wherein to do the washing: one to wash in, the other to rinse in. To four or five gallons of water, at about 100 degrees Fah., add two ounces of dissolved white castile soap, and a piece of washing soda the size of a man's thumb. Place the bird in the water and sponge it well over, so as to wet the feathers; afterwards take a small hand brush and continue to brush the feathers down until all stained spots have disappeared. Sometimes a tail, crest, breast, or wing will need brushing or rubbing for a considerable time to give it a perfectly clean appearance.

The other tub should contain clean water, about 70 degrees. The birds should be rinsed in this

water until their feathers are thoroughly free from soap, else they are liable to adhere to each other. After removing them from the water they should be gently rubbed down with a sponge, and then put to dry in a wicker basket before a fire. The washing should be done three or four days before going to show. Exposure to drafts or cold temperature should not be allowed for a couple of days after washing, or there will be danger of colds. The need of very clean quarters after washing is obvious.

Our Popular Collie Dog Premium.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—I am receiving a great number of enquiries for collie dogs through your offering them for premiums, and many, no doubt, write in expectation of being able to buy them at prices quoted for inferior stock. As at present I have nothing for which I would accept less than \$15.00, would it be too much like asking a free advertisement to announce this fact to your readers?

Yours truly, ROBT. McEWEN.

December 1, 1896.

[NOTE.—From the above it will be seen that our offer (still good) of one of Mr. McEwen's young collies for ten new paid-up subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is unprecedented, and would not be possible under ordinary circumstances.—EDITOR.]

Rape in New York State.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—There seems to be a difference of opinion among the farmers of Canada as to the safety of pasturing rape late in the season, when the plant is wet or frozen, and several feeders report losses of both sheep and cattle in recent numbers of the ADVOCATE.

Although warned repeatedly of the danger of allowing stock to pasture on rape when it was wet, I learned from experience that it was as safe to feed when wet as dry, and that when frosted it had no bad effects. During the past five years the only loss I have sustained was in 1895, when a high wind blew some fence down during the night and about seventy breeding ewes found their way into the rape field, when they were empty, and one fine ewe was dead in the morning. Two or three others were bloated and purged some, but were all right again in a day or two. I have always been very careful not to turn sheep on the rape until they were well filled, so as to avoid the danger of their eating too greedily at first; and then they are never taken from the rape until they go into winter quarters. In 1895 our lambs were on twelve acres of rape until November, when they were put into the barn, and the field was given to the breeding ewes, which were on it until the middle of January. They had access to the barn at all times, where hay was in the racks constantly, but they only ate a little of it. The ewes were very fleshy through the winter, but the lambs were remarkably vigorous and rugged, and an unusually small per cent. of lambs were lost during the lambing season.

Last spring we sowed rape seed with twelve acres of oats, in which our lambs were pastured from the time the oats were harvested until December 1st. During this time the lambs were never taken from the field, and although there was ten acres of meadow in the field, on which there was an abundance of clover and timothy, they were seldom seen on that part of the field, and did not feed there at all. They went into winter quarters last week in prime condition, weighing from 130 to 150 pounds each.

The past two years I have sowed about three pounds of rape seed per acre through the corn, just before we cultivate the last time. After the corn is taken off the field to fill the silo the rape makes a rapid growth and provides a great amount of feed of the best quality. Our breeding ewes are now on fifteen acres of rape sown in this way, and are given hay in the barn as last season, and I never saw a flock in a healthier condition—all fleshy enough for the butcher.

Five years of experience has convinced me that if sheep are first turned into rape when full, with salt within reach at all times, and are never taken from it, rape may be fed with perfect safety, whether dry, wet, or frosted. FRANK D. WARD.
Genesee Co., N. Y., Dec. 8th, 1896.

Legal Query -- Payment on Mortgage.

CONSTANT READER, Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"(1) In making a payment on a mortgage, is it compulsory for the man holding the mortgage to endorse the amount paid on the mortgage, and also to give a receipt; or is a receipt alone sufficient to stand law? (2) Is it necessary to have a witness at time of making such a payment; and could the man's wife act in the capacity of a legal witness?"

[(1) It is not necessary that the payment be endorsed on the mortgage. The receipt alone is the only correct thing. (2) No witness is necessary or required if you take the receipt.]