

# JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE,

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

*A. H. Mackay*

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 1865.

No. 1.

## CONTENTS:

PAGE.	PAGE.		
Prefatory Notice.....	1	Tornentil or Shepherd's Knot.....	13
Abstract of Reports of Agricultural Societies.....	2	Ho. to make up a Spring Hot-Bed.....	13
History and Cultivation of the Turnip Crop.....	6	New Method of Growing Celery.....	14
Importation of Stock from New Brunswick.....	10	Cultivation of the Strawberry.....	14
International Exhibition at Dublin, 1865.....	10	Cultivation of Young Orchards.....	14
State of the Crops in King's County during the past season.....	10	Gleanings.....	14
Exhibition of the Egerton Agricultural Society.....	11	Domestic Receipts.....	15
Fruit Growers' Association.....	11	Literary Notice—Dawson's Agriculture.....	16
Veterinary Surgery.....	12	Answers to Correspondents.....	16
Remarks on Breeding Dairy Stock.....	12	Imprint.....	16
Alderney or Jersey Cattle.....	13		

In presenting the first number of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE to the Farmers of Nova Scotia, much preface is not required. The publication is issued in terms of a provision of the Act of last session, which empowers the Board of Agriculture "to publish a quarterly or semi-annual journal for the diffusion of Agricultural and Horticultural information adapted to the condition and circumstances of the country." These plain and explicit terms indicate sufficiently the nature and general aim of the publication.

One of its principal objects shall be, to make known, from time to time, the operations of the Agricultural Board, and the steps that may be taken to promote agricultural improvement. Farmers in the most distant parts of the Province, ought to be equally well informed on such matters with those more favorably located, so that they may participate in the encouragements offered. The proceedings of the various Societies that have been, or may be, organized under the Agricultural Act, will likewise form a prominent feature of the publication. But while it will thus contain a considerable amount of official matter and intelligence, it is intended that its columns shall be chiefly

devoted to the publication of useful information on the science and practice of farming.

In order to supply this kind of information, recourse might be had to various sources. Valuable assistance might be obtained from the researches of scientific men, and the experience of agriculturists in other countries, in the British Islands, in our neighboring Provinces of New Brunswick, Canada and Prince Edward Island, as well as in the Northern States; and we shall not fail to draw, to some extent, upon such fertile sources as these. But it is necessary that the information offered should be thoroughly adapted to the climate, circumstances, and present requirements of Nova Scotia. Whilst therefore we may profit largely by looking over the fences of our Canadian and American neighbors, yet the kind of information likely to prove most useful to the Nova Scotian farmers is to be sought in the Province and chiefly among the farmers themselves. It is to be hoped, therefore, that they will not be backward in aiding our efforts; but will cheerfully contribute to the general fund of knowledge.

We require to know the practical

results of experiments in the country, before we can safely recommend new processes of culture or new modes of feeding, however successful they may have proved in other lands. Now, every farmer is to a certain extent an experimental farmer, unless indeed his eyes are closed to the most obvious teaching. Every year, every month, even every day, brings about some result upon a farm in connection with crop or stock, that affords him a useful lesson, worth being made known among his brother farmers. When bone-dust, or superphosphate, or sea-weed, or plaster, or swamp muck, or ashes, or lime, or compost, are applied to a soil, and produce an appreciable effect, other farmers ought to be made acquainted with the result, in order that they too may benefit by the practice, if a profitable one, or avoid repeating the experiment if unprofitable. In the same way let the experience of farmers in the feeding and management of the various breeds of neat cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry be made known. Let us hear what varieties of grain, turnips, mangels and potatoes succeed best in certain soils and in certain districts, and are least liable to insect-enemies and disease. Let us know what labor-saving implements