

of the yield obtained. From 3 ounces of the Early Rose Potato planted on the 2d May, by Mr. Edward Kirwin, Mr. Northup's gardener, there was dug in September 8 lbs. weight of good sound potatoes. The seed was imported from New York by Mr. McDonald, gardener, Lockman street. The above yield is at the rate of 42½ bushels to a bushel of seed.

WHEAT VERSUS SHIPS.

In a letter from Robert Puryes, Esq., Tatamagouche, it is observed:—

Since the Ship-building has in a great measure failed, many are turning their attention to farming, and it is well that it is so, and it would have been much better had they done so long ago, as I believe that we have the best wheat growing county in the province, all along the shore of the St. Lawrence every acre is good, and those who have recuperated their land with the *oyster* shells and mud have had excellent returns. Trusting that by the end of the coming year our Society will be able to give a good account of our labours, I am, &c.

MUSHROOM CULTURE.

Of late years the spontaneous growth of Mushrooms has, to a large extent, decreased in the County of Halifax. It is rarely now that we see good Mushrooms offered in the Halifax market. The rifle range at Bedford (before it was a rifle range) used to afford abundant supplies, but, if any grow there now, they must be regularly picked and cooked by the camping men, for we never see them, and of course the early bird who roosts in the swamp has a right to pick the worm. It is obvious that lovers of Mushrooms must now look to an artificial supply. We therefore quote from a communication in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* the method employed in India, which appears to be better adapted to our part of Greater Britain than common English methods:

"The bed should be made in a tolerably cool place, facing north-west is best, and should be placed under a rough shed of any kind, with a back wall, but open on the three sides. This secures light and air. Take then any moderately good earth, and put a layer of say one foot. Damp, and slightly beat down flat; then a layer of from four to five inches of fresh-horse-dung, moist naturally, and slightly watered. Spread flat, and lightly beat; then a layer of good soil for three or four inches. Keep watered every day, and in a short time the spawn will be formed. In the rains—say July and August—is the best time for this work. The larger the bed, and the more protected, always allowing light, the better it is. But remember, the bed should not

be sodden, as very great heat will be generated, which will effectually kill everything save a few surface Fungi, which are not eatable; and when this stage has passed, and the cold sodden stage has arrived, there will be, especially in the rains, an abundant crop of Fungi of many kinds, but no Mushrooms. Mushrooms often appear spontaneously in deserted or unused stables, cowsheds, &c.; but those gathered on parade-grounds, which are generally well-trodden grass plains, are by far the best."

GUERNSEY CATTLE.

The cattle of the islands of Jersey, Alderney and Guernsey are, it is claimed, not of common origin, and the breeds, though similar, entirely distinct. The Alderney breed, which was smaller than the others, has been to such an extent crossed with the Guernseys that it no longer exists as a distinct breed, and although formerly cattle were occasionally brought to and from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey for breeding purposes, the interchange has for the past twenty years or thereabouts been prohibited, the people of each island thinking their cattle better than the other. The Guernseymen assert that their cattle are larger and better feeders, and yield cream and butter of better quality than those of Jersey. The cows are very profitable, the quantity of milk varying from 12 quarts per day (given as the average) for six months after calving to 24 quarts (stated as a maximum yield for that period). The yield of butter is said to reach in some instances 18 pounds per week and 400 pounds in a year. The cows continue long in profit and are in their prime from four years of age to eleven. The cattle exported from Guernsey go mostly to England, the numbers sent over in 1866, '7 and '8 being as follows:

1866.....	6 males.....	356 females.
1867.....	4 ".....	655 "
1868.....	4 ".....	663 "

The small number exported in 1866 is accounted for by the prevalence of the Rinderpest in England during that year. The prices obtained are for good cows about £20 sterling, heifers £16, yearlings £8.

As in Jersey, the importation of foreign cattle (except for slaughter) is strictly prohibited, and the government and the Agricultural Society of the island each employ an official to prevent infraction or evasion of the law.

The Report for 1868 of the Royal Agricultural Society of Guernsey gives some interesting statistics, and some of these are brought down one year later by adding the returns for that year, which show the following figures:

The total number of horned cattle in the island is 6,787—a prodigious number

for its size, which is not much more than twenty square miles, the island being nearly in the shape of a right-angled triangle, with sides of 6, 6½ and 9 miles in length. Of the cattle 3,142 are cows in milk or heifers in calf; of the rest, 1,027, are over and 2,618 under two years old. The number of sheep is under 1,000, but the swinish population is very large, amounting, in 1867, to 5,815. The area in cultivation was, in 1867, three thousand five hundred and sixty-one English acres, of which there were in wheat 759½; barley, 448½; oats, 379½; potatoes, 667; parsnips, 930; carrots, 181½; beets, 194½. The large area given to root crops, 1,306 acres, helps to explain how it is possible to keep so many cattle, although when we consider that the climate is very mild and peculiarly adapted to grazing, the number is less surprising than it seems at first. It is to be taken into account, however, that the published accounts of Guernsey state that there is a good deal of waste land in the island, notwithstanding its maintaining nearly 350 head of horned cattle to the square mile.

The Report of the Guernsey Agricultural Society before mentioned, contains also its regulations or bye-laws, and from it a few items of interest may be taken. The Society seems to be a very active and useful one, and numbers 233 members, paying from 5s. to £1 each. Subscribers of £1 per annum have the right to be present and vote at the meetings of the committee of directors. The Society holds three meetings in the year: at Whitsuntide for the exhibition of all live stock, prizes from five shillings to five pounds: at Michaelmas for young bulls, (first prize 10s.) and boars (first prize £1), and at Christmas for fat stock, grain, &c.—There is also a show of flowers, fruits, butter, cider and poultry, held in June, and prizes are offered for farms, in two classes, the small farms of 12 acres and under, and the *large* of over 12 acres in extent, and also for liquid manure reservoirs, which seem to be held of great importance. The revenue of the Society in 1867 was from subscriptions, £110, from the Estates (Legislature) of the island, £60; from investments, £8 10s. 7d.; and from the shows £37 17s. 9d.—total, £216 8s. 4d.; and it expended in prizes, £131 10s. 10d., and upon its library, £14 14s. 6d.

Some of the bye-laws of the Society are worthy of notice. Every member who retires from the Society and afterwards desires to rejoin it, must pay up his subscription during the intervening period, and £1 as a fee of re-admission. It is also provided that prize bulls and prize boars must be kept for use in the island for stated periods after winning their prizes, and if kept longer than the time prescribed they receive additional payments. Prize cows and heifers must