

and straw varieties of wheat, for their is a greater variety in that point of view than is generally known; avoid if possible, a full east or south east aspect. Where the early morning sun strikes the field, in sultry weather, where heavy dews are prevalent, let two boys take a cod-line, and once at each end of it may sweep the dew off the crop before sunrise; this will effectually prevent rusting of the straw. This disease is only the result of moisture and of heat, inducing a certain degree of fermentation and decomposition in the cellular system of the plant, when the minute seeds of fungi floating in air find a congenial bed in the straw for germination. In reviewing the annexed Reports from various sections of the country, it is obvious that the late failures of the wheat and potato crops, have suggested many expedients, and a more general adoption of auxiliary crops; other grains have been more generally cultivated as substitutes for wheaten bread; turnips, carrots, and mangel wurzel have been substituted for the potato to stock; and we predict that when once their value is experimentally proved, they will retain their place in our green crop culture. There is another reflection impressed on the mind, which mitigates the feelings of disappointment which Agriculturists experience in reviewing the past, namely, the lessons of economy which we have learned; they will prove invaluable to ourselves and our posterity; we can now appreciate the value of the potato and wheat crops in a much higher ratio than formerly, and should those evils ever recur, we shall be better prepared to counteract their efforts. The cultivation of mangel wurzel ought to be encouraged by every Agricultural Society in Nova Scotia, its value relatively compared with other roots used in feeding stock, places it at the head of the list; its easy culture, certainty of a crop, prolific return and fattening qualities, as well as food for dairy cattle, give it preference to all roots used for these purposes. A small quantity of this root given with good oat straw, such as that of the early August oats, is preferable to any quantity of the best hay, producing more milk, a greater weight of beef, and higher development of muscle in young stock. If our imported stock were fed with a due proportion of this root, there would be no cause to apprehend a rapid degeneracy such as we now experience.

All the Reports concur in the statement exhibiting the deficiency of the hay crop, resulting chiefly from the effects of long-continued drought throughout the summer. In some instances good crops were obtained from moist meadows, and fields in good heart. During the last few years, hay has been abundant, and farmers have naturally allowed their stocks of cattle to increase, and the consequence of a short crop of hay, is a sacrifice of stock, and years of the farmer's toils are dissipated. The Nova Scotia farmer may regard it as an axiom, that his surplus hay will be required every fourth or fifth year, and if he wishes to preserve an equilibrium in such matters, he must reserve a few stacks of surplus hay, in place of allowing an undue increase of live stock. It is evident from the Reports that much good has been effected by the various Societies throughout the country. Superior breeds of cattle, pigs, and sheep, have been imported, together with labour-saving machines, and improved implements, which not only save labour, but render work a pleasure. These facilities, coupled with the example of a few enterprising men, are effecting greater improvements in Nova Scotia than a superficial view of the country would indicate. Mental culture is also increasing throughout the country, as manifested by several of the annexed Reports.

The Annapolis Royal Society furnishes an example

worthy of general emulation. Aware of the great advantages resulting from mutual instruction, this Society has constituted a 'Farmer's Club,' and at one of its preparatory meetings some able addresses were read, twenty-five members joined the club, and eight names were recorded as subscribers to the *Albany Cultivator*. These are important steps in the right direction. The elevation of the mind is the key to domestic happiness, and moral and social enjoyment. It would be a pleasing duty to record a similar Report from every Agricultural Society in Nova Scotia. Dairy husbandry in this country is worthy of every encouragement, and Societies ought to devote a suitable proportion of their funds toward improving that important branch of Agriculture. Dairy stock, as well as the minor details of management, are susceptible of much improvement, and there can be no doubt that with ordinary attention and skill, our dairy produce would equal any thing of this kind current in commerce; and farmers ought to remember, that a good cow in the stall, like a good tree in the garden, requires only the same nourishment and attention as that bestowed on the inferior varieties, and the difference in the original cost ought never to influence the choice in favour of an inferior stock. The capabilities of the soil in many parts of the Province are satisfactorily demonstrated by the various Reports from Societies. In referring to a communication just received from the Secretary of the Guysborough Society, we note with pleasure the weights of the grain produced at the competition;—wheat weighed 64 lbs. per bushel and the produce 25 bushels per acre; oats weighed 45 lbs. per bushel, produce per acre, 30 bushels. Turnips yielded 800 bushels per acre, being 300 bushels per acre over an average for drill crops. The Central Board during the present year has maintained a correspondence with forty-two local Societies. They also purchased a quantity of seed wheat; they regret however to find, that this grain (purchased as the Black Sea wheat) has proved a winter variety, and is consequently not suitable to our climate. Chemical manures have also been imported, and distributed to Agriculturists for experimental application, and Reports of these experiments have proved very satisfactory. They imported a very superior horse-power Threshing Machine, with a circular saw attached; together with rotary churns on the most approved principle, which they mean to dispose of in the most suitable manner for promoting a taste amongst our native mechanics for manufacturing such articles to supply our wants. They have also employed such means for the general diffusion of Agricultural information as seemed practicable, by engaging the editors of five newspapers in different parts of the Province, to devote a certain portion of their papers to this subject. The Board regret to state that the correspondence with local Societies throughout the country, has been interrupted, and much valuable information lost, in consequence of many of the counties having availed themselves of the power granted to draw the Provincial grant through their Sessions. The Societies in these counties did not feel themselves obligated to forward their Annual Reports to the Central Board. This arrangement has been productive of much confusion and dissatisfaction, and the Board sincerely hope, that in future order may be preserved in this important department.

The Board have in perspective the encouragement of a good system of draining and managing bog lands—the introduction of oil cake as an auxiliary to our present catalogue of animal food—and the stimulation of a good system of growing seed in the Province. They have also made arrangements for a judicious importa-