

a healthy state promotes the regular growth of the wool, and thereby renders it more valuable for whatever purpose it may be applied. It is found in England that when sheep have not a sufficiency of good food, the wool grows irregularly, and the wool is tender and weak at that part which was growing when the check to its supply of food took place. With such facts before us, what can we expect from our sheep if not sufficiently provided with suitable food at all times? It is by hearing the results of practice in other countries that we can best understand the practice we should adopt. I have seen lately some interesting statistics of English and French agriculture, which were given in a lecture delivered in Cornwall, England, by M. R. de LaTrebounais, an eminent French agriculturist, who has purchased largely English breeding stock and sent them to France. He stated that the average produce of wheat in England was 23 bushels to the acre, and in France it is a little less than 14 bushels to the acre; that there is 1½ sheep kept for each acre in England, and only 1-3 of a sheep kept to the acre in France; that 4,000,000 cattle are slaughtered annually in France, weighing on an average only about 2 cwt. each, and in England less than half that number of cattle, but weighing on an average about 5 cwt. each. Though in this review, I have undoubtedly found great fault with the general management of cattle here, yet I believe that the average weight of cattle slaughtered in Lower Canada would exceed the weight of the French cattle, if the lecturer was correct. But however all this may be, I conceive I was perfectly justified in all I have said in relation to our cattle and sheep. Our aim should be to equal, if not surpass others and not excuse any deficiency, by imagining that we are not inferior to other agriculturists. I have trespassed to a great extent on your columns, but must beg your indulgence a little longer before I can conclude my task.

WM. EVANS.

Cote St. Paul, Jan. 10, 1856.

THE NEW-YORK HORSE MARKET.

The principal sale stables are located on Twenty-fourth street, between Second and Lexington avenues, where Bull's Head tarried a few years on its march from the old location near the Bowers Theatre to its present location in Forty-fourth street. This part of the street is known as the Horse Market. We have never visited it at a time when it wore a more dull appearance than it did on Tuesday, December 4.

We have seen 800 or 900 horses in the dozen stables along these two blocks at one time for sale. There is one stable-keeper who has sometimes had 300 sale horses on hand at once. He has about 40 now. There is another stable with stalls for about 200 horses. In this we counted 21—good bad, and indifferent. Another stable capable of holding about the same number is not one-fifth full. Some of the smaller stables are still more empty.

It is probable that 150 would count all the horses for sale in the street, and while we were present, we only saw or heard of one buyer on the lookout for a horse.

The price of a common horse does not vary materially from the price a year ago, but the sales are very much fewer and difficult to effect. As compared with two years ago, there is scarcely one tenth as many sales. One reason is the large sale of mules for a year or two past. One dealer told us he had sold 180 mules to one railroad company in this city.

About the average price of such horses as are used in our city stages is \$125 to \$130; cart horses range from \$125 to \$175, and matched work horses for \$300 to \$500 a pair. Carriage and fancy horses always sell for fancy prices, just now but few persons are in the fancy of buying. The asking price is pretty high. It is said that a good many horses have died in this city of some epidemic, within a year, and that has deterred owners from bringing such stock here, and deterred gentlemen from buying.

It is perhaps owing to this that prices are higher than last year, to those who do buy, and sales slower to those who wish to sell.

In the present state of the market, it would be rather a bad speculation for a farmer to come here and wait for a chance to sell.

The attention of Western drovers, during all the past Summer has been turned toward Cincinnati, Chicago, and other Western towns, where the prices have been as good as in New-York, and keeping lower, and sales quicker.

In conclusion, we must advise our country friends that the New-York Horse Market is now decidedly dull, and very likely to remain so during the Winter.—*New York Tribune.* Dec 24th.

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ANTWERP RASPBERRIES.

The *Poughkeepsie*, (N. Y.) *Eagle* gives a very good account of the details and extent of one branch of "Fruit Culture" thus:—

But few persons are aware of the extent and importance of this comparatively new branch of the Agricultural, or rather Horticultural business.

The most extensive operations in this part of the country, are carried on at Milton, Ulster county, although the fruit is largely cultivated in this county.

There are now about 100 acres of raspberries in bearing in the immediate vicinity of Milton, and immense quantities of plants are being set out every year.

A few days ago we visited the raspberry plantation of Nathaniel Hallowell, at Milton, in order to learn the *modus operandi* of the culture. Mr. Hallowell's being one of the principal plantations.

The pickers were in the fields with their baskets between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, as soon as the dew was off the plants, as the berries do not keep so well when picked wet.

In a short time the pickers began to bring in the baskets of berries. These baskets hold about a pint, are very neat looking, being made of willow, and much superior to the baskets in which strawberries are sold, in fact the berries would hardly sell, if sent to New York in strawberry baskets.

There were about fifty pickers at work, men, women and children, the women being the most expert pickers of course. One per-

son was employed constantly, and a part of the time several persons, in picking the baskets. The baskets, as soon as picked and examined, are packed into boxes of different sizes according to the crop of that day. The object of putting them into boxes is to ensure their safe transit to the market, and in order to do this, the packer has to work carefully to fit the baskets in so that each one braces the other; when the boxes are filled to the top, the lid is closed and locked, and the boxes are ready for shipment.

The season lasts about six weeks, and this period is one continual round of business, the berries being sent off to New York every night except Saturday, (there being no sale for them on Sunday.)

The berries were all picked about six o'clock, and after supper they were conveyed to the landing, the baskets making two very heavy horse loads, and as near as we could calculate, the steamboat took off about 60,000 baskets that night, making about 20 tons of berries, exclusive of the weight of boxes and baskets.

The baskets are imported from France by hundreds of thousands every year, and although such quantities are manufactured every year, the supply is inadequate to the demand, the latter exceeding the former by about one-half.

The culture of the plants requires the services of a large number of people.

The pickers constitute a small army, there being from five to ten, and often more required for each acre, according to the time in the season, which was at its height this year about the second week in July.

The manufacture of the boxes in which the baskets of berries are packed is no small item, and the steamboats that carry this extra freight are obliged to employ extra men to handle it.

This business, though at first view it seems small, gives employment to, and distributes its gains among thousands of persons.

From the Milton landing, the average daily export is 10,000 baskets, and the retail price in New York averages about ten cents per basket; thus the product of 100 acres amounts to \$1,000 per day, or \$42,000 per season. We call to mind no other crop which produces as much per acre, or which gives employment to so many.

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AGRICULTURE OF LOWER CANADA.

Horses.

With respect to horses, there is, perhaps, more attention bestowed upon them generally, than upon any other farm stock, though their management is, nevertheless, far from being unobjectionable. It may be said that we have no distinct breed of horses in Lower Canada, but a mixture of every breed known. This confusion of breeds is to be regretted, particularly so far as regards what was known as the true Canadian breed of horses—so well adapted for the country, and for agricultural purposes. I know there have been objections made to their size for farm purposes, but if this defect really existed, it is one perfectly capable of remedy by proper selection and judicious breeding and feeding. The form of the true Canadian horse was unexceptionable, and I have no doubt he would weigh considerably more in proportion to his height, than any horse of the mixed breeds we have at present. It would be impossible to find a more perfect shaped horse for draught than a first class Canadian horse, and while we have