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*Omniun rerum, ex quibus aliquid adquiretur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

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HALIFAX, N. S., MAY, 1882.

No. 23.

THE tenness of the present season is unexampled, so far as we know the history of the Province. Last week we had an opportunity of seeing the fields throughout a large portion of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec Provinces, and of seeing persons from Newfoundland to Manitoba, and, whilst at Emerson the wheat was all sown nearly five weeks ago, it is now also pretty well in throughout the warmer parts of Nova Scotia. But in Cape Breton Island the wet state of the soil from the dissolving snows prevented any field work being done, and the eastern and northern parts of the Nova Scotia Peninsula, Gaysborough, East Halifax, Antigonish, Pictou, Cumberland, are, we fear, all in a backward state as regards spring work. In such a season the prudent farmer will not stand too much upon the order of his rotation, but will put in such crops as are practicable. There is one crop, however, which we think well worthy of his most painstaking energy to secure, and that is the potato. For the last ten years, ever since the potato bug discouraged potato culture in the west, we have urged our farmers to devote increased attention to this crop, on the ground that our climate may be depended upon to protect our potatoes against the bug. We have seen, last season, a large importation of potatoes from Europe into the United States. If a sufficient amount of capital were thrown into potato culture in this Province, there is no reason why our farmers should not derive large benefits from the potato market of the United States. In raising

potatoes we have as much natural advantage over Ontario and western New York, as they have over us in the raising of wheat, and the true secret of profitable farming is to grow the crop for which there is demand that is best adapted to the country. The one disadvantage is that the growth of potatoes for sale involves the carrying away of potash from our soil, of which it is already very deficient. This can be readily and profitably overcome by the judicious use of potash manures, such as Kainit and Potash Salts. The German Government thinking it better for their country to export potash salts in the highly manufactured forms of chemicals and drugs and potatoes than in the natural condition, imposed a duty upon the export of the crude Kainit. They thought it better to raise potatoes at home and send them to England and the United States than to send the Kainit and the labourer to the foreign country. This raised the price of Kainit and discouraged its use here. But even now potash salts are not too high to prevent our farmers using them to such an extent as to very largely increase our potato production. Where marsh mud is obtainable, or animals are fed upon the farm, the potash can be readily supplied to the soil. By careful selection of crops, and judicious culture, our farmers can well afford to pay for imported phosphates and potash. We are glad to see that the increase in the use of these artificial manures in our Province this season is not only much greater than in any former

year, but that the demand is taxing to the utmost the exertions of our importers and manufacturers. On every hand we see evidences of the working of a spirit of improvement in the minds of our farmers.

Wheat culture is growing apace, root culture is extending, and the improvement of live stock is rising into an enthusiasm. Since Mr. Stairs's offer to join the Board in an importation of Polled Cattle, we have been told of an agricultural firm who are prepared to duplicate the order if the Board are permitted to make an importation. It has been said that the farmers can wait for a year, but they say, in these times no business man will wait a year for his goods, and why should the farmers be asked to lose a year of their lives?

DARTMOUTH, 8th June, 1882.

At a meeting of the officers of the Dartmouth Agricultural Society held this evening, it was resolved that an exhibition be held in Dartmouth in the autumn. The sum of one hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated for prizes. A prize list will be published in a short time.

Competitors must be members of the Society. Any person can become a member by paying one dollar per annum. No member can compete unless his annual subscription be paid on or before the 1st August in each year.

Special prizes will be gladly received by the Secretary from any persons who may wish to give them.

Other arrangements regarding the exhibition will be published with the prize list as soon as they can be arranged.

EDWARD FOSTER, Secretary.