

whole Province. The success of the Goodrich seedlings has brought forward a large number of new sorts within the last year or two, the most conspicuous of which are the Early Rose, Climax, and Bresee's Prolific. These sorts are being grown by many of the Societies, and next season we shall be able to ascertain more fully their merits and suitability for general cultivation.

The propriety of introducing Hemp Culture has engaged the attention of the Board; and, with the view of inducing experiments and eliciting suggestions, a number of articles have been published in the Agricultural Journal, giving details of the methods of culture and preparation adopted in other countries.

The interest excited has been such as to induce the Board to import a quantity of hemp seed, both of American and English growth, so that Societies and individuals may have the means of giving the crop a fair trial.

By way of encouragement, the Board has offered the following prizes, viz.:

1. A prize of \$50 to the person who shall grow the greatest acreage of hemp in the Province during the ensuing season.
2. A prize of \$50 for the best sample of prepared Hemp Fibre, in quantity of ten hundred weight.
3. A prize of \$10 for the best bushel of hemp seed.

A circular has been prepared for transmission to Societies, with concise instructions for hemp culture and detailed terms of competition for the above-named prizes.

It is already known, from the experiments of the Hon. John Locke, that hemp culture is well adapted to the shore counties where there is an abundant supply of kelp manure; and if our fishermen could be induced to grow enough hemp in summer to give them employment in cleaning the Fibre in winter a branch of domestic industry would be opened up that would prove a lasting blessing to the people.

The Board have to acknowledge a very valuable donation, which has been made by Sir William Young, of 110 copies of the well-known classical work on Agriculture, by his late father,—"The Letters of Agricola." The Board was thus enabled to forward in January last to every Agricultural Society in the Province, a copy of the book, as a present from Sir William.

The Board feel assured that the valuable information and suggestions contained in the work cannot fail to have a beneficial influence on the present generation of farmers, many of whom have grown up since the famous writings of "Agricola" excited so much attention, and who have not till now had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them.

The Board beg to submit herewith the Treasurer's accounts for the past year, with relative vouchers, Auditing Committee's Report, and General Abstract, showing in a classified form the sources of Income and Expenditure.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture.

ALEX. MACFARLANE, President.
GEORGE LAWSON, Secretary.

HEMP CULTURE.

Concise Rules, prepared by a Committee of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Hemp is not difficult of cultivation; it requires a fertile soil, is not liable to injury from slight frosts, and may be grown in any part of the Province where the land is naturally rich enough, or is made so by artificial means. No summer labour is required in the way of weeding or hoeing; the farmer can therefore afford to give extra labour at the outset in thoroughly preparing the soil.

SOIL AND TILLAGE.

Hemp prefers a deep, well-drained and moderately rich soil, and not too heavy. It will not grow on exhausted hay land in the North any more than exhausted cotton land in the South. Choose therefore a field in good heart; plough it thoroughly, as deep as the land will allow, roll so as to break the clods, then harrow and cross-plough, using both roller and harrow again, if necessary, so as to pulverise the soil completely; but the roller must not be used on heavy clay land when wet. In such land the first ploughing should always be done in the previous Fall. The great object is to have the soil in the condition of a fine powder, and the more nearly this condition is attained, the more robust and heavy will be the future crop. Land that bore a crop of potatoes last season will now be in excellent condition for hemp.

MANURE.

In most soils it will be necessary to give a liberal supply of manure; this may be turned in at the second ploughing, or, if very old short manure and bone dust be used, these may be harrowed in with the seed. Stable or city manure, or in fact any nitrogeous material, will suit hemp, and the addition of bone dust is very beneficial. Seaweed or kelp manure has been found to answer very well in shore localities where it can be readily obtained.

SEED AND SOWING.

Fresh "Hemp Seed for sowing" should be obtained,—the ordinary bird's seed of the shops not being suitable, as it is often old and dead, and would only give a partial crop. The seed requires to be sown very thickly for a fine crop; by ex-

perience, the average quantity is found to be two bushels of good seed to the acre. The seed may be sown as soon in April or May as the land is found to be dry and in good condition; the time will vary with season and locality. It cannot be sown too early, as slight frosts do not injure the plant; on the other hand, a late sowing sometimes gives the finest crop. The seed is sown broadcast, harrowed in, and lightly rolled.

SUMMER TREATMENT.

No attention whatever is required. The plants will grow so rapidly as to smother all weeds and thus effectually clear the land.

In the Hemp Field it will be observed that the plants are of two kinds, male and female. The male plants mature first and begin to wither, and after the female plants are nearly matured likewise, the whole should be harvested together. It will not pay to pull the male plants first, and the female crop afterwards, as in Europe.

HARVESTING.

Like other crops, Hemp should be harvested with as little exposure to rain as possible. The Harvesting consists of (1) Cutting, (2) Curing, (3) Binding, (4) Stacking.

Cutting is done by hand with a Hemp Knife which is intermediate in character between a "sickle" and "scythe;" it is a straight knife 15 inches long, with a handle 2 feet long at an angle of 100 degrees with the edge of the knife; and, in cutting, the instrument is held at about the same angle as a mower's scythe. The operator is required to cut at once through a width corresponding to the length of the Hemp in his rear, in an even smooth swath. In some cases the Hemp is pulled like Flax, instead of being cut. Four or five days after cutting, weather being fair, the plants are gathered and tied into bundles, and as soon as possible, to escape rain, put into stacks or otherwise protected. It is said to be the work of one active man to cut, bind and stack an acre in five days.

SEPARATION OF FIBRE.

The Hemp crop is rotted in several ways, all reducible to two, viz.: (1) Dew Rotting, (2) Water Rotting.

Dew Rotting.—Most American Hemp is made by Dew Rotting. The crop harvested in August and September remains in stack till the cool weather in October; it is then spread upon the field upon which it grew, and the matter by which the fibres are held together is decomposed, and thus the fibres become separated more or less. Then the plants are gathered and set up in shocks over the field, where they remain without injury for some months, and portions are brought in from time to time to the break, as required; as the breaking is performed