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The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH.

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

VOL. II.

FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST 30, 1879.

NO. 21.

Agriculture.

Sugar Beet and Amber Cane.

Little has been said, lately, about Sugar Beet and Amber Sugar Cane. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the Department of Agriculture in this Province to induce, by importing the best Beet Seed, the farmers of New Brunswick to cultivate the saccharine root, will be followed by some results.

What about the Amber Cane culture? The wet weather and frosts in early part of the season were rather against it in this vicinity, but it is to be hoped that enough will be raised to show that it may be grown here with success.

A Sussex Farmer's Idea of Profitable Farming.

A correspondent giving the initials "P. F." and hailing from Sussex Vale, N. B., writes to the Farmer's Advocate on farming for profit. He says:

Experience shows us that the best and surest way to make money from farming is by selling the products of the farms in fattened meat, yet more is required than fattened meat.

Neither the farmer nor any other man can live by that exclusively. He must have wheat, and for this purpose he must make manure to renovate the worn-out land and restore its fertility, and this can be best obtained by raising turnips for stall-feeding.

Age of a Sheep.

The first year a sheep's front teeth are eight in number, and are all of equal size. The second year the two middle shed out and are replaced by two much larger than the others.

A Maine Farmer.

It is folly to keep old sheep. They should be turned off to the butcher while they are in their prime. It does not take half as much to fatten them. When they get old and thin in order to put them in condition to slaughter, the whole structure must be rebuilt.

FALL FALLOWING.

Experience proves, every season, the wisdom of ploughing as much as possible for spring sowing. Early fall ploughing has the benefit of allowing to some extent, and the earlier it is begun the more advantage are derived from it.

DRY HAY FOR COWS IN SUMMER.

I have realized beneficial results from giving the cows an occasional feed of dry hay in the morning, before turning them away to pasture for the day.

THE MATTER OF FRICTION IN FARM MACHINERY.

The matter of friction in farm machinery is really a serious one to the owners and yet we suppose the owner of farm machinery will go on reaping rich rewards year by year, from the useless wear and tear of machinery, and which they really do not discover, simply because the majority of our farmers depend upon borrowing an agricultural paper, rather than to buy one, and thus often lose more in one day than would pay for a good paper for five years.

Canada Wheat for Antwerp.

The Montreal Gazette says:—"A cargo of Canada White Winter Wheat has been purchased in this city for shipment direct to Antwerp, at \$1.10, and further inquiries were made for No. 2 Canada Spring on Continental account. Other orders for wheat have been received here from Antwerp grain firms, and the probabilities are that this new export trade will soon develop itself into one of considerable importance to Canada. Antwerp ranks second only to Havre as a large Continental importer of grain, and Bordeaux third. Between July 27th, 1878, and May 2nd, this year, New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore shipped to Antwerp 2,300,000 bushels of wheat, and to Havre over 3,000,000 bushels. We are glad to see our exporters turning their attention to the Continental trade as well as to that with Great Britain, for there can be little doubt but that we have been somewhat remiss in allowing our neighbors to monopolize the former entirely, although we trust lost time may yet be made up."

Setting Strawberries in Autumn.

Although spring is the best time generally for transplanting strawberry plants, yet it often becomes desirable to do the work later in the season. The plants, if set in August, make some growth, and obtain a good foothold before winter. One of the difficulties with transplanting later is the liability to be thrown out by frost. The work will succeed well in September if the following precautions are observed: Procure strong plants of the same season's growth, with abundant roots, and set in a rich deep and mellow soil which has a good surface and bottom drainage; spread the roots out well like an umbrella, which will prevent heaving out better than if crowded together; if the soil is dry, settle it about the roots with water when the hole is partly filled; mulch with manure, and keep the surface well protected with such a mulching in winter, taking care not to cover the crowns of the plants. If the soil is heavy or clayey, make it slightly convex about the plants, and press it firmly with the foot, leaving a smooth surface to throw off the water of rains.

How to Manage Celery.

Set celery in shallow furrows, drawn four feet apart by a light plow. The plants should be six inches apart in the row, and pains should be taken to have the soil pressed firmly about the lower part of the root. If the ground is thoroughly moistened at the time of planting, there is no occasion for shading the plants. All that is necessary in the way of culture for some time after transplanting is to keep the soil well stirred between the rows. When the plants have attained a height of ten to fifteen inches, commence the operation of "earthing up." The soil is first thoroughly hoed upon either side of the rows; then all the leaves of each plant are gathered together held in an upright position, the soil is gradually drawn around it to the height of several inches. The operation is very simple yet, like every other else, requires some experience before it can be skillfully done. In our own practice we have found that three men, or two men and a boy, working together, perform the work in the cheapest and best manner, one man standing upon each side of the row, and with a hoe drawing the earth about the plants, which are held in proper position by the third. As the celery grows, more earth is from time to time drawn up around it. It is not necessary to hoe the plants after the first operation. The precautions are, not to earth up too much at a time, and to be sure that the earth is fine and not lumpy or cloddy. Care should also be exercised to prevent any earth from getting between the stems of outer and inner leaves.

A New Breed of Geese.

A prominent writer in one of the foreign journals devoted to agricultural interests, strongly recommends the introduction of the Japanese goose into poultry yards. From the description given of this breed, it is only reasonable to think that they are as well suited to our wants as to those of our British friends who favor the change. This goose is as nearly beautiful in appearance as it is possible for a goose to be; it is equally at home on land or water, and its movements are graceful and swiftness. They withstand changes of climate even better than our own domesticated geese, and can be kept without shelter even in the most severe winter season. The Japanese geese is much more prolific than the ordinary breeds, and commences laying in mid-winter, rarely showing any inclination to sit before June or July, which of course renders it necessary to hatch their eggs under ordinary parts of some heavy breed. The Geese-China has been found best adapted to this purpose. As regards food, these birds are by no means fastidious, and will eat a wide variety of food, and are as something wonderful to see.

The Maine Best Sugar Co. will put in this year additional machinery, so as to be prepared to work 100 tons of beets per day, during the next manufacturing season.

American and English Farming.

The last number of the London Economist gives an interesting, and, as it would seem, very careful comparison between farming in England and farming in America. In England, one acre yields on an average thirty bushels of wheat, while in America it yields on an average only thirteen. The American farmer must, consequently, cultivate two and a half acres in order to produce the same quantity of wheat as the English farmer raises on one acre. How is it then the paper asks, that the American farmer can, nevertheless, not only compete with the English farmer, but even beat him in his own market? The answer which first presents itself to the question is the enormous difference of rent in England and America, but this difference, as the paper shows, nearly, if not altogether obliterated, by the cost of transportation from the Western fields to the English market. The real advantage which the American farmer has over the English lies in the cheapness of the cultivation. While the American soil needs little, if any manure at all, in order to yield an average harvest year after year, the English farmer must apply a heavy quantity of artificial manure to the soil every year, if he simply expects to have an average yield, and a similar cleanness appears at nearly every point of the cultivation, excepting, perhaps, only that of labor. In the settlements along the Red River in Minnesota, a plow may be run through the soil almost for miles in a straight line without encountering a stone, a tree or a hill, a feature to which England does not offer the faintest approach. So it is with our Canadian prairies of our great Northwest.—Farming and Farm.

Saving Our Own Seed.

It is somewhat trying to the feelings of a tidy farmer to see a thrifty growth of white weed waving luxuriantly over a neighboring tract of mowing ground adjacent to his own, where none was ever known to grow before. Two years ago, this field was seeded to grass without grain, and to-day the ox-eye daisy is as uniformly scattered over the field as the grass itself, although not so thickly as yet. It is impossible that this could have been introduced in this case in any other way than with the grass seed used. It is in just this way that many of our noxious weeds and plants have been scattered far over the land. Now how are we to find a remedy for this? We know of none, in neighborhoods which are free from it, but to entirely eschew the use of seed bought from our markets. This can be done. We can raise our own grass seed cheaper than we can buy it, and know that it is clean from all noxious plants. In an experience of thirty-five years of farming, we have never bought a bushel of grass seed.

Rural Ornamentation.

There is a great deal of truth—truth which our farmers would do well to receive, in what "Thornley," a correspondent of the New England Farmer says on the subject of "Rural Ornamentation":—"Probably no one thing affects more the happiness, or has more influence over the lives of those who live in rural districts, than the degree or character of embellishment with which they surround their dwellings. And yet no subject has greater neglect, or more careless treatment at the hands of those who ought to be most interested in it, than this. Born and reared to a life of toil and labor, apart from the common centres of habitation, and deprived to a large extent of the pleasure derived from an acquaintance with the works and products of art and science, it would seem that country people would naturally imbibe a strong and earnest desire to cultivate the beautiful in nature, and adorn their houses with her ample and pleasing charms. With nature as a guide, and our native taste and ingenuity as aids, great improvements in this line can be accomplished if only the proper interest is taken, and the results of labor necessarily expended, rightly valued.

Dignity of Labor.

The Maine Farmer last week had an article on the "Dignity of Labor," in which the editor vindicates the calling of the farmer, and deplores the general tendency of young men to look down upon manual labor as degrading and to rush into the overstocked, and so called learned and genteel professions. It is a well-worn theme, but the "dignity of labor" cannot well be too persistently insisted upon. It is as we said last week, one of the difficulties of business, that too many men who might make good farmers if they turned their energies in the direction of tilling the soil, prefer trying to make, what they mistakenly suppose to be a more respectable living, by going into trade, into any business in short, on which they can keep white hands, and a ruffled white shirt front. The Farmer says:—"The dignity of labor in any age or in any country, is in exact proportion to the civilization of such age or country. The Greeks and Romans in their palmy days fully recognized the dignity of labor. Their orators, poets, and other great men, or many of them, were practical agriculturists, and by their example and influence stimulated others to engage in like pursuits. But in the long darkness of the Gothic night which followed, war and the chase were regarded as the only pursuits befitting the high born, and during those dark days, agriculture and every other branch of human industry languished. Buttery, rapine and plunder engaged their attention for a part of the time, and during the remainder, the pursuit of a hare or deer with horses, hounds and menials, were the only occupations in which those of "gentle blood" could or would engage. Agriculture was left to the serfs who had few incentives to labor since they could not enjoy the fruits of their toil. But the feudal age with its barbaric pomp and splendor, at length passed away, and the plow, the emblem of peace and plenty, has overturned the mouldering relics of baronial pride. The cultivator of the soil was no longer a beast of burden. By degrees his occupation has advanced from a mere handicraft to a profession, calling for the application of talent and of scientific principles, and now the profession of agriculture stands even with all professions, both in importance and dignity. While great advances in this direction have been made in the old world, and labor is everywhere asserting its dignity and power, there are still certain privileged classes who regard manual labor as degrading. There are still traces of this same absurd and unmanly prejudice in our own country, which we would like to see eradicated. We would like to see professional men and merchants educate their sons to manual labor; to become producers instead of consumers, but how few there are who do it. And we have known instances where the farmers themselves, recalcitrant to the dignity of their calling, have exhibited an itching desire to save their own sons from a life of labor by educating them for some of the so called learned professions.

KILLING COLORADO BEETLES.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says:—

Take a teaspoonful of Paris green and gill of plaster to three gallons of water. My neighbor, who cultivates eighty acres, uses five table-spoonsful of green and a gallon of plaster to a barrel of water. I had seventy-one rows, and treated thirty of them with a table-spoonful of poison in three gallons of water on Saturday. This neighbor sent me word on Sunday to use the plaster. I did so on Monday.

A Dairyman recommends putting down butter in a stone jar and covering with brine. He then puts the jar in a box a little larger than the jar itself, and covered it on all sides with salt an inch or two in thickness. He claims that the butter thus kept is better when six months old than when first put down.

A Jersey cow weighing 800 pounds will give 35 pounds of butter to 100 pounds of live weight; while a Holstein cow, weighing 1300 pounds, will give 26 pounds of butter to 100 pounds of live weight, and 674 pounds of milk to 100 pounds of live weight.—American Agriculturist.

In England, sheep of the Cotswold long-wool breed have been known to reach the enormous weight of eighty-four pounds per quarter, or 306 pounds the carcass, while fleeces weighing above twenty pounds are not uncommon.

Great producing class as a superior or privileged caste; by no manner of means. And in selecting men for office, there is no reason why they should almost invariably be taken from the non-producing class. Why should not the producers who are in the majority select true men from their own class—men on whose honesty and judgment they can safely rely? We need more producers in Congress and more in the State Legislatures. A man brought up on a farm or to a trade, and has had to bestir himself to provide for the wants of a family may perceive more clearly, discriminate more keenly, and seize on the right means more readily and decisively, than he who has accumulated vast stores of book learning without practical experience. Let farmers and farmers' sons only assert and maintain the dignity of their calling, and no man, nor class of men will dare to gainsay it.

How to Top-dress.

The following practical remarks on the best mode of top-dressing are made by a correspondent of the Country Gentleman:—"The common practice is to mow meadows every year without returning any fertilizer until again plowed for a grain crop. Low lands that receive the wash from uplands will endure such usage, but land that is not very rich, and does not receive any wash from other lands, will show signs of weakness after mowing three or four times. Such meadows should receive careful attention, especially if it is desired to keep them permanently in grass, which is often the case. My plan is to top-dress such meadows, or pastures, in this way: If mowed, as soon as the hay crop is removed, I apply good, well rotted yard manure liberally (according to character of soil), and harrow thoroughly with a smoothing harrow. If bare spots occur, I apply seed and harrow it in with the manure. I load the harrow sufficiently to grind the manure finer at every time going over. If the harrow contains the requisite number of teeth, about three strokes will make a good job. I do not stint the manure or seed, as it is repaid in the end. In this way I can nearly or quite hide from view 20 to 30 two-horse loads of manure, and the wonder will be where all has gone. If no smoothing harrow can be obtained, use the common harrow once over, and then use a brush until the manure is ground into the grass roots, and if a heavy roller is at hand, roll down to finish. This will pack the seed and manure firmly into the surface, and when the first showers come the roots of grass will revive, and at every shower after the growth will increase. By winter a good protection will be afforded. The next spring the young grass from seed sown will cover the bare spots of the former year, and a good crop can be relied on. If the land was quite thin when laid out, a repetition of two or three seasons will form a permanent sod and a perfect protection from the sun's heat and from extreme freezing, and the land will rapidly recuperate under this treatment. I know some will say the expense is too great, and too much labor is involved, but it is better than to let the land run down and become worthless. Certain things must be observed to insure success; surplus water must be drawn off entirely. Do not try this plan and condemn it unless the land is dry and kept dry, and if it is mowed set the machine high in mowing, and do not go over with a horse rake more than to rake into windrows. I seldom go over to glean the little left after the first raking. Only on a firm, thick set turf, should a rake be used more than once. The little that is left will pay better by its aid in the protection necessary to the newly bare roots. I have learned many lessons of patience and endurance from doing thorough work in all farm operations, hence I advise my readers not to weary if they would succeed.

The Royal Agricultural Commission.

The Royal Agricultural Commission.—The constitution of the Royal British Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of agricultural depression is not likely to satisfy tenant farmers, however agreeable to landlords? So far as party politics is concerned, the composition of the Commission seems fair enough. The names include some genuine representatives of the agricultural interest, whose services are likely to be valuable, but there is a disappointing omission of the Scotch tenant farmer element. The names of Mr. Barclay and Mr. C.S. Read are conspicuous by their absence; and it is no less disappointing to find that the name of the Marquis of Huntly, who took the initiative in bringing the question before Parliament, has no place in the list of Commissioners. Unless these glaring omissions can yet be remedied, the Commission is by no means likely to have the confidence of tenant farmers, for whose benefit it was ostensibly formed.

We would not create prejudice against the learned professions, nor against any honest calling. The lawyer is a necessary evil as long as vice and wrong doing exist, and the doctor cannot be dispensed with as long as we suffer from the ills to which flesh is heir. The merchant is a co-worker with the farmer and essential to him. What we claim is, that neither the members of the learned professions, nor the merchants, nor any other class, have any claim to a higher social position, than the farmer. They are not to be looked up to by the

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In the general mania to escape a life of manual labor, every profession is overstocked. We have ten times as many lawyers, and ten times as many doctors, and we may add ten times as many ministers as we need, and the various schools are grinding out and adding to this already vast army of idlers, thousands upon thousands every year. The increase of consumers over producers, is one of the principal causes of the late depression in business and consequent hard times. During the flush days thousands left the farms and hurried to the cities with the hope of making rapid fortunes, and perhaps one in a hundred did that, while the ninety and nine failed. An encouraging sign of the times is that these same persons grown wiser from their failures, are going back to the farms. Politics too supports a large number of non-producers, and its every avenue to preferment is choked with eager votaries, nine-tenths of whom must be entirely disappointed, and the fortunate few at the next turn of the political wheel will be cast upon the world, out of business, and with habits formed which would make any kind of manual labor or business disagreeable.

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But the feudal age with its barbaric pomp and splendor, at length passed away, and the plow, the emblem of peace and plenty, has overturned the mouldering relics of baronial pride. The cultivator of the soil was no longer a beast of burden. By degrees his occupation has advanced from a mere handicraft to a profession, calling for the application of talent and of scientific principles, and now the profession of agriculture stands even with all professions, both in importance and dignity. While great advances in this direction have been made in the old world, and labor is everywhere asserting its dignity and power, there are still certain privileged classes who regard manual labor as degrading. There are still traces of this same absurd and unmanly prejudice in our own country, which we would like to see eradicated. We would like to see professional men and merchants educate their sons to manual labor; to become producers instead of consumers, but how few there are who do it. And we have known instances where the farmers themselves, recalcitrant to the dignity of their calling, have exhibited an itching desire to save their own sons from a life of labor by educating them for some of the so called learned professions.

In the general mania to escape a life of manual labor, every profession is overstocked. We have ten times as many lawyers, and ten times as many doctors, and we may add ten times as many ministers as we need, and the various schools are grinding out and adding to this already vast army of idlers, thousands upon thousands every year. The increase of consumers over producers, is one of the principal causes of the late depression in business and consequent hard times. During the flush days thousands left the farms and hurried to the cities with the hope of making rapid fortunes, and perhaps one in a hundred did that, while the ninety and nine failed. An encouraging sign of the times is that these same persons grown wiser from their failures, are going back to the farms. Politics too supports a large number of non-producers, and its every avenue to preferment is choked with eager votaries, nine-tenths of whom must be entirely disappointed, and the fortunate few at the next turn of the political wheel will be cast upon the world, out of business, and with habits formed which would make any kind of manual labor or business disagreeable.

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