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VOL. I.

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Halifax, April 14, 1870.

The Legislature have voted the usual Grant of \$6000 to the Board of Agriculture, and have thereby shown, in a practical way, their determination to support the Agricultural organization as hitherto. This will be a great encouragement to the Agricultural Societies throughout the Province to enter with zeal upon the work of the season. We hear that the subscription list for the Colchester Exhibition already amounts to \$500, and in other Counties, the Societies have been aroused to activity.

S. L. Goodale, Esq., Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, has presented to our Board, through W. Montgomery, Esq., of Halifax, copies of the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Maine Board and of Lectures on Manures.

Business Communications of all kinds, Subscriptions to the *Agricultural Journal*, Lists of Subscribers, &c., are to be sent, in future, to the Secretary of the Board, Prof. LAWSON, Dalhousie College.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA, FOR THE YEAR 1869.

TO THE HON. W. B. VAIL, &c., *Provincial Secretary.*

HALIFAX, 16th March, 1870.

The Board of Agriculture beg to submit their Sixth Annual Report, embracing a statement of their operations during the past year, of the present condition of the various County and District Societies which they have organized throughout the Province, and statistical results of the Harvest.

Since last Report was given in, several changes have occurred in the membership of the Board, which is now composed of the following representatives of the several Rural Districts, in accordance with the terms of the Agricultural Act, viz.:

*Members ex-officio:* Rev. A. S. Hunt, M. A., Superintendent of Education.

J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of the Normal School.

*Members elected by Agricultural Societies.*

*District No. 1.*—City and County of Halifax: The Hon. Sir Wm. Young, Kt., Henry Yeomans, Esq., Vice-President of the Board, William Cunard, Esq., Treasurer, Joseph J. Northup, Esq.

*District No. 2.*—Counties of Kings, Annapolis, and Digby: Dr. C. C. Hamilton, M. D., Cornwallis, Avarad Longley, Esq., Paradise.

*District No. 3.*—Counties of Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and Yarmouth: H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq., Lunenburg, A. C. A. Doane, Esq., Barrington.

*District No. 4.*—Counties of Hants, Colchester and Cumberland: Hon. Alex. Macfarlane, Wallace, President of the Board, Hon. Richard A. McHeffey, M. E. C., Windsor.

*District No. 5.*—Counties of Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough: Hon. John MacKinnon, Antigonish, David Matheson, Esq., Pictou.

*District No. 6.*—Counties of Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness, and Vic-

toria: Henry Davenport, Esq., Sydney, George C. Lawrence, Esq., Port Hood.

Secretary (elected by the Board): George Lawson, LL.D.

The objects and duties of the Board, and the steps successively taken for the purpose of carrying them out, were detailed at length in last Annual Report, to which reference may be made for full information on these points (Journals of House of Assembly, 1869, Appendix No. 24.) Our chief duty is the surveillance of District and County Agricultural Societies. During the past year these have been maintained in about the same state of efficiency as in the previous year. Some Societies have ceased their exertions, and are therefore dropped from the list, but several new ones have been formed to supply the place of such. There is, upon the whole, a slight decrease in the total number of Societies,—there being 43 this year, as compared with 45 last year; but there is a slight increase in the total membership (2,239 this year, as against 2,246 last year), and the amount of subscriptions raised by Societies has not diminished,—the total sum attested as actually paid being \$2,540.50. The total amount of grants voted to Societies this year, in accordance with the terms of the Act, is \$3,001,—the smallest amount since the organization of the present Board. This arises from several counties not having qualified for full participation.

The following table represents the condition of effective Societies from year to year since the organization of the Board in 1864:—

Year	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Amount of Subscriptions	Grants in aid
1st year, 1864.....	37	1744	\$1859.00	\$3010.00
2nd do. 1865.....	43	2198	2384.00	3314.00
3rd do. 1866.....	52	2543	2380.50	3566.00
4th do. 1867.....	58	2833	3051.50	3445.50
5th do. 1868.....	45	2246	2519.75	3232.50
6th do. 1869.....	43	2299	2540.50	3001.00

It will be seen that the Agricultural Societies gradually rose to a maximum, not only in number of Societies, but also in number of members and amount of subscriptions, in the year 1867, at a time when the Board was making large importations of stock. Since then there has been a decrease, and it is obvious

that there is room for a renewed effort on the part of the Board, both to increase the strength of existing Societies and organize new ones in localities where they are required. These Societies, besides importing and maintaining stock in the several localities, occasionally hold Exhibitions. With the view of encouraging County Exhibitions, it has been resolved that where any Society or number of Societies shall throw their prizes open for competition to the whole Province, the Board shall give aid to the extent of 25 per cent. on the Local Prize Fund; provided that such premiums shall not in one year exceed \$1,000 for the whole Province. This arrangement will not affect the customary rateable grants to Agricultural Societies.

The highly satisfactory results obtained from the extensive importation of thorough-bred cattle and sheep have been detailed in previous Reports. The Board were later in obtaining thorough-bred pigs, and the character of these is now being reported upon by the various Societies in a way that causes regret that a larger number had not been imported. The Lower Stewiacke Society characterises the White Chester pigs as a "decided improvement;" "they have given general satisfaction." The Noel and Maitland Society notices the great improvement in pigs that has resulted from the introduction by the Board of White Chesters, which very much exceeded their anticipations. One at eight months old weighed 274 lbs.; one, at nine months, 305 lbs., and another of the same age 336 lbs. The Yarmouth Society reports that their trial "has established the value of this breed, spring pigs having been killed last fall weighing over 300 lbs." The Maxwellton Society (Pictou) reports the Chesters as greatly superior to the native breed in size, fattening qualities, and docility of disposition. Many similar reports have been received from other counties, where the Societies have interested themselves in introducing and maintaining Stock; but in localities where Societies do not exist, it is feared that there is a condition of things similar to that reported by the Pubnico Society, which, having participated in the grant only once during the last ten years, finds that the Stock of its members has become "almost worthless."

The Board observe the recommenda-

tion of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, made in their Report last year, that in future importations of Stock a portion should be sent to Baddeck, as the most central part of Cape Breton, in order that the inhabitants of that Island may have facilities for purchase. The Board are very sensible of the importance of promoting Agricultural improvement in Cape Breton; and should they be placed in a position to make a suitable importation, they will not fail to give due attention to the wishes of the Agricultural Committee.

Whilst the Harvest Returns of the year, appended to this Report, show that the crops of all kinds were unusually heavy (except Fruit and Buckwheat, which failed in some places), it is specially worthy of remark that the grain crops were very encouraging. A larger breadth of wheat had been sown than for many years, chiefly with the Fyfe Spring Wheat and Winter Club Wheat imported by the Board during the two previous years, and the yield, both of Spring and Winter Wheat, is reported by almost every grower as most satisfactory and encouraging.

This result has served to draw the attention of our farmers more seriously than hitherto to wheat culture, and many applications for seed wheat have been received.

This subject engaged the attention of the Board at a Conference recently held with the Agricultural Committee of the House, when it was resolved to import the following quantities of seed grain for the use of our farmers this spring, viz.:

- 300 bushels Fyfe Spring Wheat.
- 100 do. Norway Oats (Ramsdell's).
- 15 do. Surprise Oats.

In regard to the potato, the stimulus given by the Board by the introduction, a few years ago, of the new race of Goodrich seedlings, has had very beneficial effects. These sorts, originally distributed to our farmers in small quantities in paper bags, are now sold in shiploads at the wharves of Halifax,—a testimony at once to their productiveness and the care with which they have been cultivated.

Varieties like the Garnet Chili and Pink Eye Rustycoat that were first shown as curiosities in the Assembly Room in 1865, are now staple articles of food for man and animals throughout the

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 Breesee'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 140 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

in winter, under shelter, it affords comfortable and profitable labour at a time when it is much required. 75 lb. to 100 lb. is deemed a moderate day's work.

**Water Rotting.**—Water Rotting of Hemp is a more tedious and expensive mode, and is well-known by all who have prepared flax by this process; a pool or pond is formed by the side of a stream, and the hemp bundles are immersed, being kept down by poles or otherwise. When the process of rotting is sufficiently advanced, which is known by the fibre separating freely from the stock, the bundles are removed from the pool and dried, and are then ready for the Break. Hemp prepared by this process is superior in colour to the Dew Rotted.

#### DRESSING.

Hemp may be dressed at any Flax Dressing Mill, slackening a little the screws that keep down the upper rollers; or with the common old-fashioned flax break, worked by hand. When "broken" the hemp may be scutched with the flax scutching knives, or revolving pulleys, or with a common hand scutching knife.

The work can be done at less expense by machinery. A Flax Mill is estimated to cost from \$300 to \$350, exclusive of water power,—that is a shaft with two pulleys, one for the break and one for the scutchers, a six-roller break, and two scutching pulleys with five knives on each. Hemp requires less scutching than flax. There is a roof over the machinery, without sides, so as to allow free exit to the dust. On account of the great length of the fibre, which would trail on the ground, it is necessary to have the scutching pulleys raised higher than for flax, the shaft being at least 4 feet from the floor of the mill. The men who scutch stand on stools.

#### MARKETING.

The price of Hemp Fibre, like that of other marketable commodities, depends upon the quality of the article and the state of the market at the time. For the ensuing season, the Dartmouth Rope Work Company consider  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound weight, as the price they can give for *Staple Clean Water Rotted Hemp*, delivered at the Rope Factory, at Dartmouth. Hemp is likewise bought by the Rope Factories at St. John, Quebec, Montreal, and other places.

#### PRIZES OFFERED BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A Prize of \$50 is offered to the person who shall grow the Greatest Acreage of Hemp in the Province during the ensuing season, notice to be given to the Secretary of the Board by intending competitors in time to allow inspection of the standing crop, and not later than the 1st of July, 1870, and a fair sample of

the crop to be sent to the Board not later than the end of September, 1870.

A Prize of \$50 for the best sample of prepared Hemp Fibre, in quantity of ten hundred weight, to be sent to Halifax in time for the half-yearly meeting of the Board in March, 1871.

A Prize of \$10 for the best bushel of Hemp Seed, raised by the competitor in Nova Scotia, and sent to the Board at Halifax not later than the end of Sept., 1870. The fibre and seed will remain the property of competitors, whether successful or not.

The Board of Agriculture having imported a limited quantity of Hemp Seed, persons desirous of entering upon Hemp Culture, experimentally or otherwise, may obtain a supply of seed in bags of about two bushels each at \$5 per bag. One bag is sufficient for an acre.

Applications for Seed may be made to Joseph J. Northup, Esq., or to the Secretary of the Board.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture,  
GEO. LAWSON, Sec'y.  
Halifax, 1st April, 1870.

#### Communications.

#### RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS WITH FYFE WHEAT.

The Board of Agriculture have exerted themselves during the last few years to obtain for our farmers Seed Wheat and other grains adapted for the country, in order, if possible, to encourage the more general culture of Cereals. A gentleman who purchased some of the Fyfe Wheat imported by the Board in 1868, reports as follows. Our correspondent is a well-known gentleman of position and respectability in an Agricultural community, not far from Kentville. We should like to add the weight of his name to the statement, but we find a note at the top of the manuscript, "don't put my name to this." We can only therefore assure our readers that it is thoroughly reliable:—

"We procured 2 bushels of Fyfe Wheat from you in 1868. That spring—if you remember—was remarkably wet, so much so that I could not get the seed in the ground until the 17th of June. The farmers around thought it waste of land and time, but the yield astonished them. We had 38 bushels from the 2, and we kept it all and next year distributed to people whom we knew would give it a fair trial and be careful of it. This last year it produced well, turning out very near a bushel to the stook, the kinds of course were as usual. We made several who got the wheat keep some of it apart to thrash separately, and the result was same as stated above."

#### HEMP CULTURE.

We reprint in the present number, the Circular issued by a Committee of the Board of Agriculture. Copies have been sent to all the Agricultural Societies. In the House of Assembly the members for Lunenburg and some other Counties have interested themselves in the matter, and distributed the Circular among their constituents. Additional copies are being thrown off to meet the demand. We trust the Hon. Mr. Ferguson will excuse the liberty we take with the following private note, which we print by way of suggestion to the Representatives of Agricultural communities:—

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
April 7th, 1870.

Dear Sir,—If you can spare 50 copies or more, of your Circular on "Hemp Culture," it will afford me much pleasure to circulate them among my constituents in Cape Breton. The matter is of great importance and deserves the earnest attention of our farmers, and, indeed, of all classes of our people.

I am, dear sir,  
your obed't. servant,  
JOHN FERGUSON.

#### MOWING MACHINES AND WHERE TO BUY THEM.

BY HENRY E. DECIE, ESQ., WILMOT, ANN.

In the last six years I have had two mowers, one a Buckeye made by Messrs. Harris and Allen, St. Johns, N. B., the other a Junior Ohio made at Hall's Agricultural Implement Factory, Oshawa, Ontario. The Buckeye cost \$90, the Ohio Junior \$80, but the freight being greater on the one than the other, made them cost me about the same. The Buckeye, after four years wear was in such good condition, and known to do such good work that I sold it for \$82. I look upon it as nearly equal to Wood's mower in smooth ground, and superior to it in rough ground. The Ohio Junior I think equal to Wood's in smooth ground and far superior to it in rough. I make the comparison with Wood's mower because a great many have been imported last year at a much higher price than either of the others can be bought for of our own manufacturers, and because the greater part of our mowing lands being rough require a suitable implement. The Junior Ohio I have used for two seasons; in smooth land it shaves the ground. I have worked it on land full of cradle hills, ant hills, mole hills, land full of stumps and stones and large rocks, and in other places intersected with ditches, and where for want of draining the horses sank fetlock deep. I have brought it up all standing scores of times on stumps and stones. I have

dragged it for rods without the wheels turning where I have chocked the knives by cutting off a large sod, and the horses going so quick it took some space to stop them. I have mowed into ditches and out of ditches. I have capsized it many times, and once I turned it completely bottom up, and when I say the breakage during that time amounts to one knife section, nothing more need be said as to material and workmanship. Every machine of course has its advocates, but I should advise any farmer going to purchase to confine himself either to the Buckeye made by Messrs. Harris and Allen, or to the other made at Oshawa; but to this he may make up his mind that if he buys an imported machine not to expect as good material or workmanship as he will get if he buys in the Dominion.

HENRY E. DECIE, *Wilmot.*

EXPERIMENTAL CULTURE OF LUCERNE AT WINDSOR.

BY ALFRED C. THOMAS, ESQ.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your question as to the value, and respecting the cultivation of Lucerne, about three years ago I tried four rows of Lucerne in my garden. When sowing it, an experienced farmer expressed his opinion that it would result in failure, he having previously tried it and found it to be so. He also objected to the mode of cultivation, his being sown broadcast and mine in drills. I did not attempt the cultivation of Lucerne without bestowing a great deal of care and cultivation on the soil, knowing what the nature of the plant is. Hunt in his work on the grasses of North America, says that Lucerne has not hitherto been successfully grown in the United States, but doubts if it has had a fair trial. Mine was sown on a steep hill-side exposed to the coldest winds, and by the side of a strawberry bed; the severe winter of 1869 completely destroyed the strawberry plants but left the Lucerne comparatively uninjured. As to the yield of Lucerne, as far as my experience goes, it fully sustains its good character as a forage plant, the number of cuttings is almost double of what can be got from seed clover, and commence much sooner. Pigs are very fond of it, and I never saw any green food they would eat up quicker or cleaner. It is said that you can grow Lucerne for sixteen years in succession, and follow with two crops of wheat, and anyone who has seen the large development of roots can readily believe it to be so. I will endeavour to send you a specimen. My Lucerne was cultivated as follows:—Land, a wet clay loam, was underdrained and subsoiled to a depth of thirteen inches, then drilled up and dunged in drills, bone dust being sown on the dung,

young plants kept clean first year. I believe Lucerne would be a most valuable forage plant where the house sewage and other liquid manure could be gathered and turned over it, provided the following condition could be fulfilled, that the land should be a calcareous soil or subsoil, the latter being of the most importance, the subsoil should be dried to the depth of at least three feet, and the young plant shall be kept clean the first year; some say Lucerne should always be kept clean. Lucerne is also cultivated broadcast for the sake of economy, and the weeds exterminated by deep harrowing, and from the extraordinary depth of roots, and from the difficulty of digging them up, this method of cleaning appears to be quite practicable, provided the conditions previously spoken of are faithfully carried out.

Yours, very truly,  
ALFRED C. THOMAS.

COST AND PRODUCT OF EIGHT COWS FOR ONE WEEK.

BY HENRY E. DECIE, ESQ., WILMOT, ANN.

Five are six months after calving, two eighteen months, and one to calve in three weeks.

COST.	
3 Bush Barley at 70 cents.....	\$2 80
6 Cwt Hay at 40 cents.....	2 40
56 Bush. Turnips. }	5 36
Their own skim milk }	—
	\$10 56
PRODUCT.	
36 lbs 12 oz Butter sold at 25 cents.....	\$9 16
New milk sold.....	0 90
Used in house.....	0 50
	\$10 56

The cost of the turnips and skim milk having no certain cash value I got by deducting the barley and hay from the products. The cost and products is for an average week. Since the commencement of winter the cows receive their feed nine times daily, commencing at five in the morning and ending at nine at night. Half a bushel turnips each in the morning, same at night. barley meal and skim milk mixed and luke warm, at noon hay, six small feeds just what they eat up clean. They are cleaned out four times a day, kept well bedded, all the cracks closed up, and the shutters tight, so as to keep the stable above freezing.

HENRY E. DECIE, *Wilmot.*

HOW FARMERS MAY BENEFIT EACH OTHER.—PRESERVATION OF UNTHRASHED GRAIN.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.—

SIR,—In these days every profession has some recognized medium of communication. Doctors differ, they discuss their differences either in a medical

journal or in a medical society. Civil Engineers, soldiers, all have their professional meetings, professional journals, in which they chronicle all their discoveries, compare notes, and assist each other in bringing to perfection the crude ideas that, left to one brain, would remain unthought out.

We farmers, on the other hand (in this Province at any rate) live, so to speak, too much in our shells—we meet, ask each other what is doing in the Houses, talk politics, but never hold professional discussions; we take up the agricultural and other papers, to see what the Editor has written or culled for our information, and after running through the columns put the sheet down “nothing in it that concerns us.” Does it never occur to any of us that it is for us, each and all, first, to take an interest in all that pertains to our avocation, and, that once established, we shall feel that everything connected with it concerns us; and second, to show our interest, by each, in his own way endeavouring to improve our system, and as men from all parts cannot constantly meet in person, let them meet by letter in the columns of your Journal, and there exchange their views and experiences. I am convinced that there is a rich mine of wealth of knowledge in the breasts of our farmers; why should each keep to himself what he knows; why not make it common property; let us incite each other to experiment, and let us exchange the results of these experiments—let us keep our eyes open as we walk and work our farms, and let us not hesitate to publish what we see, or think we see; we may get a good deal of chaff but with it comes the rich kernel and we must winnow out the grain.

A short time since, travelling in the Province, I heard the flail going in a barn. I looked in and asked if the mice hadn't done most of that already; the man handed me up some oats, not one touched. “Were there no mice in the barn,” I asked. “Plenty,” was the reply. “Then how came they not to touch the oats?” The answer was a speculation only; but the discovery, if such it be, is too valuable to be passed over in silence. Mr. G——, the owner, when putting his grain into the barn in catching weather, feared it was not dry enough. He therefore scattered through some eight loads which he put in, about a bushel of quick lime,—two more small loads were got in, in better order, and in these, placed at one end of the mow, he put no lime; the oats left unlimed were badly gnawed by the mice—between them and the limed oats a good many mice were found dead, and no sign of a mouse in those where the lime was. Here are facts—we naturally put two and two together—and I make it public, so that we may discuss whether the lime could have



kept away and killed the mice? Whether, if it killed the mice, it would injure the animals feeding on the oats, or spoil the straw for food? Has any one else experience on this subject? If so let him publish it in your *Journal*. None of us need fear the strain on the brain involved in narrating our own experiences and discussing those of others; and we shall certainly, by the benefits we obtain thereby, recoup ourselves the cost of the pen, ink, and paper we use—so that we shall at least lose nothing by such a BOLD step.

The man of science, or even the artisan has more reason to keep his discoveries to himself. If he can simplify a process beyond his neighbours powers, he is thereby enabled to sell his discovery, or to manufacture at an advantage with them and to undersell them. He has good reason for his reticence—not so the farmer. Let him double, quadruple his produce, let all of us do so; if agriculture prospers, the whole country prospers, and by building up the towns in which we buy and sell, we create our own market.

Therefore, for our own advantage, I urge a free discussion on all agricultural questions, and press on all farmers to join in and thus make the *Nova Scotian Journal* the organ of a Mutual Benefit Society.

I remain, &c.,

J. W. L.

#### LUCERNE—HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION.

BY W. BUSTIN, ESQ., CARLETON CLUB FARM.

Carlton, Yarmouth Co., March 28, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—In the present number of the *Journal* I notice an enquiry as to *Lucerne*. I beg to send you the enclosed jottings on the subject; perhaps you may find them suitable for publication. I am, dear sir, yours respectfully, W. BUSTIN.

*Lucerne*, *MEDICAGO SATIVA*.—Has been grown for ages in Spain, Italy, the southern part of France, and the northern shores of the Mediterranean; from the Greeks and Romans we have very particular information of its habits, uses, and cultivation. In the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, where the soil and climate are peculiarly suited to its growth, it is very highly valued. It is also cultivated to some extent in Kent and some of the southern counties of England, but its cultivation generally has been on the decline in the British islands. It was early introduced into the United States, and in 1791 Chancellor Livingston made extensive trial of it, who estimated that it yielded a profit over clover of \$35 per acre, while its relative value was decidedly inferior. The climate of the northern and middle States has proved too rigorous for it.

Under cultivation it attains a height of upwards of two feet. It is thickly covered with leaves, *downy* on the under side. It flowers in June and July. The flowers

are of a fine violet colour tinged with purple. The lighter soils subtended by an open mellow subsoil, are the best suited to its wants; on any other soils it is useless to attempt to cultivate it for profit. It can be sown broadcast in spring with a grain crop, as the other grasses and clovers; but as it does not grow well under the shade of the grain crop, it is better sown alone. The best practice is to sow it in drills, as it is subject to be crowded out by the other grasses and natural plants; and for this reason it ought to be sown in rows in order to allow of their being kept down by the cultivator and hoe. When sown in drills and well cultivated and hoed, its roots may be preserved in the ground for a very long period, but when sown broadcast it seldom lasts more than ten years. Its roots are perennial. When sown in rows, ten pounds of seed is sufficient per acre, but when sown broadcast eighteen or twenty pounds will be required. The soil should be previously well prepared by deep ploughing and sub-soiling, thus the proper place for this crop may be after a crop of potatoes, turnips, carrots, or parsnips, when the land should be *both rich and clean*. In the Channel islands the land is prepared by being trenched as for a garden. The rows or drills should not be over twenty inches apart, which will give ample space for working with the cultivator and hoe. Special care must be taken to keep down all weeds after the seed is sown.

The first year or season when the crop is fully in flower it should be mown, and if the soil is in a dry state, the after shoots may be slightly pastured by sheep, which must not be done too late. As early as possible next spring the crop must be well cultivated and the earth stirred about the roots of the plants. About the end of June or early in July, the crop will be ready for the first cutting; immediately after which it must be again well cultivated and hoed between the rows, when it will grow rapidly and soon be fit to cut again, after which the process of cultivating or hoeing must be repeated and another crop will soon be produced. By proceeding in this way it may be mown three or four, and even five times in a season. It does not arrive at its full growth till the third year, after which time it will yield a heavy return of rich and early forage. It requires to be liberally manured with well-rotted barn-yard manure, ashes, or crushed bones, every second year, the ashes at the rate of fifteen bushels per acre, and the bones at the rate of forty bushels per acre,—which manuring must be done after the last cutting in the fall or early in the spring.

When *Lucerne* is sown broadcast, which is a slovenly practice, it should be well harrowed after each cutting to keep down the weeds, the other treatment as

to manuring being the same as when it is sown in rows.

*Lucerne* is a most wholesome and nutritive forage plant, causing cows fed upon it to yield rich and abundant supplies of milk. It is also well suited to soiling horses or any kind of stock. Its chief value for soiling arises from its being earlier than the clovers. When it is cultivated with care on a small scale, soil and climate being suitable, it will maintain a great number of animals, and thus some have formed an erroneous estimate of its profit for extended cultivation. It must be borne in mind that to be productive it requires a deep rich soil; that it takes three years to arrive at maturity; that it is subject to attacks of insects during its first year; and that it requires a large supply of manure to be applied to the surface to keep it productive, which is a most wasteful way of applying manure. Hence its cultivation is limited in practice to small patches for the supply of early forage in spring, and also to be used as a supplement to pasture and the other forage crops.

This variety, *Medicago sativa*, is the most productive under cultivation; but the *M. falcata* is sometimes cultivated on poorer soils in Switzerland and some parts of Europe. The *M. lupulina*, sometimes called yellow clover from its yellow flowers, is readily eaten as pasture, and may be grown for forage or herbage when the land is only to remain one year in grass.

#### NOVA SCOTIA AS A FARMING COUNTRY.

The following communication contains some remarks that may be read with interest and instruction by many of our readers. It is from a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and therefore the name and residence of the writer are not given. He may not have written for publication; but his remarks bring out two points which have been repeatedly referred to in our columns, (1) that Nova Scotia is a better farming country than is generally believed; and (2) that Nova Scotians are, as a class, poor farmers:—

“I lived seven years in farm service in England, for other six years I followed general farm work and gardening with my father. Since then I have spent some time in Canadas and nine months in the United States, and three years in Nova Scotia, where I hope (D. V.) to make my home for life. I am well pleased with the country, and feel confident that almost everything can be produced here that will grow in England. L. being single and unsettled, I have made but few experiments either in agriculture or horticulture; but I was fully satisfied with the results obtained from such trials as I did make. I expect a brother of mine will be back here ere long, after ransacking the States and Ter-

ritory's almost from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and, having spent nearly four years there, he is become tired of that country, and he has often said he believed if a man could not live in Nova Scotia that he could not live elsewhere. He has experienced greater hardships and privations there (on the Rocky Mountains, Colorado Territory.) than ever he did in Europe or British North America, and he intends to come back here again to settle down also. We think to buy or else to rent a good farm for a while, with a view to purchase, (provided we can find one to suit.) As we understand farming, we do intend in the future to make use of it, feeling assured that farming is at a very low obb in this Province generally, and certain products are imported in large quantities that might be profitably raised here and exported instead."

## THE TOMATO, AND ITS CULTURE.

BY J. PAYNE LOWE, LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY.

This delicious, delicately acid, cooling, healthful, and now almost indispensable fruit, whose hygienic qualities have been tested by the human system (that most perfect of laboratories,) is, by careful culture, being brought to perfection; and instead of coarse, unsightly, spongy, seedy, ill-flavored tomatoes, the desirable qualities of earliness, productiveness, size, solidity, fewness of seeds, evenness of form, richness of flavor, and beauty of color, may be secured.

**HOW TO START THE PLANTS.**—For family use to get early fruit, sow seed from the earliest ripened fruit [in a little box containing 3 or 4 inches of rich soil] any time from the beginning of March till the opening of Spring, and for a late crop sow seed when the Spring opens, in the open ground; plants from the latter will fruit till frost comes, and longer, if protected. Place the little box near a window where the sun can shine on it, in a warm room, of even temperature. Water (with tepid water) once a day. Let the plants have light and sunshine, and all the fresh air they can stand. Ill-grown plants, crowded to suffocation, such as are seen in most dealers' hot-beds, have little value.

**Transplanting.**—When the rough leaves come, transplant into pots, or a box, and do so three or four times, till open ground culture. Water freely each time before transplanting, so that a ball of earth may be removed with each plant.

**Open ground culture.**—Do not plant in the open ground, unless the plants are protected, till all danger of frost is over. They will flourish in a rather light than heavy, and rich, but not over-rich soil. Hoe early and often. Let no weeds grow. Keep the soil friable.

**Pruning.**—The advantages of pruning have been questioned, but my tomatoes grow best when well pruned. Cut out all suckers, and non-bearing branches.

Let in light, air, and sunshine. Most of the fruit grows on the lower part of the vines, and there will be no loss by shortening them; for nutrition will then flow to fruit instead of making fibre.

**Supporting the Vines—Keeping the Fruit Clean—Training.**—It is sometimes thought well, in garden culture, to support the vines by brush or other refuse material, or by training, which may be done by setting poles 12 feet apart,—the tops five feet out of the ground. Attach wires to them horizontally. Thus the fruit may be exposed to the free action of sun and air.

**Varieties.**—After having tried the popular varieties, I grow only LESTER'S PERFECTED TOMATO; and as much mixed and spurious seed has been sold under that name, thus misrepresenting the fruit, the gentleman who introduced it, Mr. Lester grew and gave me a few plants from genuine seed so that this valuable fruit should not be lost or misrepresented. Most of the seed saved has been sold at twenty-five cents a small package, and as I have not enough to make a business of it, though farming for profit as well as pleasure, it is hoped I will not be considered as giving undue importance to the variety spoken of.

## Reports of Agri. Societies.

### WEST CORNWALLIS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting was held on Tuesday, 7th December, and after attending to the business which came before us, we elected George W. Kinsman, *President*; John Power, *Vice do.*; Alfred S. Rand, *Secretary and Treasurer*; William H. Skinner, James Cox, Henry Shaw, Jas. P. Kinsman, Edmund Calkins, *Directors*.

There is a balance in hand of \$35.11.  
ALFRED S. RAND, *Secretary*.

### MAHONE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The officers of the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society are sorry they cannot report much progress, except in the improvement of cattle, which is quite visible. The bull purchased at the Provincial Exhibition last autumn is a very fine animal, and will likely bring good stock. As for other live stock we have not bought any but the lambs, which made a very great improvement. The crops this year have been very superior. The potato crop has not been so good for several years. Some little wheat has been sown, which has done very well. One of our members sowed one peck, which brought six bushels of clean grain. The vegetables were not so good as last year, yet the President raised one Mangle Wurtzel

that weighed fourteen pounds, which will be hard to beat.

B. ZWICKER, *Pres.*  
GEORGE DUNCAN, *Sec'y.*

The following are the Officers for the ensuing year:—*President*, B. Zwicker; *Vice Pres.*, William Kedy; *Treasurer*, Joseph Zwicker; *Secretary*, George Duncan; *Directors*, Jacob Ernst, John Mader, Joseph Mader, Edward James, David Ernst.

Balance in hand, \$100.

GEORGE DUNCAN, *Sec'y.*

### CLYDE RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Officers:—James McKay, *President*; Robt. Sutherland, *Vice do.*; Wm. McKay, *Treas.*; M. G. Henry, *Sec'y.*; Henry Sutherland, Barnabas Crowell, James Gibson, George Thomson, and Gordon McKay, *Directors*.

M. G. HENRY, *Sec'y.*

## ADVERTISEMENTS!

AN INCREASE OF RICH MILK AND BUTTER  
is produced in every case where the

### ARABIAN SPICE

is used. Horses run down and in low condition are soon brought round. Ragged, beggarly looking Sheep are clothed with a fleece of valuable wool in an astonishing short space of time. The squealing Pig soon becomes fat and happy when fed on food seasoned with the Arabian Spice.

The ARABIAN SPICE is warranted to surpass anything yet introduced for Poultry.

Sold in tins 37½ cents and \$1 each.  
Wholesale from WOOLRICH'S English Pharmacy, Upper Water Street, Halifax.

### Ramsdell's Norway Oats!

THE subscribers will supply the above named famous Oat (WARRANTED GENUINE) at prices lower than it can be imported for. Early application must be made as the stock is limited.

Feb. 1870. AVERY, BROWN & CO.

### Grass Seeds! Grass Seeds!

200 Bushels very fine Canadian

### TIMOTHY SEED.

ALSO—NOVA SCOTIAN TIMOTHY and RED CLOVER SEED.

For sale at lowest market rates.

Feb. 1870. AVERY, BROWN & CO.

## EXPECTED!

We are expecting a lot of the renowned

### Early Rose Potatoes,

And will furnish them to Societies and others at low rates.

Feb. 1870. AVERY, BROWN & CO.

### A Thorough-bred Durham Bull Wanted.

ANY Society or individual having a thorough-bred Short Horn Bull to dispose of may find a purchaser by sending pedigree and price to James A. Cox, Brooklyn, West Cornwallis.  
March, 1870.



**C. L. ALLEN & CO.**

Importers and Dealers in

**Japan Lilies, Dutch Bulbs, Hybrid  
Gladiolus and Flower Seeds**Of all kind—Wholesale and Retail. Descriptive  
Catalogues sent free to all applicants. Address,  
C. L. ALLEN & CO.,  
Corner Columbia and Doughty Street.  
April, 1870. Brooklyn, New York.**LOVELL'S****Dominion & Provincial Directories.**

To be Published in October, 1870.

NOTICE.—Learning that my name has been unwarrantably used in connection with Directories now being canvassed in the Provinces, and entirely distinct from my works, and that in other cases it has been stated that my Directories have been abandoned, I would request those desiring to give a preference to my works to see that persons representing themselves as acting for me are furnished with satisfactory credentials.

JOHN LOVELL, Publisher.

Montreal, March 16, 1870.

**LOVELL'S DIRECTORIES.**

IT is intended to make these DIRECTORIES the most complete and correct ever issued on this continent. They are not being prepared by correspondence, but by PERSONAL CANVASS from door to door, of my own Agents, for the requisite information. I have now engaged on the work in the several Provinces Forty men and Twenty horses. These are engaged mainly on the towns and villages off the Railway and Steamboat Routes, important places on the lines being held till the completion of the former, to admit of correction to latest date.

I anticipate issuing, in October next, the CANADIAN DOMINION DIRECTORY, and SIX PROVINCIAL DIRECTORIES, which will prove a correct and full index to the DOMINION OF CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND, and PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and a combined Gazetteer, Directory and Hand Book of the six Provinces.

**SUBSCRIPTION TO DOMINION DIRECTORY:**

Dominion of Canada Subscribers.....	\$12 Cy.
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Montreal, March 16, 1870. April, 1870

**SEED WAREHOUSE,****8 and 10 George Street, Halifax.**

THE Subscribers beg to call the attention of Agricultural Societies, Farmers and Gardeners throughout the Province to their newly imported Stock of

**SEEDS of the growth of 1869,**

Which they have just placed in store in fine order, ex Steamers from Liverpool.

This Stock comprises all the standard and favourite sorts of

**GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS,**Together with a very large supply of **TURNIPS, CARROTS, MANGEL WURZEL, DUTCH and ALSYKE CLOVERS,** and other**Farm Seeds.**

Among the specialties particular attention is invited to

**Carter's Improved Purple Top Swede,** The finest Swedish Turnip in cultivation, very hardy and of choice quality.

Orders from growers and dealers in town and country—or from Societies—will receive prompt and careful attention, and be executed on the most favourable terms.

AVERY, BROWN &amp; CO.,

Seed Merchants,

8 &amp; 10 George Street, Halifax.

Feb. 1870.

**HENRY A. DREER,  
Seedsman & Florist,  
714 CHESTNUT STREET,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.**Fresh and Genuine Vegetable Seeds, Choice  
Flower Seeds, Bulbous Roots, Green-House Plants,  
Roses, &c. April, 1870.**Eggs for Hatching from Pure  
Bred Stock.**VIZ.: Dark Brahma, Light Brahma, Houdan,  
La Fleche, and many other choice kinds, can be  
obtained by addressing, postage paid, Box 116,  
Post Office, Halifax. April, 1870.**FOR SALE.**WHITE AYLESBURG DUCK EGGS, from  
Pure Stock, for hatching. Apply at Box 116 Post  
Office, Halifax. April, 1870.**FOR SALE.**A FINE (year old) HOUDAN COCK, from im-  
ported birds. Apply Box 116, Post Office, Halifax.  
April, 1870.**GREGORY'S****Annual Catalogue of Choice Gar-  
den and Flower Seeds.**

HAVING in former years introduced to the public the Hubbard Squash, American Turban Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Cabbage, Mexican Sweet Corn, Brown's New Dwarf Marrowfat Peas, Boston Curled Lettuce, and other new and valuable vegetables, with the return of another season I am again prepared to supply the public with Vegetable and Flower Seeds of the purest quality. My Annual Catalogue, containing a list not only of all novelties, but also of the standard vegetables of the garden (over one hundred of which are of my own growing) and this season for the first time a carefully selected list of flower seeds will be forwarded gratis to all. Sent without request to my customers of last season. All seed purchased of me I warrant to be fresh and true to name, and that it shall reach the purchaser. Should it fall in either of these respects I will fill the order over without additional charge.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY,

Feb. 1870. Marblehead, Mass.

**SEEDS.****FRESH. 1870. TRUE.****BROWN BROTHERS & CO.**

Offer one of the most complete assortments of Seeds ever brought into Halifax, including

**TIMOTHY, CLOVER,  
MANGEL WURTZEL,  
CARROT, TURNIP**And other **AGRICULTURAL SEEDS** of the most approved sorts, and from the best English, Continental and Domestic growers.

Special inducements to Agricultural Societies and Wholesale Dealers.

**Kitchen Garden Seeds,**

Embracing all the leading varieties and many new sorts offered for the first time in this country.

**250 SORTS FLOWER SEEDS,**

Including the choicest and most expensive standard varieties, and a number of first class novelties.

**Gladiolus and Lillium Bulbs,** Magnificent selections from first class Continental Growers.From their long experience in the Seed Trade, and their intimate acquaintance with the markets and requirements of the country, and especially as they use every effort to ensure *Good Growing Seed*, B. B. & Co. feel confident of their ability to give entire satisfaction to all who may favour them with their patronage.

Catalogues will be ready shortly.

B. B. & Co. **BROWN BROTHERS & CO.**  
Feb. 1870. Ordnance Square, Halifax.

1870.

**NEW SEEDS! TRUE SEEDS!**

Catalogues on application.

TESTIMONIAL.—From Middle River Agricultural Society, to Mr. A. Saunders, Seedsman, 168 Argyle Street, Halifax, N. S.

"The Seeds I had from you for the Middle River Agricultural Society, have, I am happy to say, proved beyond my expectation, and a new supply will be ordered for next season. I am requested to render you the thanks of our Society for your prompt attention to their business."

(Signed,) JOHN McLENNAN,  
Sec'y. Middle River Agricultural Society,  
Victoria Co.**Agricultural & Garden Seeds**

OF ALL THE BEST VARIETIES.

The New Seed Potatoes; Ramsdell's Norway  
Oats; Russian Hemp; Riga Flax, &c.Orders respectfully solicited, and promptly attended to.  
March, 1870.**ALFRED SAUNDERS,**

(Late Secretary Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society, formerly of the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, London),

**SEISMAN,**168 Argyle St., opposite J. Northup & Sons,  
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CALLS particular attention to his newly imported stock of Alsylke and other Clovers, Grass Seeds, Mangles, Swede and other Turnips, Peas, Beans, Vegetable and Flower Seeds, comprising all the most esteemed varieties in cultivation, which he is prepared to sell at the lowest remunerative prices.

Agricultural Societies liberally dealt with, and all orders promptly executed. Descriptive Catalogues on application.

**AGRICULTURAL BONE MILL**

THIS MILL is now in full operation, and large quantities of Bones are offered for sale.

The Mill is under supervision of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and all Bones sold at the establishment are genuine.

**PRICES.**Half inch Bone.....\$24.00 per ton.  
Finely-ground Bone..... 30.00 "

Delivered free of charge, on board the Cars at Richmond Depot.

Purchasers will save trouble by sending their own bags, which, together with orders, may be left at Stanford's Leather Store, 26 Water Street.

JAMES STANFORD.

Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

**FOR SALE.**

A CHESTER WHITE BOAR, of superior stock, full-blood, two years old in May, purchased from the "Maxwelltown Agricultural Society," from imported stock. Parties wishing to purchase had better make application before the 10th day of April. Upset Price, \$30.

JOSEPH McDONALD.

Barney's River, Pictou Co., }  
Feb'y. 25th, 1870. } March, 1870.**The Journal of Agriculture**

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