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NOVA SCOTIA

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

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

VOL. IV.

HALIFAX, N. S., SEPTEMBER, 1883.

No. 37.

HALIFAX, 15th Sep., 1883.

THE *Royal Gazette* announces the appointment by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, of William Jakeman, Esq., V. S., as Provincial Veterinary Surgeon.

THE great Agricultural event of the season is now at hand,—the Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, which will be held at Truro, on Monday to Friday, 24th to 28th September. A correspondent in Truro informs us that, judging from entries already made, the Exhibition is an assured success. Communications should be addressed to E. W. Hamilton, Secretary, Truro. The Railways give Return Tickets for one first class fare.

THE account given from an exchange, in another column, of Dr. Sturtevant's views on the worthlessness of Soil Analysis is a needed caution to farmers, who have been led to suppose that a simple analysis of a pinch of soil by a chemist would tell them everything that was necessary to be known respecting the land of their farm. It is to be kept in view, however, that Dr. Sturtevant's statements relative to the unreliability of soil analysis are true only of analyses that are made without proper care in sampling. There is no insuperable obstacle to obtaining a correct analysis of the average composition of a worked soil, any more than there is to ascertain the composition of a shipload of Superphosphate, or a car load of Silver ore, as is done every day for commercial purposes by careful processes of sampling.

It will not pay a farmer to engage a professional chemist to do work of this kind, merely for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of his fields. But such analyses at Rothamsted have yielded the most brilliant results in scientific investigation.

THE following Circular has been issued to Exhibitors at the Dominion Exhibition, St. John:—

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE,
Halifax, N. S., 11th, Sep., 1883.

You are hereby informed that the exhibits noted on the third page of this Circular have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Board, by whom payment of freight to the Dominion Exhibition at St. John will be arranged. Exhibitors must provide fodder and all other requirements for live stock during transit, and pay the fares of their attendants. All cattle and horses must be securely boxed before being taken to the station, both in going to and returning from the Exhibition, and all Railway regulations and arrangements must be strictly observed.

You will please ascertain beforehand, from the Station Agent at your Station, at what time your exhibits are required to be at the Station for shipment. The arrangements made are such that if exhibits are not shipped by the trains specially intended for them they cannot be sent by subsequent or any other trains, except at the Exhibitor's own expense.

All necessary care and attention must be given by exhibitors to their exhibits

at shipment, and on arrival in St. John, and to live animals during transit.

Exhibits intended to be shown at the Provincial Exhibition, Truro, as well as at St. John, will be carried under the same rules as exhibits going direct, except that they will go a week earlier, and will lie over at Truro for the train arranged to carry them on thence to St. John.

It is hoped that exhibitors will facilitate in every possible way the carrying out of the arrangements made, and give prompt attention to all requirements.

If you have not already forwarded to JULIUS L. INCHES, Secretary, St. John, the required Entry Paper, properly filled up, please do so forthwith.

I have the honor to be,
Your most obt. servant,
GEORGE LAWSON,

Sec'y Central Board Ag. of N. S.

All exhibits will be returned free, subject to Railway arrangements as to time and route.

WE have a letter from Mr. S. Beattie, who has just arrived at Quebec per S. S. "Hanoverian." He sent out from England, a month ago, 80 fine Clydesdale Horses, which are now up the country. He is landing, per "Hanoverian," over 20 Clydes, 50 head of Galloway cattle, some Short Horns, and about 100 sheep, mostly Shropshire Downs. He has also by this shipment 23 Horses and Mares for a company in Indiana. His Galloways are a choice lot, mostly two year old heifers in calf, all pedigreed, and a few bulls. The cattle go into quarantine at

Quebec, the horses and sheep go on to Toronto. The "Hanoverian" left Liverpool on 26th August, had strong head winds, and severe weather, but at intervals it broke up, and eased the horses a good deal. Out of 100 sheep only one was lost, the 47 horses and 58 cattle all reached land in safety without any loss.

We are indebted to Mr. M. G. DeWolfe of Kentville, for the following description of a remarkable plant, *Amorphophallus Rivieri*, which recently flowered with him. We shall have more to say of this plant next month. Mr. DeWolfe kindly sent us the inflorescence :

AMORPHOPHALLUS RIVIERI, a curious ornamental Aroid, and a valuable acquisition, will do to plant out in May. As a pot plant it is very handsome,—from the bulb, or tuber, grows a thick stem about thirty inches high; this throws out a single palmate leaf over two feet in diameter, this leaf is divided into three parts or lobes, and these again are all subdivided. In May last, the plant put out a thick flower stem, just after the leaf had started, the flower stem grew rapidly and a flower similar to that of the *Arum* appeared, only more grotesque looking, and emitting an odor not quite as strong. I can hardly describe the flower, the spathe was longer than that of the calla, and seriated above the cup; the color inside was a rich maroon or dark purple, and the outside was marked and marbled with dull grey and white, and looked like the skin of a snake, the marking on the stem was similar to it; the spadix was large and some three inches above the spathe, and was of a rich maroon shade. As a plant of striking foliage this will prove a popular sort. I wonder it has not been more generally introduced, and found a place among the ornamental foliage plants.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Reports on Nova Scotia Exhibits to Dominion Exhibition.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, }
7th September, 1883. }

Present: David Matheson, Pictou, Chairman; Israel Longworth, Truro; Col. W. E. Starratt, Paradise; C. N. Spratt, Middle Musquodoboit; Prof. Lawson, Secretary. The Hon. Attorney-General White was prevented attending by other engagements.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called chiefly for the purpose of hearing the reports of the several members of the Board upon the Nova Scotian exhibits offered for the approaching Dominion Exhibition, to be held at St. John, commencing 2nd Octo-

ber. The Provincial Government had authorized the Board to pay the freight upon all approved exhibits. The number of exhibits offered is greater than was anticipated, but it is hoped that the rates of freight on the Railways will be such as to enable the Board to carry out the arrangements without greatly exceeding the amount voted. The Secretary was directed to communicate with Mr. Inches, the Secretary of the Exhibition Committee at St. John, with a view to completing arrangements at once with Railways as to rates and mode of payment of freights, so that Nova Scotian exhibitors at the Dominion Exhibition, St. John, who intend to exhibit also at the Provincial Exhibition to be held at Truro during the week previous, may be enabled to make their arrangements in good time. It is to be clearly understood that the Nova Scotia Board does not undertake to pay any expenses whatever except freight. The Railway and steamboat fares of all attendants on live stock and machinery must be paid by the exhibitors themselves. In the case of an exhibitor taking a whole car load of live stock, it is expected the railway will allow a pass to one attendant for the car. Hay, straw and water will be furnished free by the St. John committee while animals are at the exhibition in St. John. Exhibitors must provide their own fodder during transit. All animals must be furnished with proper halters or fastenings. Rams and ram lambs must be securely boxed up before being taken to the station, both in going to and returning from the Exhibition.

All exhibitors must send entry papers of their exhibits properly filled up to Julius L. Inches, Secretary, St. John, not later than 15th September. These forms or entry papers must be filled up by reference to the classification numbers in the prize list. (See rule 5). Prize lists and entry papers may now be obtained on application personally or by post card to Prof. Lawson, Dalhousie College, or Mr. Murray, at the Queen's Printer's Office, Province Building, Halifax.

Exhibitors who have already sent the proper printed forms of entry filled up to Prof. Lawson, will not be required to send duplicates to Mr. Inches, but many of the exhibits of which notification has been received are merely indicated in a vague way without prize list numbers, and such notifications will not be received by the St. John officials. Exhibitors are particularly requested to see that their entries are properly made on the printed form.

The Chairman called for the reports of the several members of the Board who had, as far as practicable, examined the exhibits offered in their respective dis-

tricts; and, in accordance with their reports, the following exhibits were approved of and sanctioned by the Board :

1st District—Counties of Halifax and Lunenburg.—C. N. SPROTT.

Dartmouth Ropework Co., Halifax—A large exhibit of their manufactures; 300 feet floor space.

The Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery (limited)—Sugar, white and yellow, syrups.

The Starr Manufacturing Co. (limited)—Show case containing assortment of Forbes' Patent Acme Club Skates, assortment of shovels, assortment of cut nails in kegs, assortment of wrought iron spikes in kegs; space, 150 square feet.

J. M. DeWolf, 105 Robie St., Halifax—3 carriages and an exhibit of spokes.

Jack & Bell, proprietors of the Chemical Fertilizer Works, Halifax—Exhibit of their manufactures, including ground bones, superphosphate, chemical fertilizer, &c.

B. W. Chipman, Halifax—Polled Angus bull, 2 years, Polled Angus cow and heifer calf.

Prof. Lawson, Lucyfield—Herd of Short Horn cattle, 3 Short Horn bulls.

Miss Lawson, Lucyfield—Aylesbury ducks, Buff Cochon fowls.

Miss J. Wallace Lawson, Lucyfield—Collie dog "Philip Rollo."

Major-General Laurie, Oakfield—Samples of Spring Wheat.

C. N. Spratt, Middle Musquodoboit—Ont. G. Creed, Rawdon—Knitted lace work.

Brown & Webb, Wholesale Druggists, Halifax—Manufactures.

Mrs. L. A. DesBrisay, 44 Hollis Street, Halifax—Engravings.

H. Harris, Halifax—Exhibits in class 30.

Wm. Mason, Sapper, Royal Engineers, Halifax—Pictures.

Members of Agricultural Society, Lunenburg—Squashes and vegetables.

Mrs. Austin, 7 Maynard St., Halifax—Paintings.

Jas. Croskill & Co., Halifax—Syrups, &c.

C. Thomson, 96 Upper Water St., Halifax—Radiating glue, fish meal.

Putner Bros—Cod liver oil and hypophosphites.

Edwin McC. Clay, Emigration Office, Water Street, Halifax, Collie "Louise" and pups.

2nd District—Counties of Kings, Annapolis and Queens—Col. W. E. STARRATT.

Fruit Growers' Association and International Show Society—Exhibits of fruit.

Mrs. Spain, Wilnot, Annapolis Co.—1 herd of Devons, 1 yearling grade Devon heifer, 8 sheep.

Albert Beckwith, Middleton—1 two year grade Durlam fat steer, six grade sheep.

Parker F. Reagh, Prince Albert Street, Annapolis Co.—1 thoroughbred Jersey Bull, 3 years old.

W. E. Starratt, Maple Grove, Annapolis Co.—1 thoroughbred Jersey Bull, 1 year old.

"Victor Draffan," A. J. C. C., Reg'y; 1 thoroughbred Jersey Cow, "Gazelle of Brooklyn," No. 20, N. S., No. 9,812 American Club; 1 thoroughbred yearling Jersey Heifer, "Gazelle of Maple Grove;" 1 thoroughbred Ayrshire bull calf, "Jumbo;" 1 high grade Jersey cow, "Laura;" 1 do 2 years' old Ayrshire heifer, 1 do 2 years' old Jersey heifer "Blanche."

J. Lewis Cox, Canning, King's Co.—1 two years' old Stallion colt, "St. Valentine."

F. W. Rand, Canning, King's Co.—1 pair of fat cattle, 4 years old.

Jonathan Band, Canning, King's Co.—1 pair fat cattle, 4 years old; 1 pair 2 years' old steers, 3 cows, grade 5 years and older; 3 two year old heifers, 2 yearlings, 1 pair steer calves, 1 ram, 2 shearlings, 2 lambs.

Spurr Woodworth, Canning—1 Stallion, 4 years' old, "Frank Rysdick."

C. R. Dickie, Canning—1 carriage horse, 8 years old, subject to approval of Veterinary Inspector (Mr. Jakeman) at Truro.

C. F. Eaton, Canard—1 thoroughbred yearling bull, St. H.; 2 bull calves, 2 three years' old cows, 1 two years' old heifer, 1 heifer calf, 1 grade cow, 1 brood mare and colt.

C. R. Bill, Billtown, Kings Co.—2 stallions. Rev. R. D. Porter, Middleton—Two Short Horn heifer calves.

Rev. J. H. Axford, Cornwallis—Road sulky, drawings.

Byron Chesley, Clarence, Annapolis Co.—Roots, vegetables, fruits.

Robert Marshall, Clarence, Annapolis Co.—Fruit, wheat, potatoes.

John W. Margeson, Kentville—1 pair fat cattle, 6 years old (weight 4,500 lbs.)

Samuel Chipman, Jr., Cornwallis—1 Jersey Bull, Lorne, 26.

Leander Rand, Canning—Orchard fruit.

Burpee Rand, Billtown—Stallion colt, 3 years.

C. S. Crosscup, Granville, Annapolis Co.—Boxes smoked herrings.

C. W. Strong, Lower Canard—Grade Cow.

James Parker Dodge, Middleton—1 pair working Oxen.

Robie Morton, Middleton, Annapolis—Thoroughbred Shropshire sheep, viz., 1 ram, 2 years, 3 ewes, 1 yearling ewe, 1 ewe lamb, 2 ram lambs, 1 yearling ram.

Mrs. Captain Hall, Middleton—Southdown sheep viz., 1 ram, 2 years, 2 ewes, 2 years, 2 yearling ewes, 1 ewe lamb, 1 ram lamb.

F. H. Willett, Tupperville, Annapolis—Poultry, 11 entries, vegetables 1, fruit 8.

3rd District—Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth—C. E. BROWN.

James A. Hatfield, Tusket, Yarmouth Co.—Jersey Bull Dairling, 1,971, A. J. C. C.

Amos B. Brown, Brooklyn, Yarmouth Co.—Jersey Bull Favonius, 5,467, A. J. C. C.

William Dunham, Weymouth—Yoke of Devon Steers, 2 years old, girth 6 feet 1 inch and 6 feet 3 inches.

Samuel Little, Yarmouth—Grade Jersey heifer calf.

Mrs. J. L. R. Webster, Yarmouth—One Lambrequin, specimen embroidery silk on cloth.

Chas. E. Brown, Yarmouth—Jersey Cow Nabritza, 5820 Am. Dropped 25th March, 1877. On August 14th, 1883, Nabritza weighed 1650 lbs.

The exhibits of this District will go by steambot from Yarmouth, under arrangement to be made by Mr. Brown, the member for the District, with whom exhibitors should communicate.

4th District—Hants, Colchester and Cumberland—ISRAEL LONGWORTH.

Mrs. M. Johnson, Falmouth—Knitting and fancy work.

Gates Organ and Piano Co—2 Pianos, 3 Organs.

E. Blanchard, Truro—Jersey cow and calf.

J. D. Ellis, Echo Farm, L. Stewiacke—12 or 15 head of pure bred Shropshire sheep, 4 or 5 head of Oxford Downs.

Prof. Wilson, Falmouth, Windsor—Jersey cow, Signa Debonnaire, 25; Jersey bull, Lord Falmouth, 50; Jersey heifer calf Falmouth Hazel.

Oxford Manufacturing Co—Tweeds, wool and cotton wool, cassimeres, blankets, flannels, shirtings, ladies' dress goods, etc.

C. P. Blanchard, Truro—1 bull, 4 cows, 2 heifers (Ayrshires.)

Athol Agricultural Society—Short Horn bull, Marquis of Lorne.

S. H. Craig, Truro—Ploughs, fowls and vegetables.

R. Bacon, Windsor—6 or 8 sheep (Shropshires.)

Wm. Sharp, Windsor—Stallion Prince Albert.

John McDonald, Shubenacadie—1 trotting Stallion, 4 years and upwards; 1 Stallion colt, for trotting purposes, 2 years old.

J. Lewis & Son, Truro—Lasts, shoe pegs and peg wood.

Mrs. J. M. Johnson, Falmouth—Knitting and fancy work.

Rev. H. How, Newport—Thoroughbred Marc Oakleaf and colt.

A. Wright, Lower Stewiacke—Brood mare and colt.

Lower Stewiacke Agricultural Society—Ayrshire Bull Von Molke.

Dunlap & McKeen, Wallace Bridge—Entire Horse Tiger.

Chas. McLennan, Truro—Exhibit of photographs (25 square feet.)

Alex. Cochran, Newport—2 Stallions. Truro Condensed Milk and Canning Co.—Exhibit of samples of the productions of their factory.

5th District—Pictou, Antigonish, Guysboro—DAVID MATHESON.

James Chisholm, Fisher's Grant—Perchiron Stallion "Havre."

Angus McLeod, Riverside, Middle River—Stallion, 3 years.

John Stewart, New Glasgow—2 ploughs, one with steel, one with iron mountings.

Peter Carroll, Pictou—Trotting stallion "Agitator" for road and carriage purposes.

Acadia Coal Co., Stellarton—J. H. Poole—Steam, stove and gas coal, a How patent culm grate, 7x2 feet, stood on horses 18 in. high.

Intercolonial and Halifax Coal Co.—4x4 feet coal column.

Adam McKeen & Sons, Pictou—Building stone.

W. A. Cameron, Stellarton—Fire bricks of native clay and specimens of native fire clay (Truro.)

F. R. Trotter, Antigonish—Short Horn Bull Lord Randolph.

Chas. A. McLennan, Pictou—Photographs.

Lowrey P. McLennan—Insects, 2 cases 2 feet square.

A. C. Bell, M. P. P.—4 Shropshire sheep, 1 male 3 females; 3 lambs, 2 male, 1 female.

McKay, Graham & Fraser, New Glasgow—3 ploughs. (To be shown also at Truro.)

New Glasgow Agricultural Society—Ayrshire Bull Marquis of Lorne, Polled Angus Bull Jock o' Benton, Jersey Bulls Abdurrahman and Freebooter. A. M. Fraser, Secretary. (Truro.)

J. Y. Crockett, Durham—Gelding for carriage purposes.

Eureka Woollen Mills Co., Pictou, per Isaac A. Grant, V. P.—Cloths, white wool blankets, yarns, 25 pieces colored fancy tweeds, 12 colors of yarn, 10 lbs., (3 ft. by 6, 2 cases.)

Nova Scotia Glass Co., New Glasgow—Their manufactures, pressed table ware, glass lamps, chimneys, 15 barrels.

C. C. Gregory, Antigonish—2 yearling Short Horn bulls, 1 heifer, 2 years.

A. J. Rice, New Glasgow—Photographs, portraits, out-door views, scenery, thoroughbred animals, poultry.

Wm. Norrie, West Branch, River John—Trotting Stallion Frank Allison, Jr.

James Kitchin, River John—Herd Short Horn cattle, herd Jerseys, Durham bull, 2 years; Ayrshire bull, 3 years; 2 Ayrshire bull calves, 1 Durham bull calf, 1 Jersey heifer calf, 1 pair draft horses, &c. (Truro.)

W. Scott Fraser, New Glasgow—Polled Angus cow and calf.

H. Townsend, Brookside, New Glasgow—Herd Jersey cattle, pair Berkshire pigs, Jersey bull Romeo Debonnaire, 3 Jersey heifer calves and bull calf, pair Toulouse geese, pair Scotch collies.

Daniel R. McPherson, McLellan's Brook, Pictou Co.—Devon cow, 6 years, (Truro.)

Isaac Stewart, River John, Pictou—Potato Digger.

6th District—Cape Breton, Inverness, Richmond, Victoria—JOHN McKEEN.

L. A. McEachen, South Whycocowagh—Bull Robin Hood.

The Executive Committee of the Board then had a conference with Mr. Jakeman, Veterinary Surgeon, in reference to his assuming his duties under the arrangements made at meeting of Board on 4th July last, and recommended to the Provincial Government, which were as follows:—

In view of the proposal by the Government to appoint a Veterinary Surgeon under the recommendations of the Board and the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, the Board respectfully recommend that the appointment be made under the following regulations for the present, viz.:

That the veterinary surgeon reside in Halifax, and attend on stated advertised days during the summer season at Truro, New Glasgow, Pictou, Antigonish, Windsor, Kentville, Annapolis, Lunenburg and Yarmouth, and will be expected to treat cases of domestic animals suffering from diseases or accident, or requiring operations performed, at the following modified rates of fees:

Visits, advice and prescription; \$1 for first, and 50 cents for each succeeding visit.

Operations from \$1 to \$5, according to nature and circumstances.

Medicines charged extra at reasonable rates.

To attend cases at places not enumerated at rate of \$5 per full day and actual necessary travelling expenses.

The veterinarian also to be prepared to deliver a few lectures when suitable arrangements can be made.

The Government having approved of the above regulations, the Committee prepared the following programme for September and October.

Mr. Jakoman to be in attendance at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Truro, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 25th and 26th September, and at Windsor, Kentville and Bridgetown on days to be hereafter announced. Arrangements will be made for his attendance at New Glasgow, Antigonish and Pictou, in November.

The Executive Committee of the Board agreed to meet again in Truro during the Provincial Exhibition.

Adjourned.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS, DOMINION EXHIBITION, ST. JOHN.

District No. 1—C. N. SPROTT.
James Lear, N. W. Arm—Crab Apples.
Richard Kaizer, Halifax—Fancy work—Antimacassar.

District No. 2—COL. W. E. STARRATT.
Rev. R. D. Porter, Middleton—2 Short Horn heifer calves.

District No. 3—C. E. BROWN.
Samuel Little, Yarmouth—Grade Jersey heifer calf.

District No. 4—I. LONGWORTH.
J. C. Anderton—Guernsey Bull Gold Dust, 2., Cow Ivy, 5.

John Cox, Windsor—Stallion Harold, for trotting, carriage, or road, 4 years.

W. P. McRobert, Truro—Imported Stallion Potentate, 4 years.

E. C. Cribb, Truro—Stallion Whalebone, 4 years old, to breed horses for carriage or road, subject to inspection by W. Jakeman, Veterinary Surgeon for the Province of Nova Scotia.

Truro Condensed Milk and Canning Co—Samples of their milk preparations.

District No. 5—D. MATHESON.
Isaac Stewart, Pictou—Potato Digger.

REPORTS from Scott's Bay, where Potato Bugs made their appearance last season in sufficient numbers, it was supposed, to seed the whole place for this season, say there is not one to be found this year. This would seem to show that your theory, that they would not flourish in our climate, is likely to prove correct. I observed some time ago that the Board of Agriculture had issued a circular respecting the potato bug, I have not yet seen it, will you please send me one.

Yours,

Cornwallis. C. R. H. S.

SOIL ANALYSIS.

Dr. Sturtivant, at the New York experiment station, has been giving the farmers of that State some figures to show the utter worthlessness of ordinary soil analyses to determine the relative agricultural value of farm lands. Here are some of his figures, which are well worthy the attention of those who have been led to believe that a ten dollar soil analysis would enable one to know just what must be applied to an infertile soil to make it productive, and its cultivation profitable.

The quotation is from Bulletin No. 56 of the Experiment Station.

A cubic foot of soil in the average condition of moisture, weighs from seventy to one hundred pounds. The soil taken ten inches deep from an acre of land would therefore weigh about three million pounds.

For the purpose of analysis, in the ordinary method, about one-tenth of an ounce of this soil would be taken and this represents about 1-480,000,000th part of an acre.

If one ton of superphosphate, containing 10 per cent. of phosphoric acid, were thoroughly mixed with the upper ten inches of an acre we should have added two hundred pounds of phosphoric acid to three million pounds of soil, or one part to fifteen thousand; that is to say, that each fifteen thousand pounds of soil would contain one pound of the added phosphoric acid. As but one-tenth of an ounce of this would be used for analysis, this one-tenth of an ounce would contain but 1-15,000th added parts of phosphoric acid, and this proportion would be represented by the percentage figures .0066, or .000066 of an ounce.

This will be better understood if we repeat that in percentage figures it would require the addition of over three hundred pounds of the superphosphate to the acre to change the third decimal of the analysis by a unit. The corollary of this is that as the chemist rarely works in this class of analysis beyond the second decimal figure, the addition of an ordinary fertilization, or that sufficient to make the difference between a good and bad crop, would not be detected.

We can, moreover, state the practical improbability of taking two samples of soil from two places in the same field which would analyze alike within even the second decimal figure.

In the beginning of the application of science to agriculture, the public attention was strongly attracted by the theory that a chemical analysis of soil was about to offer a sure means of determining definitely the condition and the needs of our soils, and various charlatans disseminated the idea of this possibility for purposes of their own, in order to secure the privilege of prescribing and furnishing the diet required for each field of the farm. Those who should have known better were loth to appear in contradiction, for early science is presumptuous, and, not having as yet determined its strength or its weakness, would attempt, by a single bold and daring effort, work far beyond its capacity.

At the present time it is universally recognized by men of scientific training that the analysis of the soil, for the purpose of the individual farmer, can offer no

solution to the problem of what fertilizer or how much to apply.

While denying that analyses of soils can give us definite information concerning their productiveness, and while asserting that the teachings of experience have shown that in most cases there is no direct relation between the present analysis value of soils and the present agricultural value; or, otherwise expressed, that analyses cannot show with certainty whether or not a soil is in condition to yield a full crop for the time being, yet we would not deny that for the purposes of science such analyses may possibly be of some benefit as offering us a judgment of its general character, the mode of its occurrence, or of injurious substances which at times it may contain. It may also be of avail to indicate to us the changes produced in the soil through the agencies included in the word cultivation.

THE reported losses of 3, 4, or 5 per cent. of cattle brand during winter storms is thankfully received by the Eastern owners. It does not represent a large loss of money. I do not believe that there has ever been a herd of cattle wintered on the plains, where no provision was made for food for them, that did not lose much more than the reported loss. I speak of stock cattle, not of bands of picked steers; and I would not believe the reports if all the cruel men who insure cattle on the range lying between the Rio Grande and Saskatchewan rivers swore to them. I have known entire herds to be lost. Of one herd of 1,000 heaves, not a single animal survived the winter of 1871 and 1872, in Kansas. No herd that I know of lost less than 33 per cent., and the majority of stockmen lost over 76 per cent. during that cold winter. In the spring of 1880 I saw thousands of dead cattle and sheep lying on the banks of the Arkansas river. The number of cattle lost during the winter of 1880 was enormous; and the suffering of the cattle that preceded that loss, what of that?

No man of sensibility could possibly enjoy money earned by the sufferings of dumb animals committed to his care. Ownership of cattle implies more than the pocketing of the profits of a herd. It implies, imperatively implies, protective care of the animals.

I have seen cattle during cold spells, when the life-sustaining water was ice-bound, gather around their accustomed watering-places and moan for a drink. Some of these thirsty cattle, that were too weak to hunt for running water, would stupidly stand around the frozen pools until they fell and died from inflammation of the stomach. I have opened some of these cattle, and in all cases found the contents of their stomachs

highly inflamed. The sufferings these poor creatures endured before death relieved them must have been frightful. They were crazy with pain. As long as they had sufficient strength to stand they attacked every man who ventured near them.

I have seen cows so weak that they staggered as they walked, give birth to calves in the most sheltered spots they could, in their weak condition, find. After the exhaustion of labor they arose and lovingly licked their offspring dry. This act performed they braced themselves and coaxed the calf to nurse. Then, lying down, reaction occurred. The first flush of maternity had passed, and they were unable to again rise. The starving calves bleated pitifully around their dying mothers. In answer to the calls of their young, the dams repeatedly endeavored to rise. They were so weak that when they were partially up they pitched forward on their head. They struggled and struggled until their chins and fore-knees were skinned. They died trying to perform their duty. The brutes who live in log cabins that stand by the banks of creeks that flow through the plains did not perform theirs. They regret the loss of money that represented the value of the cow. That was all.

Is it a matter of surprise that cow-boys are cruel and brutal? It is but a step from cruelty to dumb animals to murderous brutality toward unresisting, because surprised, men.

I think I hear it exclaimed that gentlemen who are noted for their humanity engage in breeding cattle on the plains. Do they? A man who deliberately abuses cattle, who buys a brand with avowed intention of allowing a portion to starve, because it is cheaper to lose some than to feed all; who, for the sake of a pecuniary gain, premeditates a murderous act of cruelty toward unresisting animals, may have the manner and speech of a gentleman, but a humane gentleman he is not.—*Frank Wilkison in National Farmer.*

THE SEASON AND CROPS IN MANITOBA.

Mr. Burrows, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, has issued a Crop Bulletin, based on statistics of 363 Townships, showing the condition of crops on 1st August, from which we extract the following:—

THE WEATHER

During the month of June and the early part of July, was unfavorable for the production of a bountiful harvest. During June but little rain fell, the crops suffered severely during the continued dry weather, and serious results were entertained in a great many places. On

the 11th, 12th and 13th of July the Province was visited with heavy rain, which served to relieve the minds of the farmers to a large extent. Several refreshing rains fell during the remaining days of July helping forward the growth of the crops to a large extent. The dry weather of the early part of June stunted the growth of nearly all crops to such an extent that the rainfall in July had not the power of producing the effects which more abundant rains during June would have done, consequently the reports from the several townships, though eminently satisfactory, are not so flattering as they would otherwise have been. Hay, grain and roots suffered alike from the drouth, but no cases of absolute failure are reported.

THE RAINFALL

for June and July was very evenly distributed throughout the Province, both as regards the quantity and the dates of falling. A few light frosts are reported in the early part of June, which affected to a certain extent the late oats and barley and also roots, which appear to have suffered to the largest extent. It is gratifying now, however, to learn that the root crops have revived remarkably well and a heavy crop is looked for.

HAYING.

July was very favorable for haymaking, the weather being remarkably dry and steady, and the temperature all that could be desired. The crop has been saved in excellent condition. The dry weather of June certainly affected the yield of Timothy, and it is generally reported light, but the quality is spoken of as good. A great many correspondents find it difficult to estimate the average tonnage per acre of native hay, as farmers this season had to procure a larger proportion of their hay than usual from the lower and damper localities, and were only able to cut it in spots, so that no fixed average can be definitely given. So far as reported, however, the result give an average of 1.80 tons per acre. The tonnage reported saved to July 31st is 72,358 tons, the aggregate yield for the season being estimated at 214,813 tons, an increase of 2.5 per cent. over that saved in 1882. Haying began very generally in the third week in July, the average date being the 20th of July. In several localities the crop had not been fully gathered, and reports all speak of there being an abundance for all purposes.

CULTIVATED GRASSES AND CLOVER.

With the exception of timothy, there does not appear to be a large area covered with cultivated grasses or clovers. Timothy seems to be sown pretty generally in small quantities throughout the whole Province, but the acreage is given by only a small proportion of the correspondents. The total area reported under

timothy is 3,375 acres. The quality is in every case reported "good." The dry weather in June affected the growth very materially, and the average yield per acre is consequently small, ranging from one to two tons per acre on low, damp land. The crop has been saved in good condition, the weather having been favorable during the greater part of the haying season. In clover but a few acres are reported, although it is grown in many localities. The quality is estimated good but the yield is light. The varieties are red, white and alsike. Some forty acres of Hungarian grass are reported, and the yield is all that could be desired. A few acres of millet are reported from township 1, range 28 west, and is pronounced good, with prospects of a very large yield. In the case of timothy, much has been grown for three and four years, but the bulk has been sown in 1881 and 1882. Clover and the other grasses do not appear to have been tried earlier than the spring of 1882. In a number of cases the native hay is reported as springing up and choking the grasses sown this last spring, causing the crop to be much lighter. Wild buckwheat, too, appears to be a hinderance, it having made its appearance in several places.

HARVEST.

Barley harvesting generally commenced during the first week in August, and in a few days the wheat and oat harvests will be general throughout the Province, the average date of commencement mentioned by correspondents being Monday August 20th. Generally speaking the harvest will be a little later than usual, the earliest dates being in the western portions of the Province. A few weeks will, therefore, produce practical proof of the result, which, with average weather during harvest, promises to be of a most satisfactory character, both as to yield and quality of grain.

WHEAT.

The aggregate acreage reported is 203,255 acres. The grand aggregate should amount to over 250,000, promising an average yield of 2550 bushels per acre. To estimate the aggregate yield 25 bushels is a perfectly safe figure, which will make the product of the quarter of a million acres under wheat, 6,250,000 bushels, of which probably 2,500,000 bushels will be available for export. No complaints have been made of any pests having attacked the grain, or of its being anything but good. A few farmers were unfortunate enough to have sown some bad seed, which either did not come up, or, after coming up, had to be reploughed and sown with other grain. The prospects of a large wheat harvest are very assuring throughout the whole Province, as the reports "average," "fair average," "good average," and "over average" are

almost universal. Certainly some reports give "below average," and "rather under average," but the number is very small. The yield of straw will be very light on account of the dry weather in June. With favorable weather for harvesting, the crop must certainly be a satisfactory one to the farming community.

BARLEY.

Fifty-three correspondents have given the probable yield making an average of 35 bushels. This, however, is not given as an average for the Province. Harvesting had in a few cases begun at the date of the returns and the condition of the weather since has been favorable for securing the grain in a good condition. The straw will be short, but the quality is expected to be good, if not brought too soon to maturity by steady and very warm weather. The barley harvest is not likely to crowd closely on that of wheat, and every attention can therefore be given to securing it. Prospects point to an encouraging yield in barley, and, should farmers properly secure it, the returns will no doubt be large and remunerative.

OATS.

Reports have been received from 355 Townships, giving a grand total of 168,687 acres. Late sown oats in some localities suffered from frosts and the dry weather of June setting in soon after affected the growth very materially. The straw is generally spoken of as being short and in a number of cases the crop is reported light but from over sixty reports probable averages are given varying from 35 to 75 bushels per acre. As the crop was late in several cases in being sown, it is rather early to estimate with any degree of accuracy what the average will be, and the above only represents but a small proportion of the Townships. In a number of localities oats are reported as "being good" and a "full average expected" but the bulk of the returns speak of a falling off from the average.

The oat harvest will be later than usual this season. Those fields which were sown earliest are the best, having escaped the frosts of early June, and being better able to stand the dry weather later on. No injury is reported other than early frosts. The past week or two have been favorable for filling, and the prospects point to a good fair average crop throughout the Province. Should the weather continue favorable for harvesting the returns will no doubt be very profitable and encouraging.

PEAS.

Reports say very little of either the condition or prospects of peas in the Province. They appear, however, to be pretty generally sown, but in very small areas, the total acreage being but 1,131, an increase of 46 per cent. over that of

last year. Mention is made in three cases only of probable averages, which vary from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels per acre. They appear to have escaped the June frosts, and no pests are reported as having interfered with them. The few reports to hand all speak favorably, and a good crop is looked forward to.

POTATOES.

Reports have been received from 310 correspondents on the potato crop. The total area planted with potatoes is 11,892 acres, showing an increase of 51 per cent. over 1882. The early frosts interfered somewhat with the potato as well as a certain kind of grub, but reports speak of the crop as having recovered largely from the effects of both. The want of rain in June was severely felt but the rains of July appear to have done a great deal towards remedying the want. An average crop is spoken of by a few, while the majority of reports place the results above an average, and one enthusiastic reporter speaks of the yield as "unlimited." Very much depends on the character of the season yet to follow, but with average weather the crop will, no doubt, be a very abundant one.

ROOTS

are reported generally from all parts of the Province, but appear to be more confined to gardens than to fields. The varieties, too, are not large, comprising turnips and mangolds principally. The area reported sown is 3,188 acres, being an increase of 35 per cent. over 1882. The dry weather of June appears to have had a very marked effect on roots, as they are reported a total failure, from a few places, through the drought. They do not appear to have suffered to any extent worth mentioning from flies or grubs. The majority of reports speak of them as "average," while others say "good," and "fair."

FLAX.

The total area under crop with flax is 10,816 acres, of which 10,007 acres are reported from the Mennonite reserve. The increase in acreage shows 37 per cent. over that of 1882, but further nothing is said respecting its quality, condition or probable return.

BEANS.

The area sown with beans amounts to 222 acres, and is reported from almost every part of the Province. They appear to be sown to the extent of 27 per cent. over that of 1882.

CORN

is not extensively cultivated, the total area being but 144 acres. It appears to be growing somewhat in favor, however, as it shows an increase of 25 per cent. over 1882. Very little can be gleaned from the reports respecting it. It ap-

pears to have largely escaped the early frosts of June, and the comparatively dry weather since must have been in its favor.

RYE.

The area under this cereal is 1,507 acres, of which 1,500 acres are reported from the Mennonite Reserve. There appears to be no increase in the acreage over that of 1882.

BUCKWHEAT.

But 18 acres of buckwheat are reported, scattered over several points in the Province.

BREAKING.

The average date when new ploughing began throughout the Province was the 15th day of May, and the average when it generally ended was the 15th day of July. The total area of prairie broken for the first time this year is 99,911 acres, being an increase of 36 per cent. over that of 1882. Increased acreage in breaking is reported from almost every township, and although it was still going on in several places at the date of the reports, in the very large majority of places it was stopped by the ground being too dry. No doubt the dry weather interfered to a large extent with the farmers in a great many places in this respect and although a very large amount has certainly been broken, it would have been much larger had suitable weather prevailed.

LIVE STOCK.

From several townships no replies have been received in answer to questions as to the quantity of live stock. The total numbers received are horses 14,181, cattle 20,656, sheep 3,943 and pigs, 26,105. These figures are much below the actual totals and do not include the cities and towns. A statement of the numbers reported by the assessors will be included in the next bulletin.

In the report of the live stock classes at the "Royal" show at Reading, in the Royal Society's own *Journal*, the writer took occasion to point out that, in a beef-loving country, as this is, there might very easily be an excess of Jersey bulls in use, because all steers bred from them would average 10 to 20 stones of beef per head, at 2 years old, below what steers would yield which were begotten by bulls of any of the English beef breeds. It would seem from the following (which comes from the June number of the *Practical Farmer*, published in Philadelphia, U. S. A.,) that in America—the great country for trying all experiments—the difficulty suggested in an English journal as possible has already come to pass:—

"There was never before known such a scarcity of live stock as now exists in this part of Southern Old. Scarcely a

farmer can be found who is not inquiring for cattle; and the few that are for sale are held at prices which are simply preposterous. In consequence of this scarcity, much of the fodder on hand this spring remains unconsumed, and any amount of hay will be summered over. There is, perhaps, as much old hay on hand now as was raised in 1881; and pastures are too rank in growth to be good grazing.

Now one cause of this condition of things is the Jersey infatuation. The demand for cows of this strain has become so general, that Jersey bulls have almost a clear field. As no one wishes to raise steers of this kind, the male calves are slaughtered at the earliest possible moment. Every butcher's wagon passing by is crammed full of them; and the stock supply is thus daily growing less. Fully 100 per cent. more cattle are needed in this county to stock it properly than are now held, and neither calves nor cattle are in sight nor in prospect. The curious feature of the situation is that while cows are high and stock cattle out of reach, butter in the local markets is a drug. Except to regular customers it goes begging in the market at 12½ cts. per lb. If the calves produced were worth raising, this state of affairs would not have come about, for any one can see that it is more profitable to feed milk to calves, and much less trouble than to work it into butter at 15 cts. per lb.

If it were a settled matter that the "little Jerseys" are more profitable as butter-makers than larger breeds, it would still be clear that this part of the country at least has too many of them. Butter is overdone, while the pastures are in danger of growing up to weeds. The question is whether it is profitable to stock the country with a breed of cattle designed only to produce cows; and the relative price of cattle and butter certainly compels a negative reply.

So long as a heifer calf will sell for 25 dol., or a cow at the usual fancy price, of course there are some who will continue to breed for the market. It will be the business of this class to display their wares and sound the praises of their favourite, just as it was the business of a certain class in ancient days to lift up their voices in behalf of the great Diana of the Ephesians. A breed which is worthless for one of the chief ends of stock raising, should have an unquestionable pre-eminence in the direction of its superiority, and it should be bred solely with reference to that end.

The Jersey no doubt has its place, but the verdict of those who have given the matter attention is, that it is not adapted to every-day use; even native stock is in many respects preferable. But the Jersey

fashion has been contagious, and like the influence of fashion generally, it has had an unreasoning sway. The reaction has been slow in setting in, but butter at 12 cts. and calves at 10 dol. is an argument which fashion cannot rebut.—*James L. Taylor, Scitua Co., U. S. A., in the Agricultural Gazette.*

CARE OF HORSES.

Successful farming is next to impossible with the use of inferior horses. Even when the best animals are secured skill and care are required to maintain them in proper working condition. Inefficient team help increases the cost of almost every farm operation, and makes high-priced labor expensive by diminishing its effectiveness. With careful but liberal feeding, and thorough grooming, a good team of horses should thrive even after performing a good day's work every working day in the year. In some avocations men work every day through the year with the exception of Sundays, and, though this may not be the best practice for men and women, yet it is because of a finer nervous organization, which is not presumed to be an impediment in case of the average work horse. Muscular weariness alone is relieved by regular rest at night, and also that of one day in seven set apart for that wise purpose. In the care of the horse, if the grooming be faithfully performed, it goes far towards resting the tired muscles after a hard day's work. We have in mind a most careful horse owner, who is accustomed every night to thoroughly rub and brush the wearied muscles of his team of horses. From the fresh and lively appearance of his horses and their disposition to work, we fancy this grooming is quite as important a factor in the well-being of his team as the grain which is fed to them. These horses have not yet been fed heavily, yet, from spring until fall, working every day except Sundays, the team continues to improve.

The mistake commonly made by farmers is in giving their horses too little grain in winter, or when not working, and then overloading the animals' stomachs when heavy work has to be accomplished. Grain thus fed not only fails to strengthen but also absolutely weakens. It is really a tax on the digestive organs, to which they are not accustomed, and are therefore unable to bear. Every person knows, or lucky indeed is he who does not, the sudden weakness which almost invariably accompanies any derangement of the digestive organs. The same is true in case of a horse, and such a derangement generally follows any sudden increase in food just as hard work begins. In fact, sudden changes of food in kind as well as in

amount should as far as possible be avoided.

A certain but moderate proportion of green food should form part of the daily ration for horses in winter as well as summer. At no time, however, should a working team be allowed to fill itself with grass to the exclusion of more substantial food. One feed of carrots daily through the winter is better with two feeds of grain than the feeding exclusively of grain rations morning, noon and night, without the roots. In a limited extent as an auxiliary feed carrots are worth as much for horses as oats, and more than corn. This latter grain, so well adapted for nearly every other purpose, is not well adapted to horse feeding. Some horses can consume corn without bad results, and it is a good sign for a horse that can, since it shows his digestive apparatus to be in excellent order. But, as a rule, a horse corn fed will not be able to do as much work as if given oats. When the corn does not cause colic, it may be given before hard work begins, but after that the oats are worth as much per bushel as the corn, though it takes only thirty-two pounds of oats to make a bushel and fifty-eight or sixty of corn. In hot weather the oil and starch in the corn are worse than wasted. The poor animal is hot enough already, and he needs strengthening, not heating food. We are aware that many heavy, slow-moving city draw and truck horses are fed a large proportion of meal, yet this does not change our opinion of its comparative value.

After spring plowing and planting are finished, it is the habit of many farmers to allow their horses to run down, to give them less care and little or no grain, not infrequently turning the team out to grass until heavier work is resumed. There are many excuses given by the average farmer for following this practice, yet there are many solid reasons for its discontinuance. Keeping a team on grain is expensive, especially if the home supply runs out, as is often the case after a hard spring's work. The feed, however, need not be so heavy during the summer, yet a few oats or a little mill feed should be given daily. If hay runs short cut clover, or the richer grasses by the roadside, let it cure in the sun and be drawn to the barn. The feeding of this cured clover and grass will be a change that the horses will appreciate, and such a feed will not work the injury sure to be occasioned through turning them out to fresh green grass. Occasionally a city horse is sent to the country to spend the summer. When he arrives his flesh is firm and his muscles are strong, yet after a few weeks on grass he becomes, unless judiciously fed, weak and flabby, and it requires several months of careful feeding

and grooming to restore him to good working condition. Yet this is the same experience to which many thousand farmers unwittingly subject their farm horses after working them steadily through the spring, and getting them in just the trim to continue hard work daily without injury, so long as well fed and cared for. It is with horses as with most other specimens of animate nature, it is better and cheaper to maintain them in good condition rather than to attempt restoration after derangement has been caused through bad management. — *American Cultivator*.

GRASS OR CULTIVATION FOR ORCHARDS.

—If fruit trees after they have attained a size sufficiently large for bearing fruit can be made to do as well in grass as when cultivated it is obvious that it will be much less expense to seed to grass and save the cost of cultivation. But that would not be all the advantage obtained. It is well known that cultivation is likely to injure many of the large roots of the trees. This is the greatest objection to cultivating among large trees. It is desirable that the roots should penetrate the soil near the surface in all directions, since the surface soil is the richest; but if cultivation is practised the roots which approach the surface are continually torn and injured and kept from approaching the surface. If the soil is cultivated among large trees the cultivation should be very shallow so as to injure the roots as little as possible. By frequent top dressing with fertilizers it is believed that the trees will do equally as well in grass as when cultivated. Pasturing sheep or pigs in the orchard is a good method of disposing of what grass grows, and enriching the soil. The pigs and sheep will also eat that fruit which falls prematurely, and they destroy the larva of the codling moth contained in it. If, however, the grass is allowed to grow it is best to cut it two or three times during the summer and let it remain on the ground to mulch and enrich the soil. In regard to whether to cultivate an orchard or not it may be said that if the trees are young they should be cultivated to promote their growth, but if the trees are large they need not be cultivated, but may be seeded to grass and top dressed. — *Correspondence Practical Farmer*.

A PROMINENT New York farmer, whose crops are proverbial for their abundance, uses no other fertilizer than land plaster and clover. His plan is to sow clover, plaster it so as to secure a rank growth and turn under for his other crops, wheat included. He has kept up this plan for over fifty years, and claims that his farm is growing more valuable each year. — *New York Herald*.

WHY DO ANIMALS NEED SALT?—Professor James E. Johnson, of Scotland, says:—"Upwards of half the saline matter of blood (fifty-seven per cent) consists of common salt, and this is partly discharged every day through the skin and kidneys. The necessity of continued supplies of it to the healthy body becomes sufficiently obvious. The bile also contains soda (one of the ingredients of salt) as a special and indispensable constituent, and so do all the cartilages of the body. Stint the supply of salt, therefore, and neither will the bile be able properly to assist digestion, nor the cartilage to be built up again as fast as it naturally wastes. It is better to place salt where stock can have free access to it than to give it occasionally in large quantities. They will help themselves to what they need if allowed to do so at pleasure; otherwise, when they become "salt hungry," they may take more than is wholesome."—*Empire State Agriculturist*.

Advertisements.

Resolution of Provincial Board of Agriculture, 3rd March, 1882.

"No advertisements, except official notices from recognized Agricultural Societies, shall be inserted in the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE in future, unless PREPAID at rate of 50 cents each insertion for advertisements not exceeding ten lines, and five cents for each additional line."

DOMINION EXHIBITION, 1883,

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

Opening 2nd October, 1883.

ARRANGEMENTS having been made by the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia to defray the expense of transit of all approved Live Stock and other Exhibits from Nova Scotia so far as the same is not met by the New Brunswick Government, Notice is Hereby Given that persons desirous of exhibiting on such terms are required to send to Prof. Lawson, Halifax, NOT LATER THAN 15th AUGUST, a list of their proposed Exhibits, in order that the same may be examined by Members of the Central Board of Agriculture, with a view to approval and sanction. Intending Exhibitors will state whether any, and, if so, what portion of their Exhibits will be shown previously at the Provincial Exhibition at Truro.

Animals and other Exhibits not approved of and sanctioned by the Board will not be carried at the Government expense.

The decisions of the Board will be made known as early as possible, and in time to enable Exhibitors to make their entries with Mr. Inches, the Secretary, in St. John, by 15th September, in accordance with Rule 5 of Dominion Exhibition Regulations. The Nova Scotia Government and Board assume no responsibility beyond assisting in defraying expense of carriage and facilitating the transit of Exhibits, Exhibitors being required to take the necessary charge of their own animals and other exhibits as usual.

By order of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

GEORGE LAWSON, Secretary.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

W. JAEGER, Provincial Veterinary Surgeon, will attend at Prince of Wales Hotel, Truro, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 25th and 26th September, and will be prepared to treat cases of Domestic Animals suffering from Disease or Accident, or requiring operations performed.

Scale of Fees (modified under arrangement with Board):—
Visits, advice and prescription, \$1 for first and 50 cents for each succeeding visit. Medicines extra at reasonable rates.

Operations from \$1 up to \$5, according to nature and circumstances.

When called specially to a distance at places or times not advertized, the charge will be \$5 per full day, and actual necessary travelling expenses.

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