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THE SEASON AND THE CROPS.

Now that farm operations have commenced and the crops are beginning to show, we hope our correspondents throughout the country will favor us with frequent communications, as formerly, on the PROGRESS OF THE SEASON and STATE OF THE CROPS. In Halifax Co. clover and timothy began to grow on 5th April this year (four days later than last year); red robins were abundant on 6th April; the camberwell beauty and sying beetles were abroad on the 7th, which was a warm sunny day; Mayflower in blossom on 11th April; frost out of ground on the 13th; fields and pastures green, in some places, on the 14th (they were green on the 8th last year); frogs were seen in the pools on the 14th, and a snake in the grass about the same time—but frogs had been heard before that date, probably not much later than the 7th, which was the day last year. There was a fall of snow on the 15th, and changeable weather thereafter, cold and raw, to the end of the month. May-day was fine but cold. On 2nd May a north-east snow storm, on a small scale, whitened the hills for a night. Since then, up to the end of May, the weather has been, upon the

whole, cold, dull and wet, with occasional fine days. The ground is, in fact, too wet for ploughing or sowing, and potato planting has been completely stopped.—Those who have been setting out fruit trees and bushes, as well as ornamental trees, will find the season a very favorable one for such operations; but for general farming operations we want dry weather at this time of year.

In Halifax county, at the present time, (end of May,) the apple and plum trees are coming into leaf. In the warm valley of Kings' county we are informed that the cherries and plums are already in blossom, and that the apple bloom is beginning to appear. We do not like to record such things on hearsay, for we were told in the newspapers that the apple trees of Kings' county were leafing out in the middle of April; and then we had from the same sources of information a snow storm whitening the hills of Kings' in the middle of May. A carefully kept record of natural phenomena in Kings' county, for a single season, would supply the means of estimating precisely the number of days in which crops, &c., are in advance there, as compared with Halifax.

In Canada the spring was dry, but no

doubt there has been wet weather enough there ere now. In England there has likewise been warm weather.

Iceland letters tell of unusually great quantities of ice in the northern regions, and weather prophets foretell a cold summer to all countries bordering on the North Atlantic.

THE HORSES ON THEIR TRAVELS.

The Board of Agriculture, after much consideration, determined on the following arrangement for the ENGLISH BLOOD-HORSES imported last year. "Somersault" has been sent to Cape Breton; "Lassitude" (a young horse) to Cumberland; "Annfield" to travel through Hants, King's County and Annapolis—(Digby being likewise provided for); and "Aracau" is to serve the counties of Antigonishe and Guysboro'. The pedigrees of the horses will be found in the Journal for October, 1865. The greatest care has been exercised in selecting competent grooms, and it is hoped that the farmers, and others, in the different districts, will give them every assistance and facility that may be required.

EARLY SPRING GRASSES.

The EARLY SPRING GRASSES have hitherto occupied very little attention in this Province.

Nova Scotia is obviously well suited as a grazing country. The one drawback under which our farmers labour is the long winter, during which animals have to be kept upon dry fodder. Our dry-feed season is not indeed quite so long as that of Upper Canada and the Western States, for our grass lands remain long green in the fall, and we seldom really suffer from summer drought; but, nevertheless, the winter is a dreary time for the farmer's stock. Could we shorten the winter, how great would be the advantage! But let not our farmers call upon Jupiter to help them out of the long winter, but rather put their shoulders to the wheel, and try to shorten it. All who try can do it.

How is it to be done? It may be done in two ways:—first, by growing crops that will give a late bite in the fall, and carry stock into the winter in good condition; secondly, by raising early spring feed. This may be done as is practised in England on sheep farms where early lamb is an object, by sowing fields of winter rye. But this, and some other methods that might be referred to, would, in this Province, involve labour and expense sufficient to counter-balance, in many cases, the advantages obtained. The plan that seems to be best adapted to the present circumstances of Nova Scotia, as involving least labour, and being most certain in its results, is to introduce into our grass lands such grasses as are known to start early in spring. Timothy and clover may probably never be surpassed as a summer grass crop in this country. But it is well known that there are many grasses that make considerable growth in the spring before either timothy or clover have started. All early grasses, however, are not suited to the object in view. Whilst we write, the fragrant Holy Grass (*Hierochloa borealis*) is already in blossom on the banks of the Sackville river, so also the sweet-scented Vernal Grass,—and by the waysides in Halifax the little *Poa annua* will soon begin to flower. But none of these grasses are suited to yield a large amount of nutritious food. It is otherwise with the much despised Couch Grass (*Triticum repens*), which is nearly the first common grass to show a green blade in spring, and it at the same time grows so vigorously, and has such a store of nourishment in its creeping root, as to bear any reasonable amount of eating down without arresting its growth. Couch Grass, although such a noisome weed in lands where the ground has to be stirred, is nevertheless a very valuable grass in pastures, and even grass lands intended for hay.

Botanically the Couch is 'own-brother' to wheat; and, in Nova Scotia, if properly used, might be not inferior to it in agricultural value. On Canadian farms it is not uncommon to have a patch of Couch handy to the barn yard to afford early feed for horses and other valuable stock; yet, the Couch has rather taken possession spontaneously than been encouraged by the farmer. If our wild and unimproved hill pastures in Nova Scotia could be simply covered with a turf of Couch, they would yield ten times the amount of herbage which they at present do with their tufty mantle.

But there is an early grass which is of more importance as yielding early feed, viz. the Meadow Catstail, (*Alopecurus pratensis*.) This grass resembles Timothy in appearance, but has softer heads. Before the middle of last month, (May), Alfred Thomas, Esq., of Windsor, had sent to us, from a field on his farm, long stalks of this grass, with fully formed heads an inch and a half long. We showed them to many persons in Halifax, all of whom were more or less incredulous as to their having been produced this season. The following is Mr. Thomas's note accompanying the specimens:—

Windsor, May 14, 1866.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose you two specimens of the Meadow Catstail as you requested me to last fall. I think, by comparison, they are the real *Alopecurus pratensis*. I think you will agree with me that any grass thus far advanced in an unusually backward spring, will be of great value, when the necessity of sowing grasses, especially for pasture, is fully recognized. I will send you another specimen when in bloom. This was picked on the dyke yesterday. The grass is unusually backward this year. I recollect to-morrow twelvemonth walking with Mr. Hendry through the dyke to Martock, when we had to find paths through the long grass; now there is hardly a bite for cattle on the best dyke.

Yours truly,

ALFRED THOMAS.

THE ELLERSHOUSE EXPERIMENT WITH WINTER WHEAT.

Last fall, F. Ellershausen, Esq., laid down a very large breadth of Winter Wheat, (several hundred acres we believe) on the newly-cleared land of Ellershouse. We are happy to learn that the wheat has passed safely through the winter, and gives promise of a good return. The winter was severe, but the spring has been very favourable. This is one of the largest experiments in the growing of winter wheat that has been tried on a Nova Scotian farm for many years, and its success may induce others to follow.

ACT AGAINST RINDERPEST IN NEW YORK STATE.

AN ACT to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease known as the rinderpest, and for the protection of the flocks and herds of sheep and cattle in this State from destruction by this and other infectious diseases.

Passed April 20, 1866; three-fifths being present.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the health officer of the port of New York in addition to the duties now imposed on him by existing law, to examine and enquire whether any animals are brought in any vessels arriving at said port in violation of any regulation of law passed by the Congress of the United States prohibiting the importation of such animals.

§ 2. Whenever any animal brought as a ship's cow, with no intention of landing the same or of violating any such law or regulation of Congress as aforesaid, the same shall be carefully examined and kept in quarantine for the space of at least twenty-one days, and if any symptom of the infection or incubation of the disease commonly known as the rinderpest or any other infectious or contagious disease shall present themselves, it shall be the duty of the said health officer immediately to cause the said animal or animals to be slaughtered, and their remains boxed with a sufficient quantity of quick lime, sulphate of iron or other disinfectant, and with sufficient weights placed in said box to prevent the same from floating, and to be cast into the waters of the said port: It shall also be his duty to cleanse and disinfect by suitable agencies the berth or section of the ship in which said animal or animals were lying or slaughtered, and also to cause the clothing and persons of all taking care of the same or engaged in slaughter and burial to be cleansed and disinfected.

§ 3. William Kelly, of Dutchess county, Marsena R. Patrick, of Ontario county, and Lewis F. Allen, of Erie county, are hereby appointed as commissioners under this act, and with power and duties as hereinafter enumerated.

§ 4. In the event of any such disease as the rinderpest or infectious disease of cattle or sheep breaking out or being expected to exist in any locality in this State, it shall be the duty of all persons owning or having any interest whatever in the said cattle, immediately to notify the said commissioners or any one of them of the existence of such disease; whereupon the said commissioners shall establish a sanitary cordon around such locality. And thereupon it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to appoint an assistant commissioner for such district, with all powers conferred by this act on the said commissioners or their agents or appointees, which said assistant commissioner shall immediately proceed to the place or places where such disease is reported to exist, and cause the said animal or animals to be separated from all connection or proximity with or to all other animals of the ruminant order, and take such other precautionary measures as shall be deemed necessary; and if in his opinion the said disease shall be incurable or threaten to spread to other animals, to cause the same immediately to be slaughtered, their remains to be deeply buried, and all places in which the said animals have been confined or kept, to be cleansed and disinfected by any of the agencies above mentioned; and also to cause the same to be carefully locked or barred so as to prevent all access to the same by any animals of a like kind for a period of at least one month. Any animal thus slaughtered shall be appraised under the supervision of said commissioners, and one-half of the value of said animal shall be paid by the State to the owner thereof.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the said assistant commissioner, immediately on his being notified of his appointment, or at any time thereafter, of the breaking out of the said disease in any place contiguous to the same or within the county he resides, to give public notice of the same in at least one newspaper printed or published in the said county, and to cause notices to be posted up in at least five conspicuous places in said neighborhood, and it shall be his duty to enjoin, in said notice and otherwise, all persons concerned in the care or supervision of neat cattle or sheep not to come within one hundred feet of the said locality without the special permission of the said assistant commissioner.

§ 6. It shall be the duty of the commissioners appointed under this act, whenever they are advised that any such disease has made its appearance within the limits of the State, to publish in the State paper and in at least one paper published in any county where such disease exists, a statement of the methods approved by the New York State Agricultural Society for the treatment of cattle affected therewith, for the isolation of the same, for the disinfection of the premises or buildings in which said cattle are found affected as aforesaid, and for the prevention of the spread of the same through any agencies of whatever kind.

§ 7. The commissioners aforesaid and all such assistants as they may appoint, whenever in their judgment or discretion it shall appear in any case that the disease is not likely to yield to any remedial treatment, or whenever it shall seem that the cost or worth of any such remedial treatment shall be greater than the value of any animal or animals so affected, or whenever in any case such disease shall assume such form of malignity as shall threaten its spread to premises either contagious or infectious or otherwise, are hereby empowered to cause the said animals to be slaughtered forthwith and buried, as above provided, and to do all such things as are mentioned in the fourth section of this act.

§ 8. The said commissioners or their assistants are hereby empowered to enter upon and take possession of all premises or parts thereof where cattle so affected as aforesaid are found, and to cause the said cattle to be confined in suitable enclosures or buildings for any time requisite in the judgment of the said commissioners or their assistants, and prior to the slaughter and burial of the said animals and the full and complete disinfecting and cleansing of such premises; and all persons whether owners of, or interested in such cattle or otherwise, who shall resist, impede, or hinder the said commissioners or their assistants in the execution of their duties under this act, shall be deemed guilty, and on conviction of the same, of a misdemeanor, and shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding the term of six months, or of both, in the discretion of the court before which they shall be adjudged guilty as aforesaid.

§ 9. The commissioners shall have power to establish all such quarantine or other regulations as they may deem necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or its transit in railroad cars, by vessels or by driving along the public highways; and it shall be proper for the Governor of the State by public proclamation as aforesaid, to enjoin all persons concerned or engaged in the traffic or transit of cattle or sheep, not to enter upon any places or take therefrom any such animal or to pass through any such locality, and within such distances from the same as in the said proclamation may be prescribed.

§ 10. The sum of one thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to pay to the said commissioners for their services while actually engaged in the duties enjoined upon them in this act, at the rate of five dollars per day to each, and such further sums as may cause them actual expenditures in traveling to and from the places they may be called upon to inspect or visit, and in the printing and publishing of all regulations or notices mentioned

in this act. And the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay for animals slaughtered by the provisions of this act, and the Comptroller is hereby directed to pay for the same on the warrant of the said commissioners.

§ 11. The assistant commissioners are to receive for each and every day while actually engaged in duties provided by this act, the sum of three dollars per day, and all actual expenses and disbursements paid or incurred in the discharge of their duties as aforesaid, which said sums shall be a charge upon the county for which he is appointed, and shall, when duly audited by the board of supervisors of the said county, be paid by the county treasurer.

§ 12. The slaughtering of animals for beef after having been exposed to the contagion, or supposed to have been so exposed, may be permitted by the commissioners or prohibited by them, as they may judge proper.

§ 13. This act shall take effect immediately and shall continue in force for one year.

CULTIVATION OF MANGEL WURZEL.

The Mangel Wurzel is the crop on which we have latterly in chief depended as the substitute for our failing Turnip crop. Yielding with greater certainty a much heavier produce of food as good as the Turnip, no wonder that it is rapidly growing in favour. It has always been known as keeping good till late in the following season; but, till of late, it has laboured under the stigma of being so excessively relaxing when fed early in the season, as to be more injurious than nutritious until the spring; and even then we have heard of its causing abortion in swine, sheep, and cows, so that it was only under special circumstances that it could be chosen by the cultivator as his main green crop. In 1859, however, we had a frost upon our green crops, which killed them down, and forced their consumption before winter, if it was desired to save them at all; and it was found that even the frosted Mangels, spread in the pastures and in the yards, did ewes in lamb and swine in farrow no harm.

And last year when the Mangel Wurzel crop has been a comparative failure, it has been a common practice to fold sheep on them early in the autumn, leaving Swedes for that later period of feeding for which the Mangel Wurzel had hitherto been deemed especially adapted; and it is found, especially where the root is pulped and mixed in varying proportions with chaff of hay or straw, that no relaxed state of the bowels has, under good management, followed the large and early use of the crop. It is still, however, as the root crop of the summer months that the Mangel Wurzel possesses an especial value. So good a keeper is it, that stock might indeed be kept on it all the year round; for there is no better food for pigs and cattle generally in June, July, and August following the year of its growth. Any season like the

past, therefore, which by its unusual coldness has proved less adapted to the growth of this crop than any we have had for years, is, in its effect on our supplies of cattle food, no less than a national calamity. A crop which in ordinary seasons produces 30 to 40 tons per acre, has during the past year in many cases failed to produce 15; and that on which we generally depend for late spring food, was in many cases fed in autumn by sheep on the fields of its growth.

The cultivation of the Mangel Wurzel is precisely the same as that of the Swedish Turnip, to which we shall refer in detail next month. There is a difference in the seed time, but hardly any in the treatment of the soil, either before it, or during the growth of the crop. Mangels like a stiffer soil than Turnips; but there is the same need of an industrious and forward autumnal cultivation of the land. If the plough is used in spring, it will on clay soils turn up a cloddy surface which is difficult to reduce, and which is a hindrance to the proper cultivation of the crop. A heavy dressing of dung, and a liberal supply of superphosphate, will be well repaid in the future crop, and it is found, in accordance with what is known both of the natural history and the chemistry of the plant (*viz.*, that it is a native of the seashore, and that its ash contains a large proportion of chloride of sodium, or common salt), that the crop will also repay, by additional and more healthy growth, a considerable dressing of common salt, to the extent, indeed, of two or three cwt. per acre.

The seed may be either drilled on the top of each drill or row, or dibbled therein at intervals of 15 to 18 inches—the rows themselves being 28 to 30 inches apart. The proper seed time is about the end of April, in England. No advantage is obtained by sowing too early, as the seed will be longer in the land without germination, and the plants will also be more liable to run to seed. From 6 to 7 lb. per acre should be used; and if it be damped for two or three days before sowing, it will sprout the sooner. The cheapest way to sow it is by the drill, depositing two rows or more at once, either on the flat, or what is better, on the top of the ridgelet over the row of manure; but it is not much more costly, and there are some advantages in depositing the seed by the hand dibble. The women or boys who plant the seed have a stick the length of the interval between the future bunches, and they measure out the place of the next plant by means of it. With the end of it they remove any clod which may lie there, making a little bed for the two or three seeds which they drop in that place, and then covering them up with a little fine earth, and half treading them in.

Mangel seed is very easily buried, and

not more than half an inch of earth should be used to cover it. The plants come up in bunches in these places. The intervals between the rows are horse-hoed; those between the bunches are hand-hoed, and the bunches themselves are pulled to single plants as soon as the leaf is the size of a child's hand; and the cultivation during the summer, by horse-hoeing and hand-hoeing if necessary, is continued as long as the leaves do not cover the ground. This, however, is work for June and July, when it will be referred to again.

The varieties of Mangel Wurzels include distinctions of shape and of colour. The globe-shaped are best for several reasons, one of which is that the globular form presents least outside in proportion to its quantity of contents, and so there is less exposure to frost or drought, and less liability to injury either during winter or the following summer. And as to the former, there is this special advantage of the globular over the Long and Tankard Mangels, that the former grow upright, and are thus sheltered against the early frosts under a canopy of foliage, while the long-shaped roots straggle over the surface of the ground, and are thus exposed in every direction to the sky, and the consequent frost of a clear autumnal night. This is no mere speculation, but was verified in the experience of many. The Globe Red and Orange Mangels are therefore to be preferred to the Long Reds and Long Yellows, notwithstanding that the latter might have been expected to yield the larger produce per acre. The greater facility, too, of removal from the ground, which one would expect in the long Mangels, from the greater hold which their shape enables to be taken of them, is in practice not obtained. The Globe has in our experience, pulled more easily than others which have had long and forked roots, giving them so much greater hold of the ground on which they grew. There are, however, many different sorts both of Long and of Globe Mangels, which have been selected for seed with varying degrees of care for various periods of time, and so exhibit in their produce various degrees of excellence and constancy to the type of the best specimens of each.—*Agricultural Gazette*.

LONG PODDED RADISH.

Our attention has lately been directed to the newly-introduced LONG-PODDED RADISH, and the question of its distinctness from the old Madras Radish, which has been long known and little valued.—Botanically there seems no reason to doubt that they both belong to one and the same species—*Raphanus caudatus*; but in a practical point of view there is considerable difference between a pod 3

ft. 3 in. long, such as were shown by Mr. BULL last year at Regent's Park, and one of about 8 inches. At the Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, as we are informed by Prof. BALFOUR, both varieties are in cultivation, and keep true to their respective characters. Both seem to be suited for salad, the short-fruited one being the more pungent of the two.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

IMPORTATION OF RIGA FLAX SEED.

The Board of Agriculture recently imported, through Messrs. P. Lawson & Son, the Queen's seedsmen, a quantity of the best Riga flax seed, which has been wholly taken up at cost price by the following Societies and individuals, for experiment, viz:—

Bridgewater Ag. Society.
Stewiacke Ag. Society.
Wallace Ag. Society.
Caledonia and Kempt Ag. Society.
Mahone Bay Ag. Society.
Barrington Ag. Society.
Eastern Annapolis Ag. Society.
Bridgetown Ag. Society.
Chester Ag. Society.
A. Longley, Esq., M. P. P. Annapolis.
Capt. John R. Graham, Antigonishe.

THE GREAT SECRET—HOW TO MAKE GOOD BUTTER.

The sour cream makes the most butter, and the sweet that of the nicest flavor.—The old notion that cream cannot rise through a depth of milk greater than 7 ins., is believed to be an error. The Orange county farmers say they can get as much cream by setting in pails on the above plan, as they can to set the milk shallow in pans, and the cream is of better quality, because a small surface being exposed to the air there is not that liability for the top of the cream to get dry, which has a tendency to sicken the butter and injure its quality.

The great secret in butter making, it seems, consists in attending to the following points:—(1) securing rich, clean, healthy milk—milk obtained on rich old pastures, free of weeds; (2) setting the milk in a moist, untainted atmosphere, and keeping it at an even temperature while the cream is rising; (3) proper management in churning; (4) washing out the butter-milk thoroughly, and working so as not to injure the grain; (5) thorough and even incorporation of the salt, and packing in oaken tubs, tight, clean, and well made.—*From Mr. Willard's address in N. Y. Agri. Society's Journal*.

BROOM CORN CULTURE.

We understand that quite a number of persons have sown patches of Broom Corn in Nova Scotia this season. It is not to be expected that Broom Corn will become a profitable field crop here, yet small garden patches in favorable situations will no doubt succeed well in ordinary seasons. The following hints from the *American Agriculturist* may be useful.

"The culture of broom corn is usually conducted with profit, and attended by no greater difficulties, if so great, as that of maize. The remarks made in other articles in this number, with reference to the preparation of the soil for Indian corn, manuring, etc., are equally applicable to this crop. With regard to seed, it is a question we cannot decide as to which is best, the tall or the dwarf variety.—The testimony indicates that when the very best dwarf seed can be obtained, the crop is superior to the tall, (easier to handle and the brush finer and quite as elastic and valuable.) Yet there are many persons who have been greatly disappointed in changing from the tall to the dwarf kind.

Land which is very grassy should be avoided, for almost any weeds are preferable to grass, with this crop; and localities visited early by the frosts of autumn are most undesirable, as the earliest varieties are not secure from injury by frost, even in favorable localities. After plowing, harrow and bush the ground smooth, or roll it. Plant with a seed drill in rows three feet apart, dropping the seeds on an average two inches apart, depositing some fertilizer in the drill with the seed. Superphosphate mingled with an equal quantity of gypsum, at the rate of three hundred pounds to the acre, has done well. A good drill will sow both seed and fertilizer. May 20th to the 1st of June is a good time to plant broom corn in this latitude, (N.Y.) for it will not grow much until the weather is hot. Cover very lightly. Just after what is called "corn-planting time" is a safe rule, though in our practice we are inclined to delay this, so that it would be a little late for the broom corn. Cold, wet weather and frosts are more injurious to broom corn than to maize. After it is up a liberal surface dressing of ashes upon the hills or rows is often an excellent application."

WILL GOOD STOCK PAY?—The following statement of the receipts obtained from a thorough-bred Devon heifer, in one season, was procured from Mr. Thomas Guy, of Wydenham farm:—Last spring, I had a Devon heifer which produced a bull calf. At the Provincial fair, at London, both the heifer and calf were awarded the first prizes in their respective classes. They also won the first prizes

at the Lower Canada Exhibition, held at Montreal, which together with the prizes at our township show, amounted to \$69. I afterwards sold the calf for \$85. to an agricultural society. Thus the heifer, in one season, paid altogether \$154. I was offered \$150 for the heifer in Montreal, but refused to take it. This young cow has again given birth to another bull calf this spring.—*Oshawa Indicator*.

GRASS LAND, HOW TO IMPROVE IT.

If you ask this question of many farmers, the only reply will be, break up and sod down afresh. Others will hesitate before giving this uniform answer. They will insist on looking at the land first, or at least will wish to know what is the matter with the present grass crop. Is some part of the field mossy or boggy? or does it grow certain coarse grasses which indicate undue moisture at the bottom? If so, their eyes will be opened, and they will reply, in medical language, that "underdraining is indicated." Nothing does the land need so much as this; nothing will do it material good, until this is first attended to. Plowing and manuring will be nearly all useless, so long as the land is clogged with surface water.

If this is not the trouble, they will enquire whether foul weeds have got possession, to the exclusion of wholesome grasses. If not, but the trouble is simply an impoverishment of the surface by long cropping, they will advise to scarify the sward in the fall with a heavy harrow, tearing up the mosses, and disturbing the soil a little, so that it will receive fresh seed. Then they will sow from 10 to 15 quarts per acre of clear Timothy and Red Top in equal parts, and cover the same with a light harrow. We should have said, too, they will apply a good coat of old manure, before the seed sowing. In this way repeating the manuring once in two years, many a meadow or pasture can be brought up to a high state of productiveness. If, however, the land is infested with white daisy, dock, or thistle, the only way will be to break it up thoroughly, cultivate it five years with crops and grain, and finally seed down again. Manuring should go along with this cultivation, of course. When seeding down, be not sparing of seed, but use half a bushel of Timothy and the same of Red Top. If Red Clover is desired, it should not generally be sowed until in the spring, as it is apt to winter-kill. If our farmer is a progressive man, perhaps he will enquire whether the grass crop could not be improved by irrigation. We believe that much is to be realized from this practice during the next generation.—*American Agriculturist*.

Communications.

HOW I RAISED 70 LOADS OF CABBAGES TO THE ACRE.

The soil, a strong loam very wet in the spring, and fall so wet that it could not be ploughed in November or prepared in time for turnips in the spring, so I had no alternative but trying winter cabbages, although in this county they are generally a failure. The seeds, large Drumhead and Flat Dutch, were sown in a bed in the early part of June the land was ploughed harrowed and rolled four times and made very loose and friable. In the middle of July it was drilled, manured with twenty loads to the acre, three hundred of Guano sown broadcast, the drills closed and rolled and the plants set out the first rainy day after, which occurred about the beginning of August. The ground was afterwards repeatedly worked with the cultivator and received three hoeings, the weeds never being allowed to show above the ground; it took five men one day to plant it, and one day for each hoeing the result on being sold by auction was seventy one cart loads from one acre at seven and six pence per load.

The excellence of the crop I attribute to the ground being well worked, lightly manured, and the plants set out late enough to avoid the cut worm.

HENRY E. DECIE.

[Let a thousand of our Nova Scotian farmers go and do likewise, and thus supply their own families, and their neighbours, with the healthiest vegetable they can use in winter.—*Ed.*]

GRAVEL IN YOUNG CATTLE.

DEAR SIR.—Can you inform me, through the Journal, what is the cause of young cattle having the gravel? It is a complaint that I never heard of until within the last four or five years; it is now of frequent occurrence. Four years ago my neighbour had a very nice yearling steer that had his water stopped. They gave him different things, but all of no avail. I was sent for, and I saw there was but one chance,—that was to make an incision and extract the stone, if it could be done. I thought I would try the experiment. I made the incision just back of the cod, about five inches, and took out three or four stones the size of a small pea, and left it open two or three days, until the water came quite free from where the incision was made. I then sewed it up, and the steer recovered last spring.

I was called to 3 others. I cut them in the same place, and extracted as many as four or five stones out of each of them, but was not so successful, as there was a stoppage yet in the neck of the bladder.

This season I was called to one and performed the same operation. I should like to know if there is any other cure for it. Truly yours, B. Z.

A TIMELY HINT TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Wilmot, Annapolis Co.,
May 15, 1866.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to suggest to Agricultural Societies that they should at least give two months notice of the time they intend holding their exhibitions.

Last year I prepared six animals to show, and had no opportunity of doing so.

The notice of the Windsor and Cornwallis Societies' Show reached me the day before their exhibition.—too late, of course, to avail myself of it. Their exhibition was open to non-members, a very unusual display of liberality, as societies in this Province prefer rather than bring good stock together to arrange their exhibitions so that the prizes shall be divided amongst their own members.

Yours respectfully,
HENRY E. DECIE.

Agricultural Societies.

FORMATION OF A NEW SOCIETY IN COLCHESTER—THE ONSLOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Onslow, April 20, 1866.

To the Sec'y of the Central Board of Agriculture:

SIR,—Onslow is a purely agricultural district, situated in the heart or centre of the county of Colchester, and immediately adjoining Truro. But, although one of the most important sections of the county in an agricultural point of view, there has hitherto been no associated effort for improvement. It is true there have been at different times societies formed in Truro for this purpose, but they have been short-lived and productive of little benefit, Truro being rather a place of business than of agriculture. The farmers of Onslow have now, however, taken the matter in hand themselves, and established a society composed entirely of farmers, embracing most of the leading farmers of the township, with a few from Truro.—From the spirit manifested, and the organization effected, there is every reason to anticipate a long and successful career for the Onslow Agricultural Society.

Accompanying I forward to you in terms of the Act, a complete list of the members; and may state that the declaration having been signed, after due notice given by advertisement, a general meeting was held on the 13th March at the Parade School House in Central Onslow, John King, Esq., in the chair, when the following officers were unanimously elected:—*Pres.* John B. Dickie; *Vice-Pres.*, Robert Putman; *Sec'y.* Geo. F. Crowe; *Treas.*, Silas Clark; *Directors*

Thos. B. Clisholm, S. Hamilton, David E. Cutten, James Norie, W. N. Dickson.

It was unanimously resolved that in addition to the one dollar, each member should pay a second dollar for the first year, in accordance with which one hundred and twenty dollars have already been paid into the Treasurer, and the balance will soon be collected.

The Directors have purchased for the Society three fine bulls of the Durham breed, one from Cornwallis, one from Pugwash, and the third from Sackville, N.B. They have arrived and been located for the season, and all arrangements in connection with them completed.

Having thus commenced with the Stock the Society contemplate proceeding in the autumn to make improvements in the breed of sheep and swine.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN B. DICKIE,
Pres. Onslow Agr. Soc'y.

DIGBY COUNTY.

THE WEYMOUTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A new Society has been formed at Weymouth, consisting of 61 members.

INVERNESS COUNTY.

THE BROAD COVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—(A new Society.)

A meeting of Broad Cove Agricultural Society took place this day, April 30th, 1866,—when it was resolved and passed unanimously, that a copy of our Rules and Bye-laws be forwarded to the Central Board. Fifty members have joined the Society.

RULES AND BYE-LAWS.

1st.—That the sums assigned and paid to this Society shall be applied and expended by us in the importation of live stock, seeds, &c., in the offering of judicious premiums or in such other agricultural objects and uses as may from time to time be recommended by the Board, or in the absence of such recommendation as in our judgment may be best adapted to our local position and wants; and that no part of such sums shall be in expense of managing our Society.

2nd.—That any live stock, seeds, &c., imported by this society shall hereafter be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidders, and the proceeds lodged in the treasurer's hands for the benefit of the society for future operations.

3rd.—That a full and exact annual account shall be rendered to the Central Board on or before the 31st December, in each and every year, verified by the oath of the president or secretary, of the expenditure of the sums assigned and paid to this society; and of the grant and

also of the amount and appropriations of the funds contributed or belonging to this society. Your obed't serv't.

JOHN McLELLAN, Secretary.

Publications.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. March and April, 1866.

This is a small, carefully edited, and nicely printed journal.

At a recent meeting of the Society a report was presented from a committee on the "impending rinderpest," in which it is observed:—"While we esteem the prompt measures taken by our general government to prohibit all importation of live stock to have been most wise and timely, we have yet to fear that the disease may be brought hither by means of hides, or in the clothes or luggage of immigrants or otherwise; and we recommend great care in the employment of such immigrants, (especially those who have been occupied with cattle in foreign countries,) without the previous destruction of their clothing and other effects which may by any possibility have brought the seeds of the disease."

There is an able address by Mr. Willard, on cheese and butter factories. We can only make allusion to one point. In the butter and skim-milk cheese factories, the milk is set in pails twenty inches deep. It appears that the old notion that cream cannot rise through a depth of milk greater than seven inches is now exploded—in Orange county. The farmers say they get as much cream by setting in deep pails as in shallow pans, and the cream is of better quality, because a small surface being exposed to the air there is not that liability for the top of the cream to get dry, which has a tendency to sicken the butter and injure its quality. The deep pail system secures a great saving of labour. The cream is dipped off by a tunnel shaped cup having a long upright handle.

On previous occasions we have called attention to the subject of butter-making, and do so again this month by re-printing in another column a portion of Mr. Willard's address. Will not some enterprising individual take the lead in establishing a butter and cheese factory in some of our rich farming districts? There is no good reason why Cornwallis butter and Annapolis cheese should not be made in the same factory, since Cheshire cheeses are now, we are told, made in Scotland.

One of the greatest wants of agricultural chemistry at the present time is a series of analyses of our American grasses. The New York Society is proposing to expend about a thousand dollars in having this work done. We hope it will be carried out, as it will confer a lasting benefit not only upon the farmers of New York

state, but upon the agriculturists generally of temperate America.

The next State Fair will be held at Saratoga Springs.

THE GARDENERS' MONTHLY. Edited by Thomas Meehan: May, 1866.

We always welcome the Gardeners' Monthly as the horticultural periodical which, on this side of the Atlantic, contains most news of any; but, somehow, it frequently reaches us so late that we obtain the cream of it first in the English periodicals.

"When the first swallow comes plant dwarf beans, lima beans and all other beans. When beans sprout tie them up to the poles—it hastens their bearing. Sow Endive for winter, and Drumhead lettuce for summer salad."

In reference to the management of Dahlias, the following remarks are offered: "Very many Dahlias are injured by planting too early in the season. They spring up and make a rapid growth, and are in flower in July. The sun being too hot for them at that time the flowers are necessarily imperfect. We are of opinion that from the 1st to the 15th of June is quite early enough to plant. Dahlias, when planted at this time, flower in September and October, when the rays of the sun have lost a great deal of their power. Besides, in the fall there are comparatively few flowers, and it is then that dahlias are appreciated. The fall is, undoubtedly, the time for the dahlia."

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST. The Farm, Garden and Household. May, 1866.

The American Agriculturist is by far the most ably conducted Agricultural Journal on the American continent.—The present number opens with an artistic drawing of two good looking donkeys, with a short article which we are tempted to quote below on account of a suggestive advertisement in our present number.—There are valuable articles on Teasels, Barns, Alderneys, Sheep, Grapes, Beef Steaks, side-saddle flowers and small-pox, but the hit at Nova Scotia might have been omitted. The drawings are highly creditable. Prof. Gray's paper on Insects and Fertilization should be read by every horticulturist.

DONKEYS.

Without stopping to discuss the moral traits of the largest and proudest of domesticated fowls, and the humblest and most abused of domestic beasts, nor to point out the merits of a fine painting well reproduced in wood, we improve the brief space left here to say a word in favor of the ass—the "unmitigated ass." Europe abounds in donkeys—so to speak, pony asses. They attain considerable size, and in fact the line between the donkey and the full sized ass is as hard to draw as between a pony and a horse. They are

very cheap, easy to keep, not liable to disease, cleanly, harder hoofed and less vicious than horses or mules, willing, capable of strong attachments, having a good deal of stupid intelligence, very sure footed and careful of themselves, long-lived and willful but not malicious.—“Where there’s a will, there’s a way” to get along without rousing it to one’s disadvantage as a general rule, and we have never seen a halkey ass that had not abundant provocation. Their bray is the only really annoying thing about them. There is good use for both the donkey and the ass in this country—the former as a poor man’s beast of burden and draught, especially in the neighborhood of large and small towns where vegetables and fruits are brought in a few miles for sale upon the streets; and were they once common, many other uses would be found for them, churning for instance. Besides, there would be a considerable sale for them as children’s pets, to which purpose they are especially adapted, being smaller and much more trusty than ponys, and not so liable to stumble, bite or kick, that is, if not made vicious by bad treatment.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U. S. A. For March, 1866.

This Report is chiefly occupied with reports, selections and communications on the cholera, cattle plague, hog cholera, and Trichinis, indicating in the first place, the great interest that is being judiciously manifested in those subjects in the States, and secondly showing us how thankful we ought to be that we have hitherto been spared these inflictions. In reference to Trichinis, it may be satisfactory to the citizens of Halifax to know that some of the pork butchers and sausage-makers have been receiving instruction in the use of the microscope in Dalhousie College, and that although the shambles and markets have been diligently searched for specimens for purposes of illustration, yet not a single Trichina has been found.

The Commissioner of Agriculture takes rather strong ground on the question of the Reciprocity Treaty, styling it a most gross injustice to the American farmer, “a selling of him for a fishery and a New York transportation;” but the U. S. *Economist* stated the case in rather different words, declaring that “narrow protectionist jealousies have blinded congress to the fact that we have been doing a most valuable trade with the Provinces, which we can ill afford to throw away.”

NORTH BRITISH AGRICULTURIST. April 11th and 25th, 1866.

The North British Agriculturist has been very much enlarged within the last few years and is a most complete agricultural and commercial weekly newspaper

of 24 folio pages. We have an account of the death of Professor Dick, so long favorably known as the head of the Edinburgh Veterinary College. He died at Edinburgh on 4th April, in his 73rd year. William Dick was the son of a blacksmith and farrier who came to Edinburgh from Aberdeenshire. He assisted his father in the forge, and attended the University classes of Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physic. In the comparative Anatomy Class his fellow students told the Professor that Dick was a common blacksmith. “Well, well,” said the Professor, “whether he be blacksmith or whitesmith he is the cleverest chap among you.”—Having subsequently studied at the Veterinary College, London, and obtained the diploma, Mr. Dick commenced to lecture in Edinburgh on Veterinary subjects in 1819. In 1823-4 he gave a complete course of instruction in Veterinary Science under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. In 1833 the Hall in Clyde Street was first opened, as a Veterinary School, which in 1839 became the “Veterinary College.” 791 veterinary surgeons have graduated there, and 1000 more students have received instruction. Professor Dick has so disposed of his property as to insure the upholding of the Veterinary College.

THE COLONIAL FARMER OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

This paper we continue to receive regularly. Recent numbers have contained much interesting matter in regard to the functions of an Agricultural Board, the proposal to establish a stock farm in New Brunswick, and other matters of agricultural interest. Whilst wholesome criticism is beneficial to a public Board, it is well to bear in mind that in a country like New Brunswick, an Agricultural Board requires above all things the hearty co-operation of the people, without which all efforts at agricultural improvement must be futile.

STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATIVE TO CANADA WOOLS AND THE MANUFACTURES OF WORSTED. By John L. Hayes, Secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, U. S. A. Boston, 1866.

We are indebted to the kindness of Joseph Kaye Esq., for a perusal of this pamphlet. It embraces matters well worth attention on the part of our Nova Scotian farmers and those of our Nova Scotian capitalists who are inclined to embark in manufacturing enterprise. We shall therefore endeavor to give an outline of its contents, merely premising that the term “Canada Wools” is applied in the States in a general sense to all wools imported from the Provinces, and that in our quotations British America may be

substituted wherever “Canada” occurs.

This pamphlet was called forth by the discussion of the commercial bearings of the Reciprocity Treaty, and is an able document, consisting of a statement of facts in relation to the demand for consumption in American manufactures of the class of wools known as “combing wools,” as distinguished from card or cloth wools.

“The former class are wools specially fitted for the process of combing by hand or machinery, which consists in drawing out the fibres, so that they may be straight and parallel; the shorter portions called “noils” being removed by this operation. The fibres having been rendered straight and parallel, are twisted, and the yarn is called worsted. The ends of the fibre being covered by the process of spinning, the yarns are smooth and lustrous. Card or cloth wool is wool fitted for being carded. By this process the fibres are placed in every possible direction in relation to each other, adhering by the serratures of the fibre, which are more numerous in the wool fitted for carding. They are thus fitted for felting, and the ends of the fibre are free to be drawn out into the nap.—While card wools are required to be fine, short in staple, and full of spiral curls and serratures,—qualities possessed by wools of which the merino and saxon wools are types,—the combing wools, on the contrary, must be long in staple, from four to seven inches in length, comparatively coarse, having few spiral curls and serratures and possessing a distinct lustre. These qualities are possessed in perfection by the English sheep of the Lincolnshire, Leicester, and Cotswold races; and, in a less degree, by the Cordova wools of the Argentine Republic, and the Donskoi wool of Russia. Comparatively long fine wools of the merino race, from two and a half to three inches in length, are combed for making delaines and similar fabrics; but they are not classed in the trade as combing or worsted wools.

“An unprecedented demand for these wools has arisen in all manufacturing nations within the last ten years, and the prices have more than doubled in that period. This is due, first, to the vast improvements in combing by machinery made within the past fifteen years; secondly, to the late scarcity of cotton; and, thirdly to the introduction of fabrics from alpaca wool, and the discovery that by the use of cotton warps, with a filling of combing wool, an admirable substitute might be made for alpaca fabrics. There is an immense demand for these fabrics for female wear.

“The goods manufactured from combing wools or worsteds, are alpaca fabrics, poplins, grenadines, and an infinite variety of fabrics for female wear, the consumption of which is constantly increasing; the texture and patterns of the fabrics

can be changed indefinitely, to suit the caprices of fashion, and they constitute the great bulk of the class known as "novelties;" furniture goods, moreens, damasks, reps, mohairs, &c., hosiery goods, such as zephyrs, nubas, &c.; braids, bindings, buttoning, webbing for saddlery and suspenders. Carpets are made from coarse and cheap combing wools; the white yarns being made from Canada wool. It is the opinion of manufacturers, that the finer classes of carpets could be made wholly of Canada wool with advantage.

"The importance of the manufacture is evinced by the fact, that the worsted manufacture employed in England in 1856 87,744 persons; while the card-wool manufacture employed only 79,091. In France, this industry employed, in 1851, 300,000 persons. In this country in 1860, less than 3,000 were employed—Worsted goods constitute the largest part of our importations. Of sixty millions of woollens and worsteds, forty millions were of worsted alone."

"The manufacture of worsteds, which is just beginning to have an important development in this country, owes its existence to the Reciprocity Treaty, which admitted, free of duty, the wools of Canada. The farmers of Upper Canada, of English and Scotch descent, naturally prejudiced in favour of the sheep husbandry which prevails at home,—as England is still called in the colonies,—and having a taste for English mutton, imported sheep of the Leicester, Cotswold, and Down races, which have thriven admirably on the naturally rich limestone soils of Upper Canada.

"The present production of wool from these sheep in Canada is about six millions of pounds. The Canadians have no fine woolled sheep. Protected by a tariff, they consume about two millions of their own wool in the manufacture of coarse cloths including tweeds, which have been imported largely into the United States, notwithstanding the duty on cloths, and we use the balance of from three to five millions.

"As the American production of worsted combing wool is not sufficient to supply one mill, if the treaty should not be renewed, or some provision made for the free admission of Canada wools, the worsted manufacturer will be compelled to pay the whole of the present high duty on wools, of the class consumed by him, from which his foreign rival is exempt.

"The wool adapted to the worsted manufacture costs now in Canada in gold from forty to forty-five cents. The duties under the present tariff, are on wools, over thirty-two cents, twelve cents, and ten per cent ad valorem. If the present tariff should operate on Canada wools, the duties on wools commonly used at present prices would range from forty to

thirty-seven per cent. It is shown by the sworn statements of manufacturers submitted herewith, that these duties on the raw material, together with other neutralizing duties, such as the internal revenue tax, would reduce the nominal protection of from thirty-five to fifty per cent.; the duty on foreign worsteds, to an actual protection ranging from zero to only four per cent. It is in vain to suppose that worsted manufacture can be continued or increased under such disadvantages.

"A duty on Canada wool would crush an industry which has already assumed a truly national importance, and has advanced with a rapidity unexampled in any branch of our textile manufactures. It is shown by the statements under oath of four leading manufacturers herewith submitted,—"that worsted yarns, of the finer grades, were made in this country only to a very limited extent prior to 1860 or 1861, except for delaines. The introduction of the manufacture of the finer worsted yarns is due to the command of Canada wools, admitted free under the Reciprocity Treaty. We estimate the capital, now employed in the manufacture of the various kinds of worsted goods, at eight million dollars; and the yearly value of the product, at not less than ten million dollars. We do not hesitate to say, that in our opinion, the whole of this manufacture is dependent upon the supply of Canada wool; and that if Canada wool should be subjected to duties ruling under the present tariff, the greater part of this manufacture would be suspended."

It is not as bearing upon the Reciprocity treaty that we desire to call attention to these statements, but rather on account of the suggestive hints which they furnish to our own farmers and manufacturers. Hitherto we have allowed ourselves to be fleeced in order that American backs might be clothed and American manufactures nursed. When will there be enterprise enough to bring the grist to our own mill? Let it not be supposed that the Americans have the benefit of an old established manufacture. The first manufacture of Worsted Braid in the States was commenced not farther back than the year 1860, yet 3000 braiding machines are now in operation, producing annually 3 millions of dollars value in manufacture, and the industry is rapidly growing.

In the Western States long-wooled sheep are not raised. Ohio had in 1862, four and a half millions of sheep, only three thousand of which produced combing wool.

But we must conclude our lengthy notice. Let us do so by quoting the following paragraph, which seems to ring out a warning sound:—

"It is true that Canada derives great benefit from selling her wools in this

country at 50 cents a pound; but how much greater benefit do we derive from employing them to nationalize a great manufacture in this country! It was a benefit to the English wool-growers for two or more centuries, to send all their combing wool to Flanders; but Flanders, by the command of the wool of England for her manufactures, became the richest nation in Europe. In the supply of wool Canada is to us what England was to Flanders before the time of Edward III., who kept his wool at home; and what Ireland is to England now, and what England desires all the world to be to her besides. We wish to apply to Canada the lesson which England has taught us; and it is *not our fault* that Canada is also pressing for the freedom to export her raw material, and *is blind to the obvious fact that such a policy will always keep her impoverished and dependent!*

POOR CANADA! POOR NOVA SCOTIA! It is not the American's fault that you are seeking free trade, but it is his misfortune that you do not get it!

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay, Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

DONKEYS!

WANTED to purchase *Two Donkeys*, good for Side-saddle use. Address "D," care of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, stating price, &c.
May 20th, 1866.

STOCK FOR SALE!

PRIZE BOAR SWEEPSTAKES, price \$40
Two Year Old SOW in pig 40
One Shearling RAM 30
Fifteen RAM LAMBS, each 15
16 EWE LAMBS, each 15
Agricultural Societies in Cape Breton can have them delivered on board steamer for Sydney B.R. by paying expenses.

H. E. DECIE, Ann. Co.
May 15, 1866.

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