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WCSA

# NOVA SCOTIA



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## CONTENTS:

	PAGE
Weather and Crops.....	537
Importation of White Chester Pigs.....	538
Culture and Preparation of Hemp, by L. Young. Communicated by H. Yeomans, Esq.....	538
Hints for June:—Flower Garden and Pleasure Ground, Fruit Garden, Vegetable Garden.....	539
The Gooseberry and Currant Grub.....	541
<b>COMMUNICATIONS:</b>	
The Dairy—Profit on Milk, Butter, Cheese. By J. W. L.....	541

Scald Cream, Devonshire Cream, Clouted Cream. By a Devonshire Dumpling.....	542
<b>AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES:</b>	
West Cornwallis Agricultural Society.....	542
Esqerton Agricultural Society.....	543
Yarmouth County Exhibition.....	543
Colechester County Exhibition.....	543
<b>ADVERTISEMENTS.....</b>	<b>544</b>

HALIFAX, 30 June, 1870.

The season has hitherto been upon the whole a favorable one for the crops throughout the Dominion; and, in many parts of our own Province, the fields in general never looked more verdant than they do at the present time. The season is chiefly remarkable for the early period at which the warm weather of spring set in, and there being little or no frost in the ground, after so light a winter, our farmers were enabled to get their seed in under circumstances unusually favorable. In many localities grain seeding time was fully a month earlier than usual. So far well. But, after the crops had started, a spring drought set in; with the increasing warmth of the June sun, the land got baked and the grass fields began to show a stunted growth. These effects were, of course, most obvious on fields that were in poor condition; but, in some counties, even the richest grass lands suffered. In Cumberland great fears were entertained of the Hay Crop, and in Annapolis and Kings Counties there was also cause for

alarm. However, we have latterly had an abundance of refreshing showers, varying in amount in different localities, but general, we believe, throughout the whole Province, and there is now every reason to anticipate an abundant harvest, except on worn out grass lands, where the hay crop will not recover itself.

More wheat and other grains have been sown than for many years, and these crops are said to be generally looking well. Norway Oats promise to give satisfaction, so far at least as straw is concerned, for we cannot as yet judge of the probable yield of grain; in some places they are growing so rank as to be already lodged. This famed oat may be seen on several farms near the North West Arm and other parts of the Peninsula. Joseph Kaye, Esq., has a large breadth sown near Richmond, and Mr. Reid at Bedford has a small field, convenient for observation, on the left hand side of the road leading to the Rifle Range.

The recent rains have been very favorable to late turnips, and we hope to see

their cultivation extended from year to year. Early turnips were much injured by the beetle.

Potatoes look remarkably well. The warmth acquired by the ground in May and the rains of June have been especially grateful to this crop; and a good return may be expected. The prevailing fancy for new and fashionable potatoes has led many persons to plant more varieties this season than usual, and we hope to have some interesting experiences to record at taking up time.

Garden Vegetables are well advanced, but much of the advantage resulting from the start in April and early May was lost through the occurrence of late May frosts. In our columns this month will be found a valuable and thoroughly practical article from the pen of J. W. L., on the subject of Dairy Produce and Milk supply to the city. We have likewise been favored with a communication on a Dairy subject from a gentleman who has been long well-known in this Province and far beyond it by his writings on literary and

scientific subjects. In the present case he hides his identity under "A Devonshire Dumpling." We hope some of our enterprising farmers will adopt the hint he gives them, and add Seald Cream to the list of city luxuries.

Our readers will perceive that the Yarmouth County Agricultural Society have determined to hold an Exhibition on 6th October. The premiums, amounting to \$500, are thrown open for competition to the whole Province. Copies of the Prize List may be obtained on application to the Secretary, C. E. Brown, Esq., Yarmouth.

There is likewise to be held an Exhibition at Truro, the prizes of which are open to the whole Province. We hear that some of the King's County breeders think of paying Truro a visit on the occasion. Nothing does so much good in these matters as a little healthful rivalry, and, now that we have convenient railway communication, these open competitions should bring competitors together from all parts of the Province. We have now in the Province thorough-bred stock that no man need be ashamed of, and it will do the animals and the public good to have an airing once a year.

#### IMPORTATION OF WHITE CHESTER PIGS.

The Yarmouth County Society has imported from Chester County, Pennsylvania, via Boston, two fine Chester White Sows in pig, and one Boar of the same breed. They are all thorough-bred animals, and were purchased from George Hickman, Esq., West Chester, Pa. They cost, at place of shipment, \$150, or with charges till ready for sale with their litters, at Yarmouth, they will have cost \$250. The Secretary of the Society observes: "If they have an average litter each, we shall not lose any money on them." The gain to the farmers of the County will be very considerable.

#### CULTURE AND PREPARATION OF HEMP.

From the Albany "Cultivator," March, 1851.

(Continued.)

##### MODES OF PREPARATION.

Hemp is rotted for the brake in three several methods, called dew-rotting, water-rotting, and snow or white-rotting. The first method is that by which far the greater portion of American hemp is made ready for market. The crop being

harvested in August and September, remains in stack until the hot sun of October gives way to a milder spring-like temperature. It is then spread, generally upon the field on which it grew, until the fluids in the circulation and the camboise matter which binds the fibres together decompose, when the fibres contract and burst off the stalk. Then the plants are gathered and set up in small shooks over the field, where it will remain two or three months without injury, during which period, say from January to April, the breaking is performed by active laborers. One great reason why this mode of preparing hemp is so popular with the American cultivator, is, that it affords comfortable and profitable employment for winter. Seventy-five to one hundred pounds is deemed a moderate day's work. Using the hemp brake brings all the muscles into active exercise, and a man will prepare 100 pounds of hemp without inconvenience from cold, at a temperature too disagreeable to be abroad at other farm work.

The second method, or water-rotting, is a much more tedious and expensive mode of preparation: but after having had several years' experience, and after having been most intimately acquainted with the details of two establishments beside my own, I do not hesitate to say that it is entirely practicable to water-rot in this country with success, and will say further that if precautionary means be adopted in the plan of operations, there is but little risk of health. My own pool, which answered remarkably well, is one hundred and ten by thirty feet surface, and four feet deep, excavated near a small stream. The lower wall is water-tight—the balance a round stone wall, capped with timber, anchored down by the weight of the wall—a middle timber anchored to the bottom, as high as the plates or the wall, divided the pool into two sections, fifteen feet wide, so that cross timbers, 16 feet long, prevented the hemp from rising above the caps or plates when the pool was filled and the water let in. Such a pool will contain the produce of about four acres. Water was conducted into this pool over the top of the wall, and let off by pipes at the bottom. The pool being accessible on all sides by an easy grade, three teams with light sleds would empty it in half a day, the water being previously let off, and the bundles allowed several hours to drain before being handled. Two men grasping the same bundle, raise it, and by a swing of the arm horizontally, throw it end-wise upon the sled upon which the bundles are removed, and in frosty weather placed, still bound, against ranges of poles, to dry; or, the weather being warm, are spread upon grass lands for the same purpose. Operating in this way for three or four successful seasons, and requiring

the operators to change their damp clothes immediately after emptying the pool, no case of sickness ever occurred in a family of between forty and fifty persons, that was supposed to owe its origin to any of the details of the process of water-rotting hemp.

When the medullary exudations, uniting the fibres of the hemp plant, have been extracted by immersion, the bark is detached from the woody part of the plant, and contracts so as to burst and show the wood, sometimes throughout the whole length of the stalk. In this stage, being removed from the pool and dried, it is ready for the break. Among the many machines for separating the wood from the lint, I think the best yet seen in Kentucky consists of a crusher composed of several consecutive pairs of fluted rollers, driven by steam or animal power, using the hand brake, and using in addition no scutching apparatus other than a small iron knife, and even with these aids a good operator will be unable to prepare more than 50 to 60 pounds per day. The only way, it appears to me, in which the process of water-rotting hemp can be made to work itself into favor, and become a regular employment with the hemp grower, will be for the consumer to tempt him into the practice by paying for a time in this market the prices which rule in the Atlantic cities. Receiving thus a bonus of some forty dollars, and a certain market, many would be induced to enter upon the business, and practice would, no doubt, by familiarising the producer with the details of preparation, and by suggesting improvements, so far cheapen the cost of production as to overcome, in a great degree, the reluctance the hemp farmer now manifests for this mode of preparation.

There are two classes of persons who should abstain from water-rotting hemp,—those sanguine ones who think to increase greatly their income by operating in this high priced article, and those who cultivate to any extent, winter grains and other mixed stocks, requiring much labor in spring. The first class of persons, if experienced in the dew-rotting process, will find in this case, as in most others, that it is labor which imparts value to the products of agriculture, and that they gain nothing by doubling the price of a staple when they cannot produce half the quantity. The mixed farmer, too, will find fall and spring the only favorable period for immersing his plants—times when the sowing and planting of his crops so far engross his time and labour as to render very inconvenient the filling and emptying of his pools.

*White-rotting.*—In practice, the details of this process vary but slightly from those of dew-rotting. Hemp intended to be prepared in this way, is permitted one entire year in the stack, and is after-

wards, about the first of December, spread upon grass lands. It is quite a misnomer to call this process "snow-rotting!" Under no circumstances will the plants, if spread to rot during the winter following their growth, become ready for the brake without exhibiting on the fibre a greater or less number of dark blotches, contagiously communicated from the decomposing elements of the underlying wood. We must, therefore, impute the beauty of color and strength of fibre peculiar to this process, to a different agency than extreme cold or snow. It is known that nitrogen, with its strong predisposition to decay, is present in at least two compounds contained in the hemp plant,—its nicotina, which, when dissolved in the pool, poisons fish—and its volatile alkali, which causes the plant to emit so strong an odour. It is also known that when these are extracted by immersing the plants in water, the cambiose matter uniting the fibres of the bark, is decomposed before the slightest decay takes place in the woody part of the plant—the woody part, being white, tough and elastic, like a willow-rod, (a property in the stalk which renders the breaking a labor so arduous), whilst in the dew-rotting process, before this detachment of the fibres is effected, some of the elements composing the fluids of circulation have been changed in their combination, and thus seem to have formed an acid, which has, in a greater or less degree, blotched the woody part with dark spots, every one of which will stain the lint. White rotting avoids this blotching of the wood and bark, mainly, I think, by ridding the plant of most of its elements predisposed to decay, through the agency of heat, just as the same ends are accomplished by water when the plants are immersed. That heat has the power to expel these elements, or to render them harmless by causing new combinations, will appear from considering a fact familiar to all experienced hemp-growers, which is this: it often happens that a bundle of hemp spread down the autumn after the plants were grown, will be taken up in January, with the top portion of the plants, which occupied the centre of the stack when in bulk, of a bright buff color, whilst the lower portions of the plants in the same bundle are dark colored and ready for the break. Now, if these bright portions be cut off from the other parts of the bundle, and exposed again to the rains and frost, in time a rot is effected, and an article closely resembling water-rotted hemp is produced. In this case there is not the remotest doubt that the character of the bright portions of such bundles has been changed by the great heat generated in the stack, by bulking the bundles while the leaves were yet too damp. So it is with hemp, I think, kept in bulk more than one year.

Time sets free a large portion of what is volatile, and the heat generated, whilst the mass is going through a sweat, and sublimates or changes much of what remains. Certain it is, that the market value of this article is greatly above that of dew-rotted hemp, and it remains to be determined whether a management could not be devised increasing still more this value. This process is attended in practice with but one serious objection, which is, that the additional time required to detach the fibres from the wood, in consequence of the indestructibility resulting from its changed character, often brings round the spring of the year before it is ready for the break; in which event it becomes necessary to stack over and brake the following winter—for not only would breaking at that season interfere with the growing crop, but it is, itself, without a dry house, almost a work of impossibility. When the mean temperature of the day rises above the mean annual temperature of the earth, the dew falls freely, so that every day is like a rainy day in winter—unfit for breaking hemp.

L. YOUNG,  
Louisville, Ky.

Communicated to this Journal by H. Yeomans, Esq., Halifax.

### HINTS FOR JUNE.

#### FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Towards the end of June propagation by budding commences. This is very commonly employed with the rose; but ornamental trees and shrubs may be increased in the same way. Closely allied species must be chosen to work together.

Evergreen hedges will require attention as they grow. Where the height desired has been attained, the top and strong growth should be cut back while they are still watery. The side shoots need not be touched till past midsummer. All wise people now employ the conical shape for hedges. In cutting back the top growth at this season, the conical form can still be preserved.

Cut off the flowers of roses as they fade,—the second crop will be much better for the attention. Seeds of all flowering plants should be also taken off; all this assists the duration of the blooming season.

Bulbous roots, when done flowering, and the leaves have faded, should be taken up and dried,—mixed with chaff or other loose material, placed in paper bags and stowed away in a dry place till Fall.

Dahlias should not flower early. Keep them growing till Fall, when they will flower finely.

Propagation by layering may be performed any time when strong vigorous growing shoots can be had. Any plant can be propagated by layers. Many can be readily propagated no other way. Cut

a notch on the upper side of the shoot, not below, as all other looks recommend, and bend down into, and cover with rich soil. In a few weeks they root and can be removed from their parents. Stakes for plants should be charred at the ends before using, when they will last for years.

Flower-beds should be hoed and raked, as soon as the ground dries after a rain. Loose surface soil prevents the understratum drying out. Peg down bedding plants where practicable. Split twigs make the best pegs. In dry weather do not water flower-beds often; but do it thoroughly when it is done. See that the water does not run off, but into and through the soil.

Mow lawns often, if you would have them green and velvety. Keep the scythe sharp; usually mowers do not use the grindstone often enough. Common farm scythes are not fit for lawn use; rivetted, and short scythes are the kind to get. If a lawn is mowed often, the grass need not be clean,—the sappy blades soon wither, and make a manure for the roots. The longest should be raked off, or the lawn will have a littery appearance.

Peg down Roses where a heavy mass of flowers is desired. The side shoots push more freely for this treatment.

The Rose bugs are apt to be very annoying at some seasons. The best remedy is to shake them off into a pail of water. The Rose slug is often very injurious to the leaves—completely skeletonizing them. All kind of rapid remedies have been proposed—whale oil soap, petroleum, &c., but the best thing of all is to set a boy to crush them by finger and thumb. It is astonishing how rapidly they are destroyed by this process. This is true of most of the larger insects. Hand picking or crushing is by far the best remedy.

No trees, Evergreens especially, should be suffered to have grass grow about them for a year or so after planting. It becomes "rank" in the deeply loosened soil, abstracts moisture, and otherwise seriously interferes with the tree. When the tree gets a fair start, grass does less injury, and when it becomes a tough sod, and the tree by its shade, or say by frequent mowing keeps the grass short, the grass roots do not penetrate deep, and the soil is of benefit, by keeping the surface spongy, and the substratum cool.

Many herbaceous plants, such as Phloxes, Hollyhocks and similar things, that are scarce and valued, may be propagated now very easily, by taking portions of their flower-stems before the flowers open, and inserting them as cuttings in a half shaded, cool, and not dry situation. Layering of many things, shrubs, half-shrubby perennials, etc., should be done before the young wood becomes too hard,

if good plants are required the first year. Most plants root more quickly by having a notch cut in the layered shoot. Good, rich soil, put just about the layers is very important. Good soil favors an abundance of roots. One of the greatest mistakes in gardening is the prevalent notion that plants in a poor soil have a greater proportion of roots than in a rich one.

#### FRUIT GARDEN.

Grapes first coming into bearing should not be permitted to perfect large crops of fruit while young. It is excusable to fruit a bunch or so on a young vine, "just to test the kind," but no more should be permitted till the vine has age and strength. Vigorous growth, and great productiveness, are the antipodes of the vegetable world. Encourage as much foliage as possible on the vines, and aim to have as strong shoots at the base as at the top of the cane; this can be done by pinching out the points of the strong shoots after they have made a growth of five or six leaves. This will make the weak ones grow stronger. Young vines grow much faster over a twiggy branch, stuck in for support, than over a straight stick as a trellis, and generally do better every way. Where extra fine bunches of grapes are desired, pinch back the shoot bearing it to about four or five leaves above the bunch. This should not be done indiscriminately with all the bunches. Too much pinching and stopping injures the production of good wood for next season. These hints are for amateurs, who have a few vines on trellises; for large vineyard culture, though the same principles hold good as far as they go, they will vary in their application.

Grapes in cold vineries will now be of a size fit for thinning. In those cases where the bunches are intended to hang long on the vines, they should be thinned out more severely than those expected to be cut early. A close, compact bunch favours mildew and early decay.

Fine, rich color is always esteemed as one of the criteria whereby to judge of the excellence of a fruit. Sun-light is of first importance; but it is not generally known that this is injurious when in excess. In a dry atmosphere, with great sun-heat, where the evaporating process goes on faster than the secretive what should become a rich rosy blush in a fruit, is changed to a sickly yellow; and the rich jet black of a grape becomes a foxy red. Some Grape growers of eminence, in view of the facts, shade their vineries during the coloring process; but others, instead, keep the atmosphere as close and moist as possible. The latter course detracts from the flavor of the fruit. The best plan is that which combines both practices.

Watch newly planted fruit trees. If they have but a few weak leaves only, it

shows the roots have been injured; then prune them severely, which will make them grow freely. It should be a main object to make all transplanted trees not merely have leaves, but have new shoots at the earliest possible moment. If they are growing very well, they may be allowed to perfect a few fruits. Over-bearing on a newly planted tree is, however, one of the best ways of making it stunted for a year.

Strawberries, when grown in hills,—the most laborious but most productive method of growing them,—should have runners cut off as they grow, and the surface soil kept loose by shallow hoeings occasionally. Short litter, half rotten as a mulch, is also beneficial. Lawn mowings are often applied, but with little benefit. Where they are grown in beds, they should not be too thick, as they starve one another, and the crop next year will be poor.

Blackberries are not always ripe when they are black. Leave them on till they part readily from their stalks.

Currants are so easily grown as to require few hints for their management. If they throw up many suckers, take out a portion now, instead of waiting till winter to cut them away. The Currant borer is a great pest, eating out the pith of the young shoots, and causing them to grow poorly, and bear but small fruit next year. Gummy "stypaper" is, we think, the best thing to catch them.

Gooseberries should have the soil, and even the plants, if it were practicable, shaded a little. Dry air about them is one great cause of mildew.

In the interior department, Peaches that have been slightly forced will be about maturing, and the atmosphere must be allowed to become dryer by admitting more air and using the syringe less freely. This is necessary, not only to perfect the flavor of the fruit, but to mature the wood properly for next season's fruit. All of this has to be done with caution, as a sudden change from a moist system of culture to a dry one will be certain to injure the tissue and breed disease.

Red spider and other insects closely follow on the heels of a dry atmosphere. They must be watched, and nothing suffered to injure the leaves till by natural maturity the plant has no longer use for them.

#### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Peas for a Fall crop may be sown. It is, however useless to try them unless in a deeply trenched soil, and one that is comparatively cool in the hottest weather over head, or they will certainly mildew and prove worthless. In England, where the atmosphere is so much more humid than ours, they nevertheless have great difficulty in getting fall Peas to go through free from mildew; and to obviate these

drying and mildew-producing influences, they often plant them in deep trenches, made as for Celery, and are then much more successful with them.

Cabbage and Broccoli may still be set out for Fall crops, also requiring an abundance of manure to insure much success. Lettuce, where salads are in much request, may yet be sown. The Curled Indian is a favorite summer kind; but the varieties of Cos, or plain-leaved kinds, are good. They take more trouble, having to be tied up to blanch well. Many should not be sown at a time, as they soon run to seed in hot weather.

At the end of June, some Celery may be set out for early crops, though for the main crop a month later will be quite time enough. It was once customary to plant in trenches dug six or more inches below the surface; but the poverty of the soil usually at this depth more than decreases the balance of good points in its favor. Some of our best growers now plant entirely on the surface, and depend on drawing up the soil, or the employment of boards or other artificial methods of blanching.

Beans produce enormous crops in deeply trenched soils, and are improved as much as any crop by surface manuring. We hope this method of fertilizing the soil will be extensively adopted for garden crops this season. Those who have not yet tried it will be surprised at the economy and beneficial results of the practice.

Cucumbers for pickling may be sown this month, and Endive for fall Salad set out.

Asparagus beds should not be cut off after the stalks seem to come up weak, or there will be but a poor crop the next season, and the beds will "run out" in a few years.

Tomatoes, after trying all kinds of trellises recommended, will be found to do best on stakes tied up singly. It is best to plant a strong pole, as for Lima Beans, with the plants when first set out, and tie up as they grow. Marketmen generally let them grow as they will, on the ground, which, perhaps, although not yielding as much, costs less labor, and may thus be most profitable.

The Swede Turnip or Ruta Baga should be sown about the end of the month. A well enriched piece of ground is essential, as by growing fast they get ahead of the ravages of the fly. Manures abounding in the phosphates—bone-dust, for instance,—are superior for the Turnip.

Parsley for winter use may be sown now in boxes of rich soil, and set in a cool, shady place, till it germinates.

Herbs for drying for future use, should be cut just about the time they are coming into flower. Dry them in the shade, and after sufficiently dry to put away, tie them in bunches, and hang in a cool shed, or place them loosely between the paper,

and stow away in cupboards or drawers, —the last mode is by far the cleanest and most approved with the best house-keepers. Some, indeed, powder the leaves at once after drying, and put them away in bags ready for use.

#### ON THE GOOSEBERRY GRUB.

As the season is at hand when the gooseberry leaves begin to shoot, a few remarks on what is commonly called the grub, which commits sad ravages on the foliage of these shoots, may not be unacceptable. Early in March, if the weather is favourable, the first flies issue from their chrysalis, a few inches below the soil, at the foot of the trees; and, by a sharp-sighted observer, may be seen about nine or ten o'clock in the morning, should the sun be shining, hovering over the gooseberry trees; and, every now and then, settling on a leaf, vibrating their antennæ in bustling action, searching for a suitable leaf whereupon to deposit their eggs; and every fly destroyed at this period is, therefore, the ultimate destruction of some thousands of voracious successors. If carefully watched, after having made choice of a leaf, it will be observed retiring to the underside; where, in course of time, it deposits, along the stronger fibres or veins of the leaf, a series of eggs, which appear like small pellucid oblong strings of delicate beads, following the lines of the foliatory nerves.

The following observations on the times of hatching, &c., may be relied upon as accurate:—

On the 9th of April the eggs were laid; on the 19th they were hatched; and if the temperature is mild, they increase rapidly to maturity; and from their numbers (for a single fly will fill up the veins of many leaves), the foliage of the devoted tree is soon destroyed. They usually continue in the lava state about ten days; when, dropping to the earth, they penetrate below the surface, and change into a small brown chrysalis; in which dormant state they remain from fourteen to seventeen days, and then come forth as flies, which, in a day or two, lay their respective quantities of eggs; and, thus, brood after brood is continued indefinitely; and I am not aware that any limits of season act as a check, unless attended with decrease of temperature, which, of course, puts a stop to their progress. One mode of guarding against the evil I have already noticed, but the most keen-sighted gardener can never effect the destruction of the original stock of these vernal progenitors. He should, therefore, from the first moment of seeing the flies hovering about his trees, keep a sharp lookout on the leaves, particularly those near the lower part of the stem, which are their most favourite resort; and as soon as he sees a small perforation, at first scarcely

bigger than a pin's head, let him diligently examine the tree, and carefully remove every infected leaf. No labour will be better repaid than this. I have usually turned in a troop of little boys who can easily insinuate their fingers amongst the branches; and, with a little practice, they become expert in plucking the egg-bearing leaves, for which they are paid at a certain rate per hundred; collecting them in a basket, the contents of which should be burnt or scalded so as to prevent the escape of a single grub. Another remedy might be resorted to in gardens much infected with this nuisance, namely, taking the trees carefully up, and transplanting them in new ground very early in the spring; and then soaking the holes from which they were taken with quicklime and scalding water; though, such is the impenetrable case of the cocoon in which the chrysalis is enshrined that I have my doubts whether this precaution, however severe, will in all cases answer. It might be supposed that, by carefully examining the soil, great numbers might be taken; but this is not the case; for, whether from a glutinous quality in the external shell of the cocoon, or other cause, I know not, minute particles of earth adhere in so singular a manner, that I found it almost impossible to discover a single individual in the earth of a small flower-pot, in which to my certain knowledge, a considerable number had buried themselves; and from which, in fact, after I had searched in vain, when their hour of release was at hand, they emerged in full force. The dark spot upon the upper wing is an infallible mark whereby to distinguish them from some other small ichneumon flies resembling them, at least not easily distinguished by persons who are not naturalists.—*E. S. in London's Mag. of Nat. Hist.*, 1830, vol. III., pp. 245-6.

#### Communications.

Sir,—At this season the main interest of the farm, at any rate in Nova Scotia, centres in the Dairy. Next to meat-making, this is, perhaps, the most suitable and profitable form of farming. The produce of the farm, instead of being sold off, and nothing returned to the land, is fed to the animals and manure is made, and although the manure made from daily stock is far inferior to that made from fattening cattle—so much more of the phosphates &c., being taken up from the food to form the milk, which in the case of beef cattle is not required in the system and therefore passes off in the excrement, still the food is in the main returned to the soil, and as generally the keeping of cows is supplemented by the keeping of pigs, the skim milk is usually fed to the latter, and if their manure is

saved, as on all properly regulated farms it should be, after all the main constituents find their way back to the soil.

As in any other avocation, a study of the market will best guide the farmer as to the most profitable disposition of his produce. Butter is a portable article, so is cheese. Milk spoils readily, so cannot be carried far, and, less competition from a distance being probable, it must command relatively a higher price; therefore no person can be considered as making the best use of his milk who converts it into butter, when he is within such a distance of a ready market as enables him to sell his milk fresh in that market. Dwellers in towns must have talk. In the case of Halifax the immediate neighbourhood is ill adapted to farming—the few acres cleared are being rapidly covered with houses, thus reducing the area of land available to support cows and increasing the number of human mouths requiring milk. All this induces me to place milk first on the list as to profit, but there are drawbacks. The unsuitableness of the hours at which the trains run for this traffic; the distance of the Richmond station from Halifax is equal to 25 miles by rail—the expenses of carriage is about the same and the expenses of the milk great; then the difficulty of securing a trustworthy agent to retail the milk. It avails little, however fresh and pure the milk may be sent from the country daily, if it is largely diluted with lake water on arrival. Country milk gets a bad name, so do the farmers from whom it comes, and by comparison with this “manufactured” sky-blue fluid, the milk from the swill fed cows of the city is voted a delicacy. Let us look forward to better things: the prospect of an extension of the railroad into town is improving; an increase in the number of trains will follow; there will then, too be less difficulty in obtaining trustworthy retailers, and milk should then be saleable at a remunerative price in town, and those who live on the railroad within 40 miles of the city will certainly then find milk the most profitable article of sale.

Fresh butter ranks next. For this there will always be a demand, and one steadily increasing as the prosperity and wealth of the towns increase. At present there is little difficulty in supplying the demand in summer, but owing to the want of method in feeding cows in winter, the yield of milk and butter is so small then, that purveyors find it difficult even to supply a few regular customers. The winter feeding of stock must be considered later.

Next we come to the case of the farmer at a distance, his choice lies between salting butter and making cheese. Where the supply of milk will warrant it, there seems to be no doubt that cheese is the more profitable business. The results of

experiment show that while one gallon of milk will make a pound of cheese, three gallons are required to make one pound of butter, so that cheese can be sold at a third of the price of butter and pay as well. A report from the factory at Paradise in Annapolis, the first factory started in Nova Scotia, would be an interesting document, and I trust that the Directors will come out boldly and tell the public their experience. Their cheese is good, let us hope their profit is good also. Even in conservative England we find a demand for these factories growing up; and a most influential meeting, presided over by the Duke of Devonshire, the largest landowner in the county, was lately held in Derbyshire, a large cheese-producing County, at which the subject was discussed, and it was decided to start a factory forthwith and strong support was pledged, and arrangements made to engage an American manager to introduce a system new to England. I cannot help thinking that there are few better openings for our farmers than cheese factories in our agricultural districts, and some of the young men who are deserting their country on the miserably lame plea that it does not present a field for their energies, might very profitably devote themselves to working such establishments, thereby benefitting themselves, and the country of their birth.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,  
June 11, 1870. J. W. L.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture:

SIR,—I am no farmer, nor the son of a farmer, and have no claim on your type, on the ground of acquaintance with the pursuits of agriculture or husbandry; but inasmuch as the following observations are made with a simple desire to contribute to the advantage of a section of that important class in Nova Scotia, if you think them not inappropriate, I shall feel obliged if you will publish them.

One of your correspondents, "J. W. L.," in your last number, has communicated some practically useful information respecting the breeding of stock, and the making or manufacturing of butter, which has brought to my remembrance a product of the dairy, which I am rather surprised has not long ere this been added to our marketable commodities, *per se*, or made to do its part in improving the quality and quantity of Nova Scotian butter.

The article I allude to is "scald cream," or as it is sometimes called "Devonshire cream."

In the south of England there are two descriptions of butter—one made of raw cream, *i. e.*, the cream which rises on the cooling of the milk from the cow, after it is put aside in the dairy, in the way usually practised in Nova Scotia and elsewhere; the other made from scald

cream, which if I remember rightly, produces measure for measure, a much larger quantity of butter, and also of a richer quality.

The scald cream is brought to the towns from the adjacent country, on all market days, in cups, so called, of white earthenware, and in half pints and pints of similar material and shape, much after the fashion that our market women bring their print butter to market, in handy flat baskets, kept as cool as possible. It always finds a ready sale at remunerative prices, at every season of the year.

What is so amply remunerative there, would certainly be so here, and would be a profitable product of all dames in the vicinity of Halifax, or at easy distance from it by railroad. There is no reason whatever why we should not participate in this luxury. When fresh it is thick and substantial. Bread and cream once in a while, is a delicious substitute for bread and butter. Used with strawberries it imparts to them a flavour which no other cream can give, and now when the best varieties of garden strawberries are coming into successful cultivation in Nova Scotia, it becomes a positive necessity as an accompaniment. Gooseberry and apple pie are nothing without its enriching flavour and taste. All fruit preparations are more enjoyable by the addition of this cream. A lump of it is a wonderful improvement to a cup of tea or coffee. Its merits in fact are unquestionable, and the demand would be always in excess of the supply.

Scald cream, Devonshire cream, clouted cream—by all of which names it is known, is made by a very simple process. I have never been engaged in it myself, but have seen it in process, and shall attempt to describe it, although it is not quite unknown in Nova Scotia. If you or any of your contributors know of a better, I hope you will communicate it.

Let the milk from the cow after being strained be put aside in a pan until it is quite cool. The dairy pan may hold two gallons or thereabout, more or less. It may be of tin, a round open pan, less in circumference at bottom than at top. Place it on a charcoal or slow fire without shaking, and let it remain until the milk is thoroughly heated, but it must not boil, during all which time the cream will be gradually rising to and forming a thick cake on the surface. Take it off the fire carefully, and lay it by to cool gradually. The result will be a rich pale yellow skin above, and from one half to an inch of solid cream below. As all the cream will be extracted from the milk and lie atop, the remainder will not be quite as good as the skimmed milk after making cream by the other process, but may be used for similar purposes. In the cups of cream, half pints, &c., before alluded to as brought to market, the cup is filled with the solid

cream, and then covered with a piece of sufficient size, of the rich yellow skin that forms the surface.

I remain sir, with some doubt whether the little knowledge I possess of such matters, may not make me an intruder on your columns, but quite certain that "scald cream" would be generally appreciated.

A DEVONSHIRE DUMPLING.  
May, 1870.

### Reports of Agri. Societies.

#### WEST CORNWALLIS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1869.

It has been almost the history of this Society for a number of years, at its annual meetings, to meet reports of losses in stock, and this year we are found following in the steps of our predecessors. One of our best bulls became disqualified for further use during the summer, and we had to dispose of him at a merely nominal consideration, as will more fully appear in the account hereunto annexed. You will also see by referring to the said account that our receipts from the Central Board amounted only to the sum of eleven dollars and fifty cents. The original grant was thirty-nine dollars. Twenty-four were appropriated by vote of the Society last year in aid of the Provincial Exhibition at Halifax, and three dollars and fifty cents were retained for papers taken by the Society. The Society now numbers sixty-four paid up members, making our receipts from membership \$64. We believe we have the largest list of members ever obtained by the Society. Another source of encouragement exists in the fact of an unusually good crop, and that harvested and stored in excellent condition, which circumstances combined, must, all else being equal, place the community in a position of ease and independence altogether above that of the two or three years past. Hay is quite above average. Winter wheat, large and perfect crop. Summer, injured some by the midge, but good. The winter wheat would be more generally sown, but, in the rotation of crops, it succeeds the potato, which causes late sowing, and consequently late growth and exposure to midge. Rye—but little sown—a good crop this season. Barley, a good crop. Oats above average. Large growth of straw—heads well filled. Corn, a small crop, likely caused by wet spring, dry, cold summer and autumn. Buckwheat, a good crop, although not largely cultivated. Potatoes, the great staple crop of this section, is a large crop, of excellent quality, uninjured by blight. Apples exhibited at the Fruit-Growers' Association Show presented an excellence we never



\*\* Copies of the Prize List may be obtained on application to any Member of the Committee; or to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Halifax.

**ADVERTISEMENTS!**

**DEVON BULL WANTED!**

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

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

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass. Feb. 1870.

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June, 1870.

**LOVELL'S**

**Dominion & Provincial Directories.**

To be Published in October, 1870.

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

JOHN LOVELL, Publisher. Montreal, March 16, 1870.

**LOVELL'S DIRECTORIES.**

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

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