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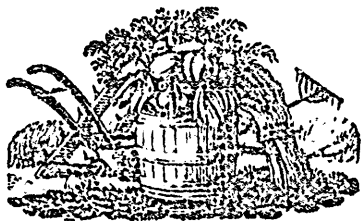
THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

VOL. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 16, 1843.

NO. 20



THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 16, 1843.

SECOND REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AT HALIFAX.

In presenting to the Legislature the Second Report of the Proceedings of The Central Board of Agriculture at Halifax, during the past year, together with the Treasurer's account, and a brief extract of the correspondence with the several Local Societies, the Board have been actuated by a desire to place before the country, a clear and correct view of its transactions thus far, in order that a just opinion may be formed of the manner in which they have discharged the duties which have been entrusted to them. The working of the system they have adopted, and the extent to which the aid of the Legislature, so liberally bestowed on that branch of industry, has hitherto operated in exciting a spirit of enterprise and zeal among the Agricultural classes.

Although the Board have great satisfaction in congratulating the Country on the results of the late bountiful Harvest, the increased production of bread corn, the introduction of superior seed, and improved Implements, and the progress of a more systematic cultivation, the Board are free to admit that they have as yet realized that full measure of success to which their own sanguine anticipations still point, yet they indulge the hope that an impartial examination of the details they now submit, will not only afford the clearest evidence of the propriety of continuing in the steady pursuit of the objects they are striving to attain, and establish a claim to indulgence for many errors into which their own inexperience may have led them, but also to the generous support of all whose breasts are animated with a desire to procure for our common country the rich blessings of happiness and independence.

The Board are not unmindful of the exceedingly low rates obtained for Agricultural Produce during the past year, nor that the fact has been by some superficial reasoners adduced as an argument against increased production: but the Board cannot for a moment admit the force of the objection. They believe that the rates will improve as soon as the causes, which led to their depression, are removed,—the chief of these being the stagnation of commerce during the last year, when the Wood trade and Shipping had almost ceased. Late accounts encourage the hope that activity will soon take place in these pursuits, and that we,

shall share in the benefits resulting from the late successes of the Mother Country by an improved demand for our exports.

While the Board are desirous of keeping steadily in view the great importance of the subject with which their labours are so closely connected, they also wish to avoid any course that would excite too hastily the public mind, or lead it without deliberation into schemes of extensive improvement—Agriculture is not to be successfully pursued without capital, or a tolerable stock of practical experience: with these, in connection with a steady and persevering industry, the Board entertain the entire conviction that no pursuit within our Provincial limits is more certain of an ample reward; while it is eminently free from the cares and vicissitudes of many other avocations.

Frequent allusion having been made to the utility of introducing an Agricultural School, and Pattern Farm, where both practical and theoretical knowledge might be obtained coincident with other branches of education, the Board have no hesitation in expressing their favourable disposition towards such a system should it be introduced into some of the educational establishments in the more fertile districts of the country.

While the exertion and zeal of many of the Societies, with whom the Board have the pleasure of corresponding, merit their warmest approval, it is a matter of regret that some have not exhibited that activity which might reasonably have been expected, from the liberal encouragement of the Legislature, or the disposition on the part of the Board to place within their reach all the information at their disposal. The subscription of Ten Pounds entitles a Society to a share in the general Grant, and while many have largely exceeded it, others have but raised the amount, and some have omitted doing so altogether. It is to be hoped that the Board will not again have occasion for remark on this point, and that another year will exhibit a different feeling. The object of the Legislature is no doubt to awaken the zeal and give an impetus to the cause, but the Board must ever consider the amount of the local subscription, the surest test of the desire for Agricultural improvement.

One or two active and persevering Members in each Society will give a tone to their whole proceedings, and infuse a spirit of life and vigour through the whole body, and as such are found in every district, the Board recommend to each Society to press them into the service forthwith.

It is gratifying to learn from the Reports of the Pictou and Brookfield Societies, that our native artisans are commencing the manufacture of Implements of Husbandry within their limits. This is one of the results of the introduction of Models through the instrumentality of the Central Board, and an object they have kept continually in view. It is in vain to complain of the want of money in the Rural Districts while we are importing from strangers such articles as our own Mechanics can produce, and letting them remain idle for want of patronage. The Board will have much pleasure in encouraging their industry, and continuing to procure the best models at the expense of their own funds.

The Board had hoped, ere this, to have had it in their power to have noticed the establishment in the City of a respectable Agricultural Warehouse, where New Publications, Seeds, Implements

Stock, and general information in that department, might be readily obtained. We are often disappointed in importing Seeds, Seed Grain, &c. when we might procure within our own selves that which is better suited to the climate, and more to be relied on. The commercial difficulties already alluded to may have delayed the introduction, but the Board still entertain the opinion that a well conducted establishment of that nature would not only be convenient to the public, but also conducive to private advantage.

As some disappointment has seemed to prevail with respect to the Horse "Montreal," and as they are desirous that all their proceedings should have the fullest publicity, they offer the following explanation to justify the course they have pursued relative to that animal.

It may be recollected that he was offered at Public Sale shortly after his arrival, when no purchaser appearing to give a price the Board were inclined to accept, they entered into an arrangement with the Member from King's County, on behalf of the Local Society, who agreed to take charge of him, and pay his expense on condition of receiving the amount of his earnings. At the close of the season he was returned to the Board, and again offered at Public Sale, when the Hon. William Young became the purchaser, for the sum of Thirty-one pounds, designing him for the use of his own County. In thus acting, the Board conceive they made the most judicious arrangement for the public interest and anticipate an approval of their proceedings. They employed the best agent they could get, and took every pains to procure a suitable animal: nor can they hold themselves liable to censure, even should he not realise the general expectation.

The Board would have dwelt less minutely on this point were they not conscious of a disposition to depreciate his value by some not over zealous in promoting the objects in which they are engaged, but who, perchance, might have more highly appreciated him as private property.

In relation to the "Morgan" Horse, the sum placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Lieut Governor, was by him transferred to the Central Board to carry out that object, and on that occasion they availed themselves of the services of Mr. Palmer, who tendered them, and was about to visit the United States on his private business. The Board were led to this decision from the circumstance of the same gentleman having been instrumental in obtaining the Grant of the Assembly for that purpose, and hoping that their choice would secure its approval. Different opinions have been formed as to the qualities of this Horse, and he may not equal the expectation of all, but it may be recollected that Horse flesh sometimes deceives those who profess to be the profoundest Judges. The Board have however the satisfaction to state that such is the estimation in which he is held by his former owner, that, in a letter recently received from him, he states that, on his being returned, he thinks there would be no difficulty in obtaining the price he cost.

The Board transmitted an order during the Spring for thirty sheep of the Black Faced or Cheviot breed; they arrived in the month of August with the exception of five which unfortunately died on their passage: two others died subsequently, the remainder were disposed of at Public Sale, and although the loss on the shipment was considerable, there are sufficient left in the Country to make a fair trial of their qualities.

A Highland Bull and Heifer were also ordered for the Windsor Society, the former of which unfortunately died on his arrival.

With reference to the Alpaca Sheep as some information seemed

to be desired during the last Session, the Board made enquiries from their correspondent in the United States respecting them when they learned that they had not been into that Country, and they believe only in a very few instances into Great Britain the Board in consequence conclude that it would be more advisable to promote the introduction of the Dishley and South Down.

The Board sent an order to their Agents in Scotland, early in the season for a Clydesdale Horse, but as one could not be had at their limits, being £80 to £85 sterling, nor a convenient opportunity for sending one, they concluded not to renew the order. They have received from the same agent a Turnip Drill, and a Mill for crushing grain, which will be offered for sale during the session.

As one of the most important duties which the Board feel themselves called on to perform, and in which they are desirous of acquitting themselves to the best of their ability, was the collection and diffusion of Agricultural information, including the most approved modes of culture, Mechanical inventions to forward its operations, descriptions of the most valued Stock, Seed, Fowl, &c. the Board have endeavoured with a full conviction of its importance to circulate, through the medium of the Press, whatever has come under their review, and promised to be useful. This part of their duty is, however, by no means light, if faithfully performed, as it is the only mode of distributing such information, and they must claim the assistance of the Agricultural Gentlemen, throughout the Province, in supporting the organs of communication they have selected for that purpose, otherwise they cannot be sustained.

It may reasonably be expected that a Board, so constituted, should not hesitate to offer any suggestions that appears likely to benefit the general interest, although their opinions may be occasionally controverted. Among the many that might be offered in a young country, like this, they will venture on one or two only, desirous that their remarks may not extend to an inconvenient length.

It is a matter of notoriety that in all our Counties, large tracts of the most valuable lands, once under cultivation, now lie waste and useless. Were these lands raised to their true value and a demand created for them, they would in many cases, relieve the embarrassments of those who have committed the common error of procuring too much land, to the prejudice of that portion immediately under tillage. It is believed that the value of land estate might be materially increased were some plan adopted for furnishing to the Emigrant, on his arrival, such information would enable him to know the country, and direct his steps to settlement. A vast stream of emigration is annually flowing to the more remote possessions of the Empire, and sweeping towards lands, not more highly favoured than our own, the accumulation of wealth, skill and industry. Nova Scotia presents attractions that may favourably compare with any country—connected with Europe by a short passage of ten days—blest with a healthy climate, and a productive soil—where action and opinion are not only to the restraint of the mildest and most wholesome laws. In such a country, if lands are cheap and labour scarce, and medical skill difficult to command—the remedy is in our own hands, we are disposed to use it. To effect this object, Committees of Correspondence might be formed in every County communicating with a Central Committee, who should prepare and arrange the information received, so as to present it in an useful form to the Emigrant on his arrival. Were this done, we should hear less complaint of low prices, since we should be enabled to introduce consumers as well as producers. As labour is scarce also it

season of tillage, it becomes more necessary that we should take more pains to introduce labour saving machines: this appears to be the true secret which enables our neighbours in the United States to get a head of us, though they are subject to heavy taxes, and cannot boast of a better soil or climate. We pay to them a large amount in money which might be saved to the country, besides the advantage of supplying an additional number of consumers. The Board are directing their attention to a proposal for appropriating a part of their funds to the encouragement of Cattle Fairs, and exhibitions of Agricultural Manufactures and Produce throughout the Province.

To effect this object it is proposed to devote part of their funds to be distributed in Premiums at three Fairs in different Counties in each year, commencing in 1844. The local Societies to make all the necessary arrangements for the exhibitions, and the Board to appoint or send their own Committee to award the Prizes without reference to those of the Local Committee. When articles are offered for exhibition, deserving of encouragement, but not entitled to a prize, the Committee to be authorised to grant a certificate of approval or recommendation.

It is thought that this additional mode of encouragement may lead to increased efforts for the advancement of the Agricultural interest, and awaken a more active and cheerful spirit in its pursuit. The Board will be gratified to learn the opinions of intelligent and practical Farmers on this point.

The Central Board are unwilling to close this Report without tendering their sincere thanks to all those who have assisted and lightened their task in furnishing information, or promoting the cause, through the medium of their own active and persevering example—and conclude with the expression of their full conviction that the efforts made for its advancement will be eventually crowned with success: and their determination so to pursue their own labours as to merit the approbation of the Country.

JAMES MCNAB,
WILLIAM YOUNG,
SAMUEL CHIPMAN,
MATTHEW RICHARDSON,
THOMAS WILLIAMSON,
EDWARD ALLISON,
JAMES B. HOLDSWORTH,
EDWARD PRYOR, JR.
JOHN E. FAIRBANKS,
RICHARD J. FORRESTALL.

Halifax, 14th February, 1843.

ABSTRACT OF THE REPORTS

Of the Local Societies in correspondence with the Central Board of Agriculture at Halifax, with the amount of their subscriptions, and the sums appropriated by the Board to each Society.

HALIFAX—Subscription, £25; Grant, £20; amount drawn, £20.—This Society had both a Drilling and Ploughing Match during the season, the work in many instances so well performed by very young Ploughmen as to prove the utility and emulation excited by those trials of skill. They have paid £20 15s. in prizes for Ploughing, and Green crops. The general yield has exceeded the usual average. The soil, originally stony and barren when fertilized by the manure of the City yields about thirty bushels of wheat to the acre.

DARTMOUTH—Subscription, £16 15s., Grant, £25, amount drawn, £25.—At their March Meeting agreed upon a list of premiums for Stock, Agricultural produce, and Ploughing Match, expressed their satisfaction at an address delivered by their President. The Ploughing Match held in October excited much com-

petition. In November their Fair and Cattle Show took place and was numerously attended, various specimens of Stock and produce were offered for competition, and they awarded in premiums about £33.

The crops throughout the district were considered a fair average. They have procured and distributed 40 copies of Jackson's work. A spirit of activity is rapidly extending itself.

WINNOR—Subscription, £25; Grant, £37 10s.; amount drawn, £37 10s.—Hay scarcely an average crop—Wheat and Potatoes far above the average. Look for an increased cultivation of wheat in consequence of the erection of a superior Grist Mill by Messrs. Dewolf, who manufacture flour of the finest quality. Their system of Agriculture is improving. They have paid £44 for a Highland Bull and Heifer, and £9 5s. in premiums at their Cattle show and Ploughing Match.

EAST HANTS—Subscription, £10 10s.; Grant, £37 10, in addition to £12 10, being remainder of £75 from last year.—Their crops very good and cultivation improving, too much apathy still prevailing: have purchased 26 copies of Jackson's work, and 25 copies of the Colonial Farmer. gave orders for Stock from England, but were disappointed owing to the insufficiency of their funds.

HURON—Subscription, £20, Grant, £22 10s; amount drawn, £22 10s.—Have taken much pains to induce increased attention to Agriculture—have procured 12 copies of Jackson's work, Evans's, the Mechanic & Farmer, and 20 copies of the Colonial Farmer. Their Ploughing Match well attended: the work superior to that performed on any former occasion. have paid £13 10s. in premiums. The calves by their English bulls superior to the common breed. crops generally good. potatoes far above an average; some exceeding 500 bushels per acre. A large crop of Rutabaga raised by Mr. Taylor, who has imported a Bone Mill and drilled the bone dust with the seed. Improvements progressing. fences neater: gardening and planting of ornamental trees extending: lands underdrained, and greater attention paid to the manure and compost heap. Recommend the Board to consider the expediency of establishing an Agricultural School and Model Farm, such institutions having had an extraordinary influence where they have been introduced, and think they might be commenced on a small scale: they suggest the propriety of incorporating Agricultural Societies, as they have narrowly escaped a lawsuit in protecting their property.

CORNWALLIS—Subscription, £20; Grant, £37 10s.; amount drawn, £37 10s.—Crops more than usually abundant, owing not only to a favourable season but to more skilful management, stimulated thereto by Agricultural Societies: are confirmed in their belief through success, that few countries are better for raising wheat: potatoes uncommonly good in quality and very abundant. Farmers beginning to plant less and manure more richly: fruit abundant, orchards lately grafted beginning to bear: expect soon to supply the demand for apples of the finest quality. The Bull "Young Favourite" esteemed the finest animal in the county, if not in the Province, he was purchased from the Central Board; his calves much superior to the common stock: the breed of pigs from the Berkshire boar weigh from 150 to 240 lbs. from seven to nine months old—they think pork can be made cheaper by one or one half penny per pound from them than the common stock: have offered premiums on the stock of Young Favourite to be paid in 1844. The Horse Montreal not generally patronised, being more suitable for the carriage or saddle than heavy draught: estimated

his receipts at about £35: propose to have a Cattle show in October next: hope that the Board in dividing the money will bear in mind that the land in their county is capable of being made the best in the Province: that they have among them many respectable farmers and persons of general knowledge, and that they have in the last two years expended nearly £100 in the importation of improved stock, besides a considerable sum in premiums.

CORNWALLIS, WESTERN BRANCH—Subscription, £11 0s 3d.—Have usually expended their funds in improved stock and implements, premiums, Periodicals, &c. They resolved at their last Annual Meeting that each member should make one experiment with lime. They have expended £8 10s. for a pair of Berkshire pigs; £2 10s for the Colonial Farmer; £10 for lime, and £4 5s for wintering the Society's stock.

AYLESFORD—Grant, £10; amount drawn, £15.—Their crops above an average: they cultivate too much land for their manure; some are beginning to avoid this error. Their Cheviot ram soon died, but they have 17 superior lambs from him, and regret his loss. The South Down ram has been disordered, but has recovered: have procured from New Brunswick a fine bull, from an Ayrshire cow crossed with a Durham bull: have expended the sum of £27 12 6d. but do not state that any subscription has been received.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL—Subscription, £11 6s.; Grant, £25; amount drawn, £25.—Owing to the late formation of this Society they have made but little progress; they have expended about £13 in the importation of a bull from St. John's, and the care of him.

DIOR—Grant, 50; amount drawn, £25.—This Society appears to be extinct—they have no funds and have raised no subscription.

CLARE—Subscription, £15; Grant, £25; amount drawn, £25.—Commenced too late to be able to report much progress: the people are zealous and hope to succeed. They have expended for Farming implements, clover and timothy seed, the sum of £32.

BROOKFIELD—Subscription, £10; Grant, £37 10s; amount drawn, £37 10s.—The chief employment is clearing new woodland: a few attempting to improve the soil. The Pinney pigs highly approved of: bring higher prices than the common stock. The sheep obtained from Kings County did not equal their expectations: they have introduced a bull from Annapolis, and offered bounties for raising wheat next year: also for turnips part raised with burnt clay, and for oats, clover seed, Homespun cloth, Threshing machines, hay rakes and forks, and mounted scythes. Smiths: have purchased implements as models for their own manufacture, and think they can make and sell them as low as the Americans: estimate their exports at about £4,500 per annum: have expended for a bull, seeds, implements, and Colonial Farmer above £40.

CHESTER—Subscription, £10; Grant, £37 10s.; amount drawn, £27 10s.—Crops above an average: cultivation of wheat rapidly increasing, superseding the sowing of barley formerly used for bread: no decided improvement manifested in the mode of cultivation, but a spirit of enquiry awakened: an improvement has taken place in their breed of sheep from the Southdown, Cheviot and Dishley, purchased from the Central Board. Cannot ascertain their exports, suppose that of potatoes to exceed 20,000 bushels annually: have paid about £56 for Stock, premiums, and Agricultural papers. Sherbrook Village much improved lately. the former settlers giving way to the natives.

MAHONÉ BAY—Subscription, £18; Grant, £37 10; amount drawn, £37 10s.—As their funds were low this year concluded

not to offer premiums till next. Their bull proved so unruly that they killed him, and exported his beef. Most of the Farmers wedded to old customs, but a number beginning to improve their stock as well as the soil. Crops generally good, some very superior. The common sheep very inferior, but they preferred some had in Windsor to those purchased from the Board: improvement expected from both. The stock of swine generally bad, but one kind weighs from 3½ to 5 cwt. at 20 months. The American cow has had two litters, but notwithstanding every attention she destroyed them all. Sows crossed with the American boar have improved the breed. The Suffolk boar proved useless, neither in size or appearance being approved of. Three lambs from the ewes were sold to members. Some clover and timothy seed for winter wheat has been ordered.

A Fair was held on the 20th October, it was well attended by Farmers from the neighbourhood, as well as from Windsor and Annapolis. From 150 to 200 head of cattle, and 70 to 80 horses were shown: owing to the general depression little business was done, but it was estimated that about £180 changed hands. They have paid for stock and seeds £32 10s.

COLCHESTER OR TADCO—Subscription, £11; Grant, £50; amount drawn, £50.—Have had an exhibition of stock and produce, and a Ploughing Match, and offered premiums payable for years hence, for encouraging the Rotation system: lands have this season produced from 350 to 480 bushels of potatoes, and will probably convince them that large crops are most profitable: have expended £30 in premiums. Cattle at show not good: Farmers seem not disposed to improve any stock except sheep for wool, on account of the low prices of beef and pork. Very fine samples of grain, and homespun cloth exhibited at the show.

STERLING—Subscription, £10; Grant, £25.—The local funds with the exception of £2 for incidental charges, have been appropriated to premiums—on stock, £4; crossed do. £3 15s; sheep ploughmen, £3; Berkshire pig from P. E. Island, £1 5s. Improvements are rapidly advancing: the population industrious and persevering Scotchmen. The Black cattle supposed to be best suited to the present state of the country. mals of good breed have been procured. Their horses are small and hardy and do a great deal of the farm work. Have an excellent breed of sheep yielding about 4 lbs. washed wool per fleece: cannot state the quantity of produce exported. above 8 tons of butter have been shipped to Halifax, and considerable quantities to other places.

NEW GLASGOW—Subscription, 10l. 6s; Grant, 25l.; amount drawn, 25l.—Number of members increasing: seed grain has been procured, had bought cattle in Scotland, and arranged for others at Shubenacadie: disappointed in both by the deaths of the Agents. Held a Cattle Show and Ploughing Match and distributed nearly 12l. in prizes, which have induced the raising of sheep: the use of lime little understood though limestone abundant: have offered prizes for using it. have resolved to import sheep and swine of the best breeds, and 20 bushels of the best white oats: being alarmed at the scarcity of fodder have sold their Durham bull, which cost 15l. for 3l. Lament the low price of produce, and think if the Assembly does not protect them from Canadian and American competition they must quit the country.

PICTOU—Subscription, 15l.; Grant, 25l.; amount drawn, 15l.—Have imported from Boston various implements costing over 16l.—also through the Central Board, 1 bbl. clover seed and vetches, the latter useless, being the common wild pea: they have had from Prince Edward Island, 50 bushels tea wheat; 1 bushels bald do., and 18 bushels potatoe onts; 61 bushels of flax

oats, and 10 bushels of a new kind of wheat: they dispose of these to members at costs and charges. Have had an exhibition of stock and produce at which they gave premiums amounting to 30*l.*, prize 3*l.* for Ploughing, and 2*l.* for an essay on the white daisy. They now manufacture Thrashing-mills, Strawcutters, Prouty's plough, and iron ploughs on the Scotch model: have 60 members who attend the Meetings and proceed with much spirit.

RIVER JOHN—Subscription, 16*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; Grant, 25*l.*; amount drawn, 25*l.*—The efforts of the Society have already proved beneficial. The calves by their Durham bull show a decided superiority over the common stock, and as the premiums have excited owners to raise them, the advantages promise to be permanent: their sheep have been improved by the importation of four young rams: they prefer the Southdown to the Leicester, the former having finer wool and proving more hardy. Their premiums have increased the produce this year: potatoes are abundant and good: wheat and oats of an average quantity—the latter light: common turnips failed—Swedish succeeded: hay scarcely two thirds of an usual crop. The Farmers have felt much embarrassment owing to the failure of the demand from Shipbuilders and Lumberers, their usual customers: heavy losses were sustained on their exportations to Newfoundland—about 15 tons of butter have been exported to that quarter, Prince Edward Island, Halifax, and St. Pierre: have no idea of being discouraged by their disappointments, but resolve to increase their exertions. Have double the usual quantity of land prepared for sowing in the Spring: have commenced an Agricultural Library, and expended their funds in premiums for stock, books, produce, homespun cloth, and farming implements.

AMHERST—Grant, 20*l.*—Have expended for a Short-horned bull, said to be nine years old, 12*l.* 12*s.* and for the Mechanic & Farmer 17*s.* 6*d.*, give credit for balance of 16*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* from last year, and 6*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* for sales of clover seed. Have collected no subscriptions: cannot account for them till April next. Have caused the Secretary to enquire the price of a Norman Horse imported into the U. States last year from France: Think no part of the Province possesses greater natural advantages, or has done less to improve them. Grain and potatoes have yielded well: hay a good crop in the marshes, though light in the uplands.

PARRISBORO'—Subscription, 16*l.*; Grant, 20*l.*; amount drawn, 24*l.*—Hay very light except on land limed a year or two back, where it yielded very well. are erecting more lime kilns in consequence: wheat injured by rust excepting what was sown previous to 20th April. The produce of their lumber and ship-building labour which used to procure them bread, having failed, they have applied most of their funds as bounties to promote the raising wheat and making oatmeal: have offered premiums for composts and burnt clay.

WALLACE—Grant, 35*l.*; amount drawn, 35*l.*—Have received from the Central Board 70*l.* for 2 years: have expended for clover seed, stock, Agricultural papers, &c. 91*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* (do not appear to have raised any subscription this year.) They have purchased from P. E. Island 2 boars, 21 lambs, and 3 bulls of good breeds: have had three Ploughing Matches. Their cultivation improving: have 64 members: cannot now ascertain last year's crop—that of 1841 was 24,261 bushels potatoes, 2,778 bush. wheat, 4,297 bush. oats, 461 bush. barley, 280 bush. buckwheat, and 197 bush. peas. Their clover seed was fresh and good.

RIVER PHILIP—Subscription, 11*l.*—This Society has expended about 20*l.* in stock and premiums: usually plough grass land in the Fall, sowing next Spring with grain. then potatoes followed

with grain and grass seed. raise wheat, rye and oats, and large quantities of buckwheat as it is not an exhausting crop. They have improved the sheep, both in the quantity and quality of their wool, by the introduction of better breeds: have obtained this Fall a Durham bull and a pair of Berkshire pigs. Chiefly dispose of their surplus produce to Lumberers, though a considerable quantity is sent to Halifax. Their farming exhibits a marked improvement: the Ploughing Match was zealously contested. Large quantities of lime have been applied with great effect, particularly to wheat. A much larger quantity of grain than usual has been raised this year owing to the exertions of this Society. Understanding that the Amherst Society are not likely to raise their Ten pounds, request that the sum intended for that Society may be transferred to them.

NOTE—This Society has received nothing from the Board, there being four Societies in the County. The sum of 35*l.* was assigned to Wallace with a request that 16*l.* might be allowed to the River Philip Society, and in the case of this not being done, the Central Board would attend to their claims next year.

PORT HOOD—Subscription, 12*l.* 10*s.*; Grant, 37*l.* 10*s.*; amount drawn, 37*l.* 10*s.*—Have imported from Prince Edward Island, 50 sheep, 10 pigs, 4 bulls, and a cow and calf, at a cost of 108*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, and sold them for 84*l.* 14*s.* From the Central Board various implements at a cost of 15*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* which sold for 9*l.* 2*s.*—also seeds costing 11*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* which are expected to nett their cost. From Boston farming implements at a cost of 12*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* which sold for 9*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, and implements from the same place not yet sold which cost 34*l.*

BROAD COVE—Subscription, 12*l.* 10*s.*; Grant, 37*l.* 10*s.*; amount drawn, 37*l.* 10*s.*—Owing to disappointment, occasioned by the ice, did not receive their supply of seed from Prince Edward's Island, in time for Spring sowing. They have this Fall imported 72 bushels seed oats, 20 bushels bald wheat, 6 bushels barley, and 2 bushels timothy seed. Also 3 year old Short-horned Durham bull, and two English pigs. The stock has been sold to members, and the seed grain is to be divided among them. They propose erecting 6 Limekilns in the Spring for burning that article for manure: and to subscribe for the Colonial Farmer from their own funds.

SYDNEY—Subscription, 23*l.* 11*s.*; Grant, 75*l.*; amount drawn, 75*l.*—Hay and oats scarcely half a crop: wheat about two thirds: potatoes an average: the aftergrass so destroyed by the grass-hopper as to limit the quantity of butter and prevent the improvement of grass fed cattle: obliged to sacrifice one third of their Stock at trifling prices, owing to the Newfoundland and Halifax markets being glutted. The farms generally ill managed: a few only setting better examples: are of opinion that it would be more advisable to encourage the production of bread corn, for which the Province is annually drained of its specie, than to extend the raising of cattle while beef and pork fail to obtain remuneratory prices. This Society have expended for implements, seeds, sheep, and prizes, at their Cattle show and Ploughing Match, the sum of 74*l.* 3*s.* The estimated value of the exports from this county during the two past years is about 30,000*l.* in each year, and though the amount is less this year, the number of cattle exported has been greater.

RICHMOND—Subscription, 20*l.*; Grant, 75*l.*; amount drawn, 75*l.*—Proofs of the utility of this Society are exhibited in the increased number of their Members, particularly from the interior. Though the County still imports a considerable amount of provisions, the agriculture is progressing. Ten years since it was a

very rare thing to see a hog or a tub of butter raised here. owing to the improvement of the roads sled loads may frequently be seen in the streets of Arichat. Comfortable houses and commodious barns are being raised on the sites of the original log huts, and draining has been recently introduced. Were partially disappointed in their endeavour to procure seeds and implements in the Spring, but obtained a supply in the Fall which will be distributed during the Winter. Though the time has yet been too limited to produce much visible effect, the interest in their proceedings is increasing, and the Managers have on all occasions experienced the cordial co-operation of the Members of the Society. They have already imported seeds, stock, implements and books, amounting to nearly 100*l*.

SARLE RIVER—Subscription, 10*l*; Grant, 37*l*. 10*s*.; amount drawn, 37*l*. 10*s*.—This Society have expended for grass seed, Agricultural papers, and the care of their Ayrshire bull, the sum of 42*l*. 7*s* 6*d*.

COUNTY OF CARLINGTON—Subscription, 6*l*. 10*s*.; Grant, 75*l*. amount drawn, 75*l*.—The Committee have given their Treasurer a guarantee to pay 13*l*. 10*s*. when called for. Cultivation increasing; new members joining the Society, stimulated thereto by the competition created by the prizes, and the introduction of better implements and stock. Lime is coming into use by the Farmers who burn it themselves. The Cattle show was numerous and respectably attended: the prizes paid in cash. In January an exhibition of Agricultural Produce is to be held, when the prizes will consist of implements of husbandry. A Thrashing Machine has been ordered from Albany, and grass seed to the amount of 20*l*. They have paid in premiums 32*l*. 5*s*., and their exports are 600 tubs of butter, 15 carcasses of beef, 1187 head of cattle, 8 horses, 615 sheep, 1050 bushels oats, 1500 bushels potatoes, and 39 pigs. Imports, 600 bushels oats.

MUSQUODOBIE—Subscription, 10*l*.; Grant, 30*l*.; amount drawn, 30*l*.—Their crops consist of wheat, potatoes, oats, hay and buckwheat—the first yields 18 bushels, rarely 25 or 30 per acre. oats 30 to 40; potatoes vary from 200 to 300 bushels. The usual rotation is first oats; second, potatoes with manure; third, wheat with grass, and lastly, hay 3 to 5 years or more. Farmers generally work too much ground, and manure what they do work too sparingly. A few have lately introduced the following rotation which promises to be an improvement. Pasture arable land two or three years, then potatoes with manure, next wheat top dressed with compost, hay follows two or three years and again pasture. It is considered unadvisable to increase the size of their cattle till the pastures are improved. English sheep have been procured from Tatmagouche and Shubenacadie: the appearance of their lambs is promising. Have expended for seeds, stock, farming implements, and publications, the sum of 30*l*. 10*s* 10*d*.

YANMOUTH—Subscription, 22*l*. 10*s*.; Grant, 75*l*.; amount drawn, 75*l*.—This Society have paid for 26 American pigs, one Ayrshire bull, 16 Dishley sheep, besides the cost of importation and five copies of the Colonial Farmer, amounting in all to the sum of 132*l*. 6*s* 7½*d*. Their sales of stock amount to 70*l*. 12*s* 6*d*.

BRIDGE TOWN, Annapolis County—Grant, 50*l*.; amount drawn, 50*l*.—This Society exhibits little proof of animation by their conduct. A general lukewarmness seems to prevail, and they have not raised a sufficient sum to entitle them to their Grant.

GUYSBOROUGH—Subscription, 20*l*.; Grant, 75*l*.; amount drawn, 75*l*.—This Society have expended in two years, for stock and the expences of taking care of them, the sum of 144*l*. 5*s* 10*d*.

CHARCOAL.

Charcoal dust was tried by Edward Lucas to form a substitute for tan in a hot bed of low temperature at Munich. The coal was heated by pipes passing through it, and the flower pots set in it, they usually are in the tan beds in hothouses. Numbers of the stronger having pushed roots through the holes in the bottom, the pots into the charcoal dust, began to grow with uncommon luxuriance, and produced flowers more than commonly beautiful. seeds from the plants which fell accidentally upon the cases came up very quickly, among which were many young ferns. It is generally found extremely difficult to propagate. Mr. Lucas's attention being attracted to these facts he mixed charcoal dust with the soil in several pots which in nearly every instance caused them rapidly to surpass those cultivated in the common way, both in growth and beauty, and also restored a healthy colour to stately plants. He also tried pots of unmixed charcoal dust, which he found to require very frequent watering, but to be very good for striking cuttings, more than forty kinds of which took root in a very short time; he even succeeded in making the leaves of several plants take root, among which were some tufts of pease. These experiments were made with pine charcoal, but he afterwards found that animal charcoal (burnt bones, or ivory black) was superior to the coal of wood.—From a paper published in *Leibig's Agricultural Chemistry*.

PESTILENTIAL DISEASE AMONG CATTLE.

Second Report of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, Ireland.

We now proceed to give Messrs. Olden's letter on the prevailing Epidemic amongst Horned Cattle, called *Pneuro Pneumonia*, a gall-ringing consumption, addressed to the secretary of the above Society. We will now let Messrs. Olden describe for themselves the complaint as they found it, merely observing, that Mr. St. John Jeffereys, the gentleman named by them, lost eighteen of his finest cows without saving one of those attacked.

Sir: I beg to inclose you the result of a *post mortem* examination of two cows, belonging to St. John Jeffereys, Esq. of Ballyne, and which had been under treatment at our establishment for *Pneumonia*, the general character of the epidemic at present prevailing amongst cattle in this county. The premonitory symptoms of this disease are so obscure to the cowherd or care-taker that the veterinary surgeon is seldom applied to, until the secondary symptoms have set in and the case is hopeless.

The symptoms are as follow. Acceleration of the pulse, which ranges from 80 to 120. The animal invariably hangs the head accompanied by dryness of the muzzle; the flanks heave according to the severity of the disease; a husky cough—weeping from the eyes—total loss of appetite—grinding of teeth—secretion of milk suspended—the belly drawn up—a low moaning, together with a grunt at every expiration—the lungs appearing also to be filled by a painful effort only. These symptoms are all progressive.

Seven hours after death the following *post mortem* examination took place. On laying open the cavity of the chest, there was an effusion of colored serum water to the extent of three gallons. The pleura or lungs exhibited the appearance of the highest and most acute inflammation; a considerable quantity of coagulated lymph covered the whole surface of the lungs, and extensive adhesions existed between the pleura costalis, and pulmonis. The tissue of the lungs was extensively disorganized, and at least for fifths of the whole substance was in a hepatic state. The remaining portion of the lungs which did not exhibit traces of having been the seat of acute inflammation, was thickly coated with tubercles. The mucus membrane of the throat and windpipe was vascular, but did not present any appearance of violent inflammation, but the ramifications of the bronchiæ in the lungs, were highly inflamed, and plugged up with firm masses of coagulated mucus and coagulated lymph, similar to the false membrane often discharged in croup in the human subject. The diseased parts of the lungs were so solid and fleshy, that the specific gravity was to the sound part in the ratio of six to one.

GAPES IN CATTLE.—Take as much soft soap as will cover the thumb-nail, and mix it with meal dough. Give it to the child at any stage of the disease. If this fails on the first application it rarely does on the second.—*American Farmer*.

LITTER

It is very necessary to the health of cattle that their stables should be well littered. When straw is not to be had for this purpose the small twigs of the balsam fir will answer very well, and will considerably increase the quantity of manure, for the green leaves of the fir contain a large proportion of potash, an article necessary to grain and grasses, and in some measure to every sort which we cultivate. The stony part of the soil will not dissolve in water unless united with potash or soda, but the Epidermis or outer bark of grain and grasses contains always a portion of silica or flint earth, which is the reason that the ash of straw makes a good grit for Razor straps. Whenever there is too little of this silica in the composition of grain the straw is watery and liable to rust and to fall.

When the ground is thawed in the spring, the man who has no hay may generally support his Cattle with grass roots till the vegetation commences, as the inhabitants of India do in the dry season; these roots are most easily procured, and cattle thrive remarkably upon a mixture of them with those of the Crowfoot. They will also live on the roots of Sorrel, Couchgrass, Dandelions, or Prickly Parsnips. This last has a prickly stem about sixteen inches long, without branches; it grows only on newly burnt woodland, producing a great quantity of roots which spread widely in the moldering turf.

When cattle are very poor in the spring in consequence of scanty food, mark those that have held the most flesh, for breeders, and those that have lost most, for turning off as soon as they can be cleaned, taking care never to raise any of their calves.

VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES.

This celebrated poem, (taken substantially from Juvenal, who borrowed his material from Socrates;) may, whenever it shall be touched by a future poet, receive a notable addition from the circumstances of the present times. Millions have been accustomed to wish that they could find a friend who would lend them a sum of money, as they were assured they could in that case get it back. Since the commencement of the present Century all of these wishers who could give good security, have found friends who, for valuable consideration, have lent them to their hearts content. The consequences we all feel. Experience, we have been told, keeps us in school, and the truth of this proverb we have learned by experience. As we must pay for our schooling; let us get what we can from it, and hereafter, before gratifying a wish coolly and carefully calculate the possible and probable consequences of such gratification, instead of waiting, as we have done, to feel them afterward. The importance of doing things at the proper time is well expressed by the French Kings son, who complained to his master that a certain Nobleman had threatened to beat out his brains. "Never fear Triboulet," said the King "if any body kills me, I'll have him hanged a quarter of an hour after." "Ah sire," replied Triboulet, "please to have him hanged a quarter of an hour before."

ON THE BREEDING OF CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Many farmers consider as matter of indifference that on which the profitable nature of their occupation mainly depends. The worse breed the female is, the more this will be the case when she is put to a well bred male. Now, it is known to graziers, that to attempt to fatten an animal that possesses no feeding propensities, produces loss instead of profit. The feeding propensities descend to the sire, and therefore, it is quite just to say, that a breeder of cattle or sheep, who considers it a matter of indifference what

sort of a male animal he uses, does consider it a matter of indifference whether he gains profit or incurs loss.

The first thing to be considered in the selection of a male, are the indications by which it may be possible to form a judgment as to his constitution. In all animals a wide chest indicates a strength of constitution, and there can be no doubt that this is the point of shape to which it is most material for any breeder to look, in the selection of either a bull or a ram. The animal also should exhibit great muscular power, or rather, his muscles should be large. This is a usual accompaniment of a strong constitution; but it likewise shows that there will be a good proportionate mixture of lean and fat in the meat produced by the animal; the muscles being that part of the meat which is lean. A thick neck is, both in bulls and rams, a proof of the muscles being large, and there can hardly be a greater fault in the shape of a male animal, of either sort, than his having a thin neck.

In a bull there ought to be a full muscle on each side of the back bone, just behind the top of the shoulder blades. He ought also to have the muscles on the outside of the thigh, and extending down nearly to the hough. It is sufficient to say, therefore, that no animal is fit to be used at all as a sire, whose handling is not good, and that the more perfect his shape is, the better.

A man can only look at the general quality of the females he possesses, and observe what are the faults most prevalent among them; these he should be most careful to avoid in the male which he intends to use. All that a man can do is to avoid putting a male and female together whose imperfections are the same, thereby increasing the fault already existing in his stock. It need not be said that those who turn two or three rams of different shape and qualities into a field with all their ewes, without attempting to make any selections among them, have no right to be successful breeders, and if they do expect it, will certainly be disappointed.

There is one failing to which all breeders are liable, but to which the breeder of male animals is more particularly liable, and against which he ought most carefully to guard himself; that is too great partiality for animals bred by himself, and he ought frequently to use the stock belonging to other breeders, and fairly compare its merits with those of his own.—*Mark Lane (London) Express.*

From the British American Cultivator.

HARD TIMES.

The Canadian agriculturist is in a truly enviable position when compared with the same class in the United States. The spirit of speculation has run so high within the last few years in that country, that it has in some states of the Union, become a rare thing to find a farmer "free and independent"—or in other words, his freehold property unencumbered. Independent of this fact, the taxes direct and indirect are three times as great as ours; and the currency is so degraded, that the mass of the bank promissory notes are like so many filthy rags. The picture we have drawn, although correct to the very letter, might be considered by a prejudiced mind rather exaggerated, to convince such that we are not actuated by any improper motive, we beg to give an extract from a journal of a high and indisputable character published on the spot. A correspondent of *The St Louis Republican* writes under date of the 11th January last:

"The Secretary of State appeared within the bar of the House, and read to that body a communication from the Governor, urging upon the Legislature the immediate necessity of action in regard to the finances of the State. He affirmed that for want of means, it was with the utmost difficulty that necessary supplies could be purchased for one dollar and seventy-five cents cash, the State now had to pay three dollars and a half for; candles, which for money could be procured at thirty-cents per pound, now cost the State one dollar, and other things at the same proportion; all arising from the fact that there was nothing but auditor's warrants to pay them with. He also stated that it was with the greatest difficulty that money enough could be procured to pay the postage on letters addressed to the Executive department, and entreated that some action might be had in regard to the finances of the state at once.

We think that we have clearly shown that Canada is not in a worse condition than her neighbouring States; and in our next: will make some allusions to the present state of the farming interests in Great Britain, and compare the difficulties which the English farmer have to surmount in comparison with the farming classes in this Province.

EXTRACTS.

INDUSTRY.—Every young man should remember that the world always has and always will honour industry. The vulgar and useless idler whose energies of mind and body are rusting for want of exercise—the mistaken being who pursues amusement as a relief to his enervated muscles or engages in exercise that produce no useful end, may look with scorn on the smutty labourer engaged in his toil. But his scorn is praise. His contempt is an honour. Honest industry will secure the respect of the wise and the good among men, and yield the rich fruit of an easy conscience and give that heathy self respect which is above all price.

Toil on then young men. Be diligent in business. Improve the heart and the mind and you will find the well-spring of enjoyment in your own souls and secure the confidence and respect of all those whose respect is worth an effort to obtain.

CAUTION TO MILLERS.—Under this head we find an appalling story, which may interest some of our millers to peruse.—*New York paper.*

Recently a Miller near Mobile, for some purpose or other, poured several pounds of melted lead in the eye of the runner stone. The lead becoming loose and working between the stones, was ground up with the corn. The meal was consumed on the plantation of Mr. James G. Lyon, and a number of his negroes were poisoned by it, some of whom died, while others were palsied and altogether hopeless. It is said to be a common thing for millers to use lead in this way, and the misfortune just related ought to be a sufficient warning against it. A similar accident occurred recently in Europe.

CULTIVATION OF CORN.—PREPARING THE GROUND.—The first essential is to break up the soil thoroughly and deep. To effect this let the plough pass twice in the same furrow in such a manner as to throw the surface to the bottom of the furrow and to bring up some five inches of the under soil to the new ploughed surface. In land with some depth of soil, and which has not been treated in this manner, very nearly and perhaps quite the original fertility of the soil will at once be restored, and perhaps a better crop be produced than ever grew on the same land before. This was the result in the case of Mr. P. Chamberlin of this neighbourhood. He last year ploughed in this manner a ten acre field, the worst worn spot on his farm, and without any manure; the produce of this field was about 625 bushels of corn—about 52 bushels to the acre. He planted this field in rows four feet apart with two stalks every 20 to 23 inches. Be not afraid of bringing up clay to the surface. Depth of loose soil is indispensable to fertility, and a loose soil of ten inches deep, may, by the plan of double furrows, be created in a very short time on the most unpromising lands. A poor under soil when thrown to the surface improves with great rapidity. Mr. Lewis Saunders, a distinguished farmer of this State, informed us that this was his regular system, and he never departs from it in the case of sod, when he always turns under to the depth of ten inches.

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THOMAS BLAIKIE.

Green Hill, West River, February 1.

CERTIFICATES.

This is to certify that in December, 1841, I purchased one of Mr. Thomas Blaikie's *Stationary Threshing Machines*, and since that time by the great saving of time and labour resulting from the use of it, it has amply repaid me for the use of it. I can therefore confidently recommend these machines to every farmer who may require such an article; and will venture to assure every person that if they purchase one they will never have reason to regret it, as an unprofitable investment of capital.

GEORGE McDONALD.

West River, January, 1843.

Having worked for some time with one of Mr. Blaikie's *Threshing Machines*, with moving horse power, would recommend it as a superior article, and are certain, that no farmer could make a better investment than to supply himself with a machine of this kind.

SAMUEL FRASER,
JOHN FRASER.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

I have had Messrs. Fraser's *Threshing Machine*, made by Mr. Thomas Blaikie, threshing for me two or three days, and found it to surpass my expectations. It done the work well, and thrashed clean, and I would recommend it as a very superior article, both as regards saving of labour and grain.

B. L. KIRKPATRICK.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

Having witnessed the *Threshing Apparatus*, made by Mr. Thomas Blaikie, in full operation, I give it as my decided opinion that it far exceeds, in usefulness, and saving of labour, any other of a similar nature which has come under my observation, and that it is preferable to any other kind used in the Province.

JAMES CARMICHAEL.

New Glasgow, January 3, 1843.

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