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HALIFAX, 1st May, 1871.

We had delightful weather throughout the month of March, and live farmers got some work done then which enabled them to put in their spring wheat early in April. But April was a very backward month. What with snow and rain and frost, and snow and rain again, there were very few days in the whole month that permitted out-door operations. The result is that here we are now in the month of May with the ground thoroughly soaked with rain, and the air filled with fog and drizzle, and on many farms not a blow struck towards getting at spring work. It is of no use now to point out how all the carting out of manure for early crops should have been done last fall, how all ploughing of sod lands should have been finished before the winter set in; the wise farmer does not cry over spilt milk, but the spilling of it once should be a life-long lesson of carefulness. All that can be done now for this season is to take advantage of the good weather when it comes, to have

men and horses and implements and seed at hand, to have everything in order, so as to be able to put in the seed with as little delay as possible when the ground becomes ready for it. The grass is making but little progress. The Citadel Hill began to look green during the third week of April, but in the country the fields are as yet scarcely more than a greenish russet.

We are glad to see our commercial men displaying more enterprise than has hitherto been visible in the city, in the importing for sale novelties in seeds and implements. All the new potatoes—Flourball, Bovinia, Climax, Early Rose, Prolific, and other sorts that have been described in previous numbers of the "Journal," may now, we believe, be obtained in the city. Surprise and Norway Oats also, Fyfe Wheat and other Grains are for sale. A great change is visible since the Board of Agriculture commenced its operations seven years ago, when one had to ransack the whole city to obtain a bushel of seed wheat or

a hundred-weight of bone-dust, or a side-hill plough.

We hear that the good name of our King's county cattle is opening up for them distant markets. One day lately a lot of 22 head of fine animals was sent off by rail to St. John, and the exportations to that place during the present spring season have been unusually large.

The following Hints on spring work we extract from the *American Agriculturist*. They apply to the month of April for a New York latitude, but with us they are more seasonable for the month of May. They are well worth reading at the present time, and will serve to remind our farmers of many little matters that are apt to be neglected in the hurry of other work:—

To the good farmer, whose land is drained and cleaned and in good condition, who did more or less plowing last fall and top-dressed his grass land, who has his seed on hand and his implements and harness and teams in good condition, and who can avail himself of the first opportunity to put in his crops, May is

usually a joyous month. But to the farmer whose land is undrained, who has not a field on a farm where there are not wet spots, who has part of his land dry enough to work, but where, in low spots, the water follows the plow in the furrow, May, to such a farmer, is the most trying and disheartening month in the year. And the more intelligent he is the more gloomy is the prospect, for he knows that he is working to great disadvantage, and cannot in any event get remunerative crops. His only consolation can be found in a firm resolution to drain his land before another rotation comes round. Such land should be kept in grass until it can be drained. In the meantime, if it must be cropped, make an earnest effort to let off all the water of surface drains. This is far better than nothing. A few furrows with a plow will frequently let off more water in an hour than the sun can evaporate in a week. Not an hour should be lost in doing this work.

Giving Directions to Help.—Tell the men the night before what you want them to do the next day.—And tell them, “if it is fine, do so and so; if it rains, do this or that;” and enter into details. A good man likes to know beforehand what he has to do, and he will think the matter over and decide how best to do it, and what tools he will want, and where they are; and in the morning he can get to work half an hour earlier than if he did not know what he was going to do.

Hiring Farm-men.—That farmer is fortunate who has two or three active and intelligent sons able and willing to take hold of farm work. Make much of them. Those who have to hire should be willing to pay good wages for good men. We do not sufficiently discriminate. Wages are too high, but good men are not likely to take much less than they got last year. Farmers are very remiss in one thing: they do not insist on having a “character” from the last employer. It should be a hard matter for a bad man, or one who left his employer during the busy season, to get another place. Farmers should combine to drive an unfaithful servant from the neighbourhood. Pay them good wages, and treat them with kindly consideration, but insist on having respectful behaviour, and good work. Know what a good day’s work is, and get it; but do not ask for more. An unreasonable employer makes discontented servants. If they do well, tell them so; if not, reprove mildly but firmly.

HINTS ABOUT WORK.

Rainy Days—These will be frequent this month. There is nothing more important than to clean out the cellar. It is madness to suffer any decaying vegetables to remain. It is the cause of much sickness, especially among children.

Whitewash the walls, ceilings, etc. See that the windows will open and shut easily, so that the cellar can be readily and frequently ventilated. Clean empty pork and cider barrels inside and outside, and make the cellar neat and tidy. *Water in the cellar* must be got rid of, no matter what the cost of draining may be. If it cannot be drained, better fill it up, and make an outside cellar. Inconvenience can be endured better than ill health. At any rate, those who are afflicted with a wet cellar should not delay a moment after the water has subsided to clean out the sediment and cover the bottom with lime, which should be removed in a day or two, and some chloride of lime be sprinkled about the cellar as a disinfectant. *In the barn*, there is abundant work for rainy days. Make everything clean, and have a place for everything, and see that everything is in its proper place. Brush out the cobwebs. Clean the windows, and see that they will open and shut. Grind all the tools, rakes, hoes and spades. Mark them, and rub the handles with petroleum or linseed oil. Scour off the rust, and rub on a little petroleum to keep them bright. Oil the harness, and be sure to wash it clean with warm soft water, soap and brush, before applying the oil. *An extra evening* for two, and especially for three, horses will come handy on a stony farm before you are through plowing, and now is the time to make it. See that the plows are in order; and if a new point or wheel is needed, get it now. Have the harrow teeth sharpened. Examine the drill, the roller, and the cultivators. If any of the wood work is beginning to split, put in a carriage bolt. *Paint every thing* with petroleum, or with linseed oil paint. For old implements, machines, waggons, etc., the former is best, as it penetrates much deeper into the wood, and is much cheaper.

Sheep.—Tag any that need it. For mild cases of scours, nothing is better than milk-porridge, made with wheat-flour—say a pint of milk and a table-spoonful of flour for each sheep. For severer cases, give prepared chalk, or ten drops of laudanum, repeating the dose every four or five hours until the discharges are arrested. Give gruel and tonics to keep up the strength of the animal. Salt regularly, and mix a little sulphur with the salt—say three pints of salt and a half pint of sulphur, twice a week for a hundred sheep. Ewes expected to lamb should be watched night and day. But be careful not to render assistance when it is not needed. Rub the lambs dry, and see that they get milk immediately; and after that, with ordinary care, there is little danger. A chilled lamb may be restored, when apparently nearly dead, by putting it in a bath of warm water—say at blood-heat; or, in

the absence of this, place the lamb in a heap of hot fermenting manure. After the bath rub and dry, and be careful that it does not take cold.

Milk Cows that have but recently calved should have a liberal diet of good hay, with a pailful of warm bran slops twice a day; and in our opinion a quart of corn-meal, added to the bran, would be an improvement. Let the cows be kept in the stable nights and stormy days. Let their mangers be cleaned out every day. Whitewash the stable, and let it be well ventilated. Cows expected to calve should have exercise every fair day, and see that their bowels are not constipated. Bran or oil-cake will regulate this matter. If the cow is very fat, it may be well to give a quarter of a pound of glauber salts ten days before calving, and repeat the dose every three or four days, if needed, to keep the bowels moderately loose.

Calves Fattening for the Butcher should suck the cow, and could be tied up in a warm, dry, well-ventilated apartment, that is not too light. Keep them as quiet as possible, and feed the cow liberally. After the third day there is little danger of milk-fever.

Calves to be Reared may be at once removed from the cow, and taught to drink milk from a pail, unless they are choice, thorough-bred animals, when it is better to let them suck the cow and have all the new milk they will take. Valuable short-horn calves are sometimes allowed to take all the milk they want from two cows. Common calves that are not allowed to suck the cow, should have their own mother’s milk for a week, and afterwards a little skimmed milk may be substituted for a part of the new milk; and in place of the cream removed from the milk, a little flax-seed tea should be substituted; It is a great loss to starve a calf. When the calf gets to be a month or six weeks old, the cheapest and best food for it is oil-cake boiled in fresh skimmed milk; or if the milk is too sour to boil without curdling, boil the oil-cake in water till it will form a jelly on cooling, and then mix it with the milk.

Pigs.—Last fall’s pigs must be well fed, and got into a thriving condition before being turned out to clover. Do not begrudge them all the corn-meal they will eat. It will pay better at this season than next fall. Breeding sows should be put into a pen by themselves a week or so before they come in. Have a rail round the pen to keep the sow from crushing the little ones. It should be from eight to twelve inches from the ground, according to the size of the sow, and six or eight inches from the sides of the pen. Give a liberal allowance of chaffed straw for bedding. Give the sow, for a week before and a week after pigging, warm bran-

slops and milk; and later give richer food, such as cooked corn-meal with the bran. As soon as they will eat, let the little pigs have a few oats or soaked corn, or cooked corn-meal, in a separate pen from the sow. On warm days let the sow run out for an hour or two, and feed the little pigs just before she is let in again, and while they are hungry. Our readers will find some useful hints on this subject in "Harris on the Pig."

Hens, to lay well, must have plenty of exercise and liberal feeding. Let all their apartments be kept scrupulously clean. Where they have but a narrow range, they must have animal food, as a substitute for the worms and insects they find when running at large. Hens, with young chickens, should be confined in coops, and the chickens should be abundantly supplied with soft food and fresh water. Let the coops be moved on to fresh ground every few days. A common mistake is to have the coops too small. They should be at least three feet high and well ventilated. During a rain-storm, place the coops so that the back part, which is boarded up, will keep out the rain.

Barley is the first crop to be sown. Plow the land only when it is dry, and sow as fast as it is plowed. It should be harrowed and cultivated until the soil is mellow. Drill in $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels per acre. Roll the land soon after the barley comes up.

Clover Seed should be sown on the winter wheat. If the land is dry and hard, harrow the wheat before sowing the clover-seed. It will kill weeds and help the wheat, and the clover-seed is more likely to germinate. A smoothing harrow may be passed over the land after the seed is sown. If the land is mellow and in good condition, 4 quarts of clover-seed and 4 quarts of timothy seed per acre is enough. For permanent pasture add a pint of white clover. When nothing but clover is sown, we generally put in from 6 to 8 quarts per acre. Last year we lost our whole seeding from not sowing early enough.

Oats will do better on sod land than barley, but neither of them do as well on a tough sod as after corn or potatoes. Two bushels per acre is little enough seed. Land plowed last fall may be sown to oats without again plowing. Harrow them in thoroughly. If to be sowed down, make the land as smooth as possible after the oats are sown, and then sow the grass and clover-seed, and then roll.

Peas will do well on sod land, drilled in or covered with a Shares harrow. Sow as early as the land can be got ready—two bushels per acre. One or two bushels of plaster per acre will be beneficial.

Potatoes.—Plant early on dry land. Deep planting and harrowing the land,

just as the potatoes come up, saves much hoeing, but increases the labor of digging. Plaster sometimes has a marked effect on potatoes, and sometimes appears to do little good.

Land intended for Roots should be plowed and harrowed, cultivated, rolled, and plowed again, and worked until it is as mellow as a garden. Parsnips should be sown as soon as the land is in good order, and carrots a week or two later. Mangels and other beets need not be sown so early, and rutabags two or three weeks later. Make the land rich with well-rotted manure, and guano or superphosphate.

WORK IN THE HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS.

At the time we write these notes, early in March, the weather is as warm and mild as it usually is in April, and every thing bids fair for an early return of spring. But it is not safe to depend too much upon the weather at this season, as it is always very variable at the North. If, however, this weather should continue, much of the work in the horticultural departments that is usually done in April will have already been disposed of.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

The suggestions given last month will apply in many portions of the North for May. Trees for spring planting ought to be handled carefully and not allowed to become dry and shriveled; the nurseryman is often blamed for sending out poor trees, when the fault is with the planter who does not take care to preserve them properly until ready for setting. Never set out trees until the land is dry enough to work without leaving it in a lumpy condition, as the lumps will never pack close, and the air has a chance to circulate around the roots, often causing the death of the newly planted tree.

Pruning ought to have been done last month. Do not prune after the sap has commenced to circulate.

Scraping, however, can be done at any time, and the trees will be benefited by a thorough washing with whale-oil soap, or very strong soapsuds; this destroys many eggs which are found upon the bark.

Canker-worms.—This month is particularly favorable to the ascent of these pests of fruit-growers. Follow the directions given last month.

Grafting should be done this month. Care must be taken not to graft too early, as this is often more injurious than late grafting. Gions may be cut if the buds have not started, and preserved in sand or earth until ready to set.

Seeds for stocks ought to be put in early. The pits of peaches and other stone fruits, which have been buried during the winter, start very early; they

should be handled carefully, so as not to break off the sprouts, if any have pushed. The seeds must have a good mellow soil to grow in, with a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure and ashes.

Manure may be hauled out and plowed in whenever the ground is dry enough.

Root-Grafts.—Set out in rows far enough apart to work with a cultivator.

FRUIT GARDEN.

In many places the work suggested in the notes of last month has not been done yet; proceed as fast as possible with all planting, as the earlier plants are set, after the ground has become warm, the better growth will they make.

Straoberries.—Finish setting out new beds, and plow or spade up all old and unfruitful plants.

Gooseberries.—Set out the Houghton and American Seedling, and thin out the branches of old and crowded plants to admit light and air.

Currants.—When the old plants have been allowed to take care of themselves, and the clumps are filled with grass and weeds, the best way is to grub them up, and make new plantations; cuttings root very easily, and will bear a small crop the second year if properly cared for after planting.

Raspberries.—Uncover the tender varieties, and make new plantations early, before the buds have commenced to grow. Among the blackcaps, the Seneca and McCormick are good sorts.

Blackberries.—Plant early. The Kit-tatinny is one of the best varieties for general planting.

Dwarf Trees.—Where trees are needed, order early, and in setting use great care so as not to injure the roots or bark, as a slight injury often does a great deal of damage to the after-growth.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

This month is one of activity in this department, as the ground is warm enough for planting many of the hardier vegetables. Last month we enumerated some of the standard varieties of vegetables; these sorts should be ordered of the seedsmen, if not done already. The hot-beds and cold-frames will need particular care this month, as a neglect to give air during a bright warm day, may scorch the whole of the plants in a few hours, so that the labors of the past month will be entirely lost.

Window Boxes ought to have an exposure to the air every mild day to harden the plants, so that they will not be put back when transplanted.

Asparagus.—Give a liberal coating of manure if not done last month. Go over the bed with a spading-fork, and be careful not to break nor injure the buds or

roots. If plants are to be raised from seed, sow in carefully prepared soils, in drills a foot apart. An ounce of seed will produce about five hundred plants. When well up thin to three inches.

Beans.—Do not plant in the open ground until all danger of frost is over. Limas may be planted in hot-beds any time this month.

Beets may be sown early this month in rich, fine soil. Their growth is facilitated by soaking in warmish water for 24 hours, and then pour off the water and put in a warm place until the sprouts start; roll in plaster to facilitate the sowing. One ounce of seed is sufficient for 100 feet of drill.

Cabbages.—Set out plants from cold frame as soon as the ground is dry. Sow seeds in open ground, and as soon as an inch or two high, sprinkle with ashes to keep off the cabbage-flea.

Cauliflower.—Treat the same as cabbages; they ought to be planted $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart in the rows.

Celery.—Sow seed in the hot-bed this month, and when the plants are an inch or two high, transplant to a frame and set three inches apart.

Cress must be sown for a succession in drills ten inches apart, and at intervals of a week or ten days.

Egg-Plants ought to be several inches high by this time; transplant to another hot-bed with a gentle heat, and use great care to prevent their becoming chilled.

Horse-radish.—The earlier this is put in the better growth will it make. Set out the small roots which have been preserved through the winter in sand. This crop needs a large application of manure to secure the best results. The roots should be about two inches long, and set out in rows from 18 inches to two feet apart.

Herbs can be sown in hot beds now, or in open ground as soon as it is warm enough; those most commonly used are Sage, Thyme, Savory, Sweet Marjoram, and Basil.

Lettuce, sown in hot-beds, may be transplanted to the open ground; sow seeds in warm dry soil.

Melons.—A few may be planted on sods in hot-beds for early; they must not be planted in the open ground until it is well warmed.

Onions, in order to succeed well, need to be sown as early as the ground can be worked. Sow in fine rich soil, in drills a foot apart. Put out Potato and Top Onions in rows fifteen inches apart, and the bulbs four inches apart in the rows.

Parsnips.—Sow last year's seed in drills 15 inches apart; one ounce of seed is enough for 200 feet.

Peas may be planted on high ground

where the soil has become thoroughly dry, in double rows.

Peppers.—Sow in hot-bed the same as Egg-Plant.

Potatoes, placed in a warm room to sprout last month, can be planted out in well-manured soil.

Radishes—Sow in drills thickly once a week for succession.

Salsify should be sown this month and treated like parsnips.

Spinach for summer use may be sown now; that planted last fall will be ready to cut. The Perpetual Spinach Beet is valuable for early greens.

Tomatoes may still be sown under glass; those planted last month ought to be transplanted. Never set out in open ground until it is warm and dry.

Turnips for early crops should be sown in drills one foot apart; thin to 5 or 6 inches in the drills.

Manure.—See that the stable manure is not allowed to heat; turn it as often as it becomes hot, until ready to be plowed or spaded under.

FLOWER-GARDEN AND LAWN.

Prepare the soil by plowing and spading. New beds can be cut, and walks made and repaired, as soon as the frost is out of the ground. If the soil in the flower-garden is of a strong loamy nature, it would be greatly benefitted by an application of sand well mixed with the soil. Only well-rotted manure should be used in the flower-garden.

Flowering Shrubs.—A few of these will probably come into flower the latter part of the month; give them a dressing of fine manure to encourage the growth of wood during the summer. If any are without a few of the more common flowering shrubs, they ought to procure plants and set them out this spring. Syringas, Lilacs, Weigelas, etc., are perfectly hardy, and with little care will give an abundance of flowers during the summer.

Climbers.—The hardy climbers are numerous and very pretty for covering arbors, or used as screens; Wiscarias, Honeysuckles, Virgins Bower, and last, but not least, the elegant Akebia quinata, are all perfectly hardy, and give an abundance of flowers.

Annuals started in hot-beds or window boxes last month, may be set out when the soil is dry.

Bulbs of Gladioluses, Japan Lilies, etc., may be planted now for summer flowering.

Lawns.—Care must be taken that nothing is allowed to cut up the lawn, and no one should be allowed to walk upon it until the ground is entirely free from frost and well dried.

GREENHOUSE AND WINDOW PLANTS.

Repotting.—At this season most of the greenhouse plants need repotting, before

they commence their growth. When very large plants are shifted, the best plan is to plant in a box of the required size; these always look neat, and if proper drainage has been provided, the plant will do as well as if planted in a pot; besides, all danger of breakage is avoided. The larger boxes ought to have hooks of iron attached to the sides, so that poles can be used in moving from one place to another.

Bedding Plants.—See that there is a good supply of bedding plants for outdoor decoration as well as for growing in windows or boxes, during summer.

Dahlias may now be brought out and laid in a warm place with a little sand to retain moisture. When the sprouts are a few inches high, remove to pots or set out in open ground if suitable.

Plants in flower need to be kept near the light and free from all insects.

Seeds of the finer and delicate annuals like the Lobelia, Salpiglosses, etc., ought to be sown in pots, and then transplanted to the open ground.

Tuberoses do best if started in pots and planted out when the soil is warm.

Roses and Carnations are nearly hardy, and will do to go out any time after the frost is out.

ESSAY ON STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

Mr. President.—Too much cannot be said or written in favor of the finest fruit of the season, the strawberry. When under favorable circumstances it can be grown at the rate of two hundred and fifty bushels per acre, it should be in every man's garden and grown by every one who has a spare rod of ground. This amount can be produced by the writer and without extra care.

Success is certain if the weather in May and June is favorable; there need be no loss of plants by winter-killing, if the beds are properly mulched. When coarse marsh hay can be had for cutting, it is doubtless the cheapest and best, being free from weed seeds. A sufficient amount to shade the ground is all that is necessary, about one or two inches; and if left on in the spring, it will insure clean fruit for the market and table, and be a decided benefit in case of drought. By raking off part of the bed it will give fruit a few days earlier than that on which the mulch remains. Examinations should be made as the plants are starting, and in some places it will be necessary to remove part of the mulch unless more than usual care is taken in putting it on.

We attach great importance to mulching, believing that, unless done at the proper time and well done, all previous labor will be fruitless. The proper time

to apply the mulch is about the time of freezing up.

Beds should not be allowed to thaw without protection, as a very slight thaw will kill the crown of the plant. It is the crown that is killed and not the roots. Could we depend on snow as mulch, it would be safe and sure, but beds may thus be protected until March or April, and then all be killed.

Preparation of the soil is a matter of great importance. Ground rich enough for ordinary garden purposes is none too rich for the *Wilson*, but many varieties will go to vines if the ground is too rich. Deep working is necessary, either with the spade, subsoil plow or with a common plow, twice in a furrow, with a man on the beam the second time around; strawberry roots will penetrate to the depth of two feet, when the ground is in good condition, and deep worked beds will better stand drought.

Distance apart to plant is a point on which doctors disagree. For garden, we recommend two feet by two; for field culture, four or five by two. Allowing the plants in the garden to cover the ground, and in the field one half the ground the first season, the balance of the ground the second season after the crops will hardly pay to let the bed remain. Some recommend renewal every year.

For renewing garden beds, spade under every alternate strip of 18 inches, and then allow the plants to cover the ground, and after the fruit is picked the following season, spade under the older strips, and so on as long as the bed can be kept reasonably free of weeds, and be made profitable. This plan of renewal we have never seen work well, by using the plow, as the ground is left either too uneven or the space plowed is of too great a width. Cultivation in hills we do not recommend except for amateurs and fancy men.

Transplanting is often a source of loss and vexation, especially as done by most hired help, who scoop out a little dirt and double in the roots, leaving a portion on top of the ground. Putting a spade in the full depth of the blade, pressing it sideways, and then seeing that the long fibrous roots go into the soil in something like a natural position will give better returns than the careless mode usually adopted. Always remember that one dozen plants transplanted with a little earth attached to the roots, is better than a hundred from a distance without any soil. Therefore set out a new bed every year, so as to keep the plants at hand. And do not wait to get the ground in just the right condition until it is too late, but keep planting. The strawberry ought to be furnished in our market at ten cents per quart.

What to plant is a matter of taste, no

doubt, but this enlightened body of practical horticulturalists will make out a list for *general cultivation*, which will not need correction until the next annual meeting.

As yet we have found but one variety worthy of extensive and general cultivation. For profit, quality and flavor we recommend the *Wilson*. It is just tart enough when the sugar and cream are added. We never knew a man, woman or child, refuse a well ripened dish of the *Wilson*. Again we say plant the *Wilson* for the *million*, and for the *million* bushels.

There are many varieties worthy of extensive trial; many that succeed in certain localities; and we hope the time is not far distant when even the *Wilson* will be excelled. Let all try this by producing and proving new seedlings.

Teach your children to plant, give them a bed, not in a fence corner among weeds, but where they may be encouraged to succeed. Always remembering that clean cultivation is necessary to success.

Communications.

THE LABOUR QUESTION.

OAKFIELD, April 8, '71.

SIR—

From all the agricultural parts of the Province the same story is repeated, that the young men and women are flocking off to the U. States. It certainly is not for want of employment, as the universal complaint in farming districts is that help of any sort is not to be got. For the future progress of the Province, as well as for its present prosperity, it is well that this matter should be looked in the face, the causes of the exodus, if possible, met, and obviated, and, if it be impossible to check the stream that is flowing from our own shores, at any rate to turn in, if it can be done, a fresh supply of labour, or ere long it will be impossible to cultivate the farms that are now cleared.

I will not set to work to discover the causes of the constant outpour of young people, but will merely give my impressions of what I think are some of the reasons. Home is not made as attractive as it might be, sons and daughters are expected to do all the drudgery of the house and farm, and parents look for this in return for care, food and clothing, whilst the lad or girl find that other people's children are able to go out to work and make money without working any harder, and with as great comfort in living, and they not unnaturally draw a comparison to their own disadvantage, and even when allowed by their parents to live out for awhile, they are kept at beck and call to come home in busy sea-

sons, the sons to do the haying, the daughters the spinning; they thus have all the discomforts of home without any of its advantages. What wonder then that they put the sea between themselves and their too-affectionate parents, and then they are safe from the spinning-wheel and the hay-rake! Machinery does all this work so much more economically than manual labour, and our young population are quite intelligent enough to dislike work that shows so little results, compared with what can be attained by mechanical means. I sent to your journal a couple of months since an article extracted from the *Canada Farmer*, calling attention to the mistake made in not giving the youth who works with his parents some more direct interest in the prosperity of the farm, and in not dealing with him as fairly as if he were a stranger hired for the season. One trouble here certainly is that our season for farm work so-called is short; men are hired just for the few busy months, and then left to shift for themselves during the long winter; this was all well enough as long as there was plenty of lumbering to find them winter's work, but in our largest farming districts the lumber business is nearly at an end. Coal, too, is taking the place of wood on our railways, in our factories, and even to a great extent in our houses; thus another source of winter employment, the getting out of cordwood, is cut off. So constant has been the practice of hiring for a few months, and so settled a habit has it become, that the young men themselves now prefer it, and look upon hiring by the year as too great a sacrifice of their independence.

Still the farmers, if they wish to maintain a supply of suitable labour on their farms, must make up their minds to hire by the year, and thus give steady employment; and if attention is really turned to their farms, and their capabilities are to be fully developed, it will be found that much work that is now left to be done in the busy months of spring can be done in preparation during our long but very changeable winter.

The youth of the country would thereby form more settled habits, the evil of constantly roaming about in search of a month's work would be checked, and with steady notions thus acquired, they would be much more ready to marry and settle down on a farm of their own, as soon as they had earned enough to stock it. As for the farms on which to settle, there are few farmers in Nova Scotia but have too much land half worked, and a division of these comparatively unproductive lands, which would then be properly tilled and productive, would vastly increase the wealth of the country, whilst the young man himself, after living a few years with a farmer whose means admit-

ted of his using the latest machinery, and whose education, and reading the latest works on Agriculture, enabled him to avail himself of the latest discoveries of science, would certainly be better suited to farm to advantage than if he simply followed the old rule of thumb of those who did good service in their day as pioneers by going into the woods and raising crops amongst the stumps, but who certainly relied on perseverance and hard work rather than on skill to produce crops from that great manufactory, the earth.

But supposing that the love of wandering is too deeply engrained in our own people, and that they cannot be kept at home—the same applies to the Eastern States of the neighbouring Union; they do not, however, sit still and howl at some particular politician for connecting them with the Western States, or in an Assembly brought together at the cost of, and for the good of the country, content themselves with declamations that the country is ruined, and that the inhabitants must leave it to obtain a living. Would indeed that some of those who thus talk would set the example, their acts unfortunately do not bear out their arguments; like sign-posts they say, "Do as I tell you and not as I do." The practical New Englander, if he must lose his own population, knows that without a constant supply of labour, no country can go ahead, so he has sought the thickly-peopled regions of the old world, and by circulating information and affording every facility, has turned a stream of immigration to his shores. We have all the machinery for this purpose. I believe that Nova Scotia rejoices in two Immigration Agents; what their duties are, or how they are performed, I am at a loss to know. But to obtain a supply of labour there is no need of any expensive machinery. Every fortnight the Inman steamer comes alongside Messrs. Seeton's wharf with something like 1000 people on board in search of employment and bent on carving out a new career for themselves. Has any attempt been made to tap this stream and divert a portion into this Province? Would it be asking too much that the gentlemen who are salaried agents of the two Governments for Immigration purposes should either singly or jointly make an effort to this end? I would suggest an office being established on the steamer-wharf, at which a registry could be kept, and employers in want of labour invited to record their wants; notice could be sent on board each steamer on its arrival that any persons desiring employment could hear of a situation by calling at the above-named office; this is only a crude suggestion, and the experiment might be tried and worked out in detail by the heads of the department; if it failed it

would not cost much; if it succeeded we should then be able to avail ourselves, on any sudden demand arising, of this supply of labour. Some of them may not be desirable settlers, many of them may filter away gradually to the United States; but at any rate we should get them when we want them; some of them—perhaps many—would stay amongst us, and after all it is, and was, out of such material that the old thirteen revolted colonies have built up one of the mightiest States of the civilized world. We cannot build up our country by sitting still.

Yours obediently,

J. W. I.

HEIFER CALVES.

"Rusticus," a correspondent who dates from Oxbow Farm, April 4th, has directed a straight shot into the camp of another correspondent who wrote on the getting of Heifer Calves last year. The theory, Rusticus says, is completely exploded by his careful experiments during the past and present season at Oxbow. So far, well; but having, as he thinks, routed the enemy, he follows up with so many military commands to the scattered forces, rallying the loyal Militia of Stewiacke to his aid, that if we were to print his communication some of our readers might think he was fighting like the Frenchmen for mere fighting's sake. It is well to know when one is beaten, and well also to know when one beats, and to stop there. Our correspondent says that he is more accustomed to the manure fork than the pen, but we think he can handle both pretty well. We think also that a good deal of the writing in the daily prints must be done by the pitch fork, otherwise it must leave a nasty smell on the fingers of the men who write. The pen is mightier than the sword, but the pitch fork is more useful than either to a peaceful farmer, and a far uglier weapon in guerilla warfare.

REMARKS ON THE CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

Annual flowers are among the most beautiful ornaments of the garden; their richness of colouring, the graceful beauty of form, and the delicate fragrance of many of them, their great variety, the long time they remain in bloom, together with their comparative inexpensiveness, render them worthy of cultivation in every flower garden.

The term "annual" is applied to plants which are sown in spring, flower the same year, (some Perennials flower the same year that they are sown, and are treated as Annuals), mature their seeds, and then perish. Annuals are divided according to their hardiness into

three classes, viz.: Hardy, Half-hardy, and Tender. Hardy Annuals may be sown in the open air during the month of May, or occasionally in the fall, as they will bear considerable frost. Half-hardy Annuals may also be sown in May or early in June. Tender Annuals require to be sown and brought forward in a hot-bed. As our summers are so short, almost all annuals that will bear transplanting are better started in a gentle hot-bed; but, as many of the most showy and beautiful, such as *Argemone Mexicana*, *Bartonia aurea*, *Calandrina grandiflora*, the different varieties of Candy-tuft, *Convolvulus minor* and major, *Escholtzia*, varieties of Larkspurs, *Lupinus*, *Mignonette*, Sweet Peas, Poppies, &c., are impatient of removal, they should be sown where they are to remain; and some that require rather a long season for their full development, may be sown in pots, two or three seeds in each, as they may be turned out of the pots without checking their growth.

When a hot-bed cannot conveniently be had to sow the seeds in, a nursery bed may be prepared in the open air. For this purpose choose a dry sheltered spot, facing the south or east, mark out the ground required, and dig into it some good, old, well-rotted manure, mixing it thoroughly with the soil, rake the surface perfectly smooth, and sow the seed in rows, placing a label at the end of each row, bearing the name of the flower and the date of sowing. Immediately after sowing, if the ground is dry, the bed should be gently watered. As soon as the plants are large enough to handle, they should be thinned out, as, if allowed to grow too thickly, they become spindly and weak, and will not bear transplanting.

Biennials flower the second, and sometimes the first year, from seed, and then perish, consequently they should be sown every year to keep up a succession of bloom.

Perennials generally flower the second year from the time of sowing, remain in the ground and continue to flower for several years.

Biennials and Perennials should be sown in the open ground in a nursery bed, in May or June, and transplanted to the place where they are to remain early in the fall, so that they may be fully established before the winter sets in.

The time of sowing flower seeds is of the greatest importance, as if they are sown too early, or when the ground is cold and wet, they are apt to perish, so that it would be better to wait till all danger of frost is past and the weather mild. Then choose a dry day for sowing.

The mode of sowing is also of importance, as many people sow their seeds too deep, and in ill-prepared soil. The depth

at which seeds may be sown will vary with their size. Large seeds, such as Lupins, Sweet Peas, *Martynia fragrans*, Gourds, Marvel of Peru, Morning Glory, *Convolvulus minor*, *Canna Indica*, *Nasturtium*, *Palma Christi*, Sunflower, Scabiosa, &c., may be sown from half to three-quarters of an inch deep. Asters, Balsams, Candytuft, *Elychrysum*, *Escholtzia*, *Hedysarum*, *Hollyhock*, *Cypress Vine*, *Larkspur*, *Crimson Flax*, *Malva*, *Mulope*, *Marigold*, *Mignonette*, *Nemophila*, *Phlox Drummondii*, *Stocks*, *Verbenas*, *Zinnias*, &c., may be sown from an eighth to a quarter of an inch in depth. *Ageratum*, *Amaranthus*, *Antirrhinum*, *Browallia*, *Carnation*, *Clarkia*, *Coreopsis*, *Daisy*, *Forget-me-Not*, *Godetia*, *Jacobea*, *Lophospermum*, *Maurandya*, *Viscaria*, *Lobel's Catchfly*, and a great many others, require to be merely covered. Some others, *Calceolaria*, *Humea elegans*, *Lobelia*, *Oxalis rosea*, *Petunia*, *Portulaca*, &c., should be sown on the surface of the earth, pressed lightly in, and shaded from the sun for a few days till the young plants come up. Some seeds which have a woolly covering, as *Acroclinium*, *Globe Amaranth*, *Rhodanthe Manglesi*, &c., should have it rubbed off before sowing. Some, as Sweet Peas, Lupins, *Nasturtium*, should be steeped in water for a few hours before planting.

As the strength and beauty of the plants, and their capability to produce both a profuse and prolonged bloom, will depend on the richness of the soil, and the manner of preparing it to receive the young plants, the greatest pains should be taken to prepare it in the most thorough manner, therefore dig it deeply, and work into it plenty of well-rotted manure, and a liberal supply of leaf mould, when it can be procured. In digging use a fork in preference to a spade, as it will pulverise the ground better; and never on any account work it in wet weather; if it is worked while wet, it becomes hard and cloggy, and it may take the greater part of a season to get it into good condition again. After the plants have made sufficient growth they should be transplanted into the borders where they are to remain. For this purpose choose a dull, showery day, if possible, or if in dry weather, let it be done in the evening, and water immediately after planting. After the plants are established, they will require no other care than to tie up the taller growing sorts to stakes, to prevent the rain and wind from beating them down and injuring the flowers.

Flower seeds by mail post-paid to all parts of the Dominion.

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EXPERIMENT WITH NORWAY OATS.

After a careful examination of the famed *Yankee*, NORWAY OATS, I feel perfectly satisfied myself that they are only a variety of the Old Tartarian Oats (*Avena orientalis*) which have been cultivated in some localities in Scotland for centuries, and then under common rotation cultivation often yield 60 imperial bushels per acre, but though they measure well, the weight is deficient, generally not more than 35 lbs. per bushel, consequently they are not much thought of in a country where oats are rated at their true value by the quantity of meal they will yield from a bushel, or given weight of oats. Besides there is a difference between the Imperial and Winchester bushel used in these Provinces and the United States, which will still further bring up the quantity grown in Scotland nearer the average yield of the Norway Oats, which in Nova Scotia average about 75 bushels per acre, taking 32 pounds as the standard weight of a bushel. I am informed by a competent authority in New Brunswick, which is a great oat-raising country, that they are not much valued there.

J. W. BUSTIS.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

SHELburne AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An Agricultural Society has been formed at Shelburne. W. F. McCoy, President; Adam Bower, Jr, Vice President; R. G. Irwin, Treasurer; John Bower, Jr., Secretary. The Council consists of A. D. Bower, R. Quinlon, J. Davis, Robert Irwin and Robert Bower.

Miscellaneous.

MULCHING NEWLY-TRANSPLANTED TREES.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that the past spring he set out one hundred apple trees. Part of these he mulched with about four inches of coarse hay and straw; the rest he kept nicely hoed. All these trees are living except one, but those which he kept hoed have made the best growth—over a foot, notwithstanding the drought. A near neighbour, who set last year, lost nearly

half of his trees this summer, but then he had the pleasure of harvesting a poor crop of oats, sowed close up to the trees.

Keeping the surface of the soil mellow by frequent stirring is doubtless the very best mulch; but it is so apt to be neglected, to be crowded out by the pressure of farm work, that the safer way for our farmers is to put on a liberal mulch before dry weather or haying time sets in, and put their oat crop in another field.

A celebrated agriculturist used to say that the best fertilizer was cultivation; hence those who will attend faithfully to stirring the surface of the soil around their newly-planted trees for a few years will combine the advantages of the best mulch with the best fertilizer.

SOW MANGOLDS EARLY.

Farmers not unfrequently make a mistake in sowing mangolds too late, even in this climate of Canada, where the spring season is often so backward, and so liable to untimely frost. A correspondent of the *Farmer* (Scottish) makes the following statement in reference to this point: On a Scotch farm, at an altitude of about 500 feet, or near the upper limits of wheat cultivation, we have seen an excellent crop of mangold wurtzel which was sown on the 22nd of March; while a month later, sowing made there, both in that and other seasons, could only be characterized as failures. Mangold wurtzel seeds, unlike those of turnips, do not vegetate readily at low temperatures; hence, although sown in November, or at other periods, throughout the winter and early spring, the young plants do not appear till both soil and weather have attained a sufficient warmth. Nor are they so susceptible of injury from slight frosts as plants of turnips. The garden beet is only a finer and more delicate variety of mangold or field beet, yet gardeners do not hesitate to sow it in the beginning of March, at the same time with carrot, parsnip, onion, and other seeds which require the full length of the growing season to bring them to maturity.

ADVERTISEMENTS!

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THIS MILL is now in full operation, and large quantities of Bones are offered for sale. The Mill is under supervision of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and all Bones sold at the establishment are genuine.

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

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Purchasers will save trouble by sending their own bags, which, together with orders, may be left at Stanford's Leather Store, 25 Water Street.

JAMES STANFORD.

Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

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King of the Earlys or Fifty Dollar Potato—The earliest, most prolific, and finest of all the American varieties. 133 lbs. raised from one. 25 cents lb.

Chmax—For earliness and productiveness ranks with the very best ever sent out either by American or English growers. 12½ cents lb.

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Champion Scarlet Runner—A gigantic variety. 50 cents quart.

Marblehead Mammoth Drumhead Cabbage—A large variety of Flat Dutch. 12½ cents packet.

Improved Early Paris Cauliflower—12½ cts. packet. *Sealey's Lecathou White Celery*—The largest in cultivation. 12½ cts. packet.

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Farmers and Agricultural Societies

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JOHN S. COPELAND,
Secretary Merigomish Agri. Society,
Pictou Co.
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All my seed is sold under three warrants.—1st: That all money sent shall reach me. 2nd: That all seed orders shall reach the purchaser. 3rd: That my seed shall be fresh, and true to name. I invite all to send for catalogues, both for themselves and their friends.

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