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# JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER, 1865.

No. 10.

## CONTENTS:

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>LIST OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES:</b>		Western Halifax Agricultural Society	94
Annapolis County—Antigonish County—Cape Breton County—		Joint Exhibition at Wolfville of Agricultural Societies in King's	94
Colchester County—Cumberland County—Digby County	89	County	94
Guyborough County—Halifax County—Hants County—Inver-		Amherst Agricultural Society	94
ness County—King's County—Lunenburg County—Pictou		Report on Seedling Potatoes, "Early Goodrich" and "No. 241"	95
County—Queen's County—Richmond County—Shelburne		Have the Old Members of Societies the right to exclude New ones?	95
County—Victoria County—Yarmouth County	90	Stirling Agricultural Society	95
<b>THE FIELD AND FARM YARD:</b>		Report on Seedling Potatoes "Cuzco," Garnet Chili, "No. 241"	95
The Recent Sheep Sales—Sale at Pictou	91	and "Goodrich Seedling"	95
On the Raising and Fatening of Cattle in Nova Scotia	91	Paris Universal Exhibition of 1867.—Naturalization of Pines in	95
Thanksgiving Day	91	Australia.—Willows.—Ran for Sale.—Berkshire Boars	96
Crops of the Past Season in the United States	92	<b>THE GARDEN:</b>	
Advantage of Agriculture in a New Country—Functions of an		International Exhibition and Botanical Congress	95
Agricultural Society—How the Farmer is to Succeed	92	The New Race of Mimulus duplex	95
Dressing Sheep with Castor-Oil	93	The New Spotswoode Rat-Tail or Pod Radish of Java	96
<b>COMMUNICATIONS:</b>		Wholesale Destruction of Timber Trees by Beetles	96
On the Raising of Sheep, with special reference to the Superiority		Wild Flowers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick	96
of Cheviots	93	Publications Received	96
The Miami Potato	93	To Correspondents	96
Report of the North East Margaree Agricultural Society, County		Advertisements	96
of Inverness	93		

## LIST OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES,

Organized under the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture, with the present number of members, the amount of subscriptions raised by each Society during the present year, and the amount of grant voted by the Board of Agriculture, in terms of the Act.

	Number of Members.	Amount of Subscrip.	Government Grant:
<b>ANNAPOLIS COUNTY.</b>			
Bridgetown Ag. Society, R. Ainsley, President; J. E. Fellows, Secretary	43	\$48 00	\$96 00
Eastern Annapolis Ag. Society, H. Ince, President; J. E. Chipman, Secretary	40	40 00	80 00
			\$176 00
<b>ANTIGONISHE COUNTY.</b>			
Antigonish Agricultural Society of the County of Antigonish.			
John McDonald, President; C. B. Whidden Secretary and Treasurer,	57	86 00	172 00
			172 00
<b>CAPE BRETON COUNTY.</b>			
North Sydney Agricultural Society; Pres. T. S. Brown; Secy. A. G. Musgrave	43	43 00	86 00
Boulanderie Agricultural Society; Pres. H. McKinnon; Sec. Murd. McDonald	42	42 00	84 80
Sydney Ag. Society; Pres. Thomas Butler; Sec. C. H. Harrington			
<b>COLCHESTER COUNTY.</b>			
Stirling Agricultural Society; Pres. A. Duncan; Sec. W. Creighton, New Annan	43	43 00	86 00
Upper Stewiacke, Ag. Soc.; Pres. Barry Hamilton; Sec. Jas. S. Tupper	42	42 00	84 00
Upper Londonderry Ag. Soc.; D. F. Layton, Secretary	60	60 00	120 00
Shubenacadie Ag. Soc.; Pres. F. R. Parker; Sec. David Moore	40	40 00	80 00
			240 00
<b>CUMBERLAND COUNTY.</b>			
Parrsboro' Agricultural Society; Pres. T. D. Dickson; Secy. John S. Smith	80	80 00	160 00
Wallace Ag. Society; Pres. P. McKay; Sec. Don. McKay	65	67 50	135 00
Aulherst Ag. Society; Pres. Moses Low; Sec. W. F. Cutten	49	49 00	98 00
			210 00
<b>DIGBY COUNTY.</b>			
Clare Agricultural Society; Sec. Anselm M. Comeau, jr.	61	64 00	128 00
Digby Central Ag. Society; Pres. Wm. Aymar	40	41 00	82 00
			210 00

## GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY.

Glenolg Ag. Society; Pres. Sam. Archibald; Sec. John A. Kirk - - - -	40	40 00	80 00
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## HALIFAX COUNTY.

Dartmouth Ag. Society; Pres. M. Tobin; Sec. T. Short - - - - -	46	46 00	37 00	80 00
Ag. Society of the Eastern District of the Co. of Halifax; Sec. James Kent -	42	42 00	33 00	
Lower Musquodoboit Agricultural Society; President Robert A. Logan, Charles N. Spratt, Middle Musquodoboit, Secretary - - - - -	55	55 00	44 00	240 00
Western Hx. Ag. Society; Pres. Chief Justice Young; Sec. Prof. Lawson - -	84	159 00	126 00	

## HANTS COUNTY.

Windsor Agricultural Society; Pres. J. O. King; Sec. S. Palmer - - - - -	40	80 00	141 00	240 00
Newport Ag. Society; Pres. J. W. Allison; Sec. Charles Cochrane - - - - -	56	56 00	99 00	

## INVERNESS COUNTY.

N. E. Branch of Margaree Ag. Soc.; Pres. J. Burton; Sec. James Munro - -	46	46 00	71 00	240 00
S. W. Margaree Ag. Soc.; Pres. Hugh Gillis; Sec. Alex. McDonald - - -	51	55 00	84 00	
Mahon and Port Hood Agricultural Society; Sec. and Treas. H. McDonald -	53	56 00	85 00	

## KING'S COUNTY.

King's County Ag. Soc.; Pres. A. Black; Sec. and Treas. G. Hamilton, L. Horton	53	50 00	65 00	240 00
West Cornwallis Ag. Soc.; Pres. Hugh Newcomb; Sec. E. Calkins - - - -	40	40 00	52 00	
Union Ag. Soc. of E. Cornwallis; Pres. Rich'd Starr, Sec. Dr. Hamilton - -	56	54 00	70 00	
Aylesford Ag. Soc.; Pres. A. Walker; Sec. John Foster - - - - -	41	41 00	53 00	

## LUNENBURG COUNTY.

Lunenburg Agricultural Society; Secretary, Daniel Owen - - - - -				240 00
Mahono Bay, Ag. Society; Pres. Benj. Zwicker; Sec. George Duncan - - -	52	52 00	104 00	
Chester Ag. Society; Pres. Edwd. Heckman; Sec. H. B. Mitchell - - - -	54	54 00	108 00	

## PICTOU COUNTY.

Egerton Agricultural Society; Pres. Finlay Cameron; Sec. D. Gray, A. Mines	42	42 00	55 00	240 00
Maxwilton Ag. Society; Pres. W. Murray; Sec. J. W. Patten, L. B. River -	46	46 00	60 00	
Pictou Ag. Society; Pres. David Matheson; Sec. J. D. McDonald - - - -	47	47 00	62 00	
Merigomish Ag. Society; Sec. David Mitchell - - - - -	48	48 00	63 00	

## QUEEN'S COUNTY.

Caledonia and Kempt Agricultural Society; President, Milton Douglas; Edward P. Freeman, Kempt, Secretary - - - - -	51	55 00	110 00	240 00
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## RICHMOND COUNTY.

(No Societies have as yet been organized in this County.)

## SHELBURNE COUNTY.

Barrington Ag. Society; Pres. A. C. A. Doane; Sec. R. H. Crowell - - - -	50	50 00	100 00	100 00
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## VICTORIA COUNTY.

Baddeck Ag. Society; Pres. Alex. Taylor; Sec. Robert A. Jones - - - - -	41	41 00	49 00	240 00
St. Ann's Ag. Society; Pres. John Robertson; Sec. John Morrison - - - -	52	52 00	62 00	
North Shore St. Ann's Ag. Soc.; Pres. D. McDonald; Sec. Angus McKay -	41	41 00	49 00	
Middle River Ag. Society; Sec. John McLennan - - - - -	67	67 00	80 00	

## YARMOUTH COUNTY.

Yarmouth Township Ag. Soc.; Pres. Josiah Raymond; Sec. Jas. Crosby - -	47	47 00	94 00	94 00
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By order of the Board of Agriculture.

GEORGE LAWSON, L. L. D., Secretary.

Halifax, November, 1865.

**The Field and Farm Yard.**

**THE RECENT SHEEP SALES.**

The Improved Leicester Sheep, imported by the Government from England, were sold at Richmond Depot, Halifax, on Wednesday, 15th November, by Mr. Allan, Auctioneer. There was a very large attendance of sheep farmers from various parts of the country, as well as members of the Legislature, citizens and others. The following is a list of the purchasers of the animals, and prices realized. The prices show the estimation in which these beautiful sheep are held by the best judges:—

No. 1, Ram.—Purchased by Donald McKay, Esq., for the Wallace Agricultural Society, Co. Cumberland,	£17 10 0
No. 2, Ram.—F. R. Parker, Esq., M. P. P., for the Shubenacadie Agricultural Society, Co. Colchester,	18 10 0
No. 3, Ram.—Donald McKay, Esq., for the Wallace Agricultural Society,	19 10 0
No. 4, Ram.—W. C. Silver, Esq., for the Western Halifax Agricultural Society,	23 10 0
No. 5, Ram.—F. R. Parker, Esq., for the Shubenacadie Agricultural Society,	23 5 0
No. 6, Ram Lamb.—Hon Wm. A. Henry, Attorney General,	8 0 0
No. 7, Ram Lamb.—Thompson Bell, Esq., for the Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society,	9 0 0
No. 8, Ewe.—D. McKay, Esq, for Wallace Agricultural Society,	8 10 0
No. 9, Ewe.—Col. Laurie, Oakfield,	7 0 0
No. 10, Ewe.—Hon. W. A. Henry, Attorney General,	7 15 0
No. 11, Ewe Lamb.—D. McKay, Esq., for Wallace Agricultural Society,	5 10 0
No. 12, Ewe Lamb.—James Burgess, Esq., Maitland,	4 5 0
No. 13, Ewe Lamb.—Richard Starr, Esq., for Cornwallis Agricultural Society, Co. Kings,	5 5 0
No. 14, Ewe Lamb.—Col. Chearnley,	4 10 0
No. 15, Ewe Lamb.—F. R. Parker, Esq., M. P. P., for Shubenacadie Agricultural Society,	5 0 0

Total proceeds of sale, £167 5 0

Another importation of sheep (from Canada) was sold at Pictou on 22nd November.

**SALE AT PICTOU.**

A number of the sheep imported by the Agricultural Board from Canada, were sold at the farm of Donald Fraser, Esq., M.P.P. The following is a list of the purchasers, and prices paid. The competition for some of them was pretty keen, and the prices show the estimation in which the animals were held by good judges:—

No. 1, Cotswold Ram.—Hon. A. McFarlane,	\$22 00
No. 2, Leicester Ram.—Maxwellton Agr. Society,	22 00
No. 3, do. Ram.—C. T. Irving,	47 00
No. 4, do. Ewe.—do.	47 00
No. 5, Cotswold Ewe.—D. Matheson, for Pictou Agr. Society,	64 00
No. 6, Cotsw. Ewe.—Merigomish Ag. So.	55 00

No. 7, Lest. Ram.—do. do.	22 00
No. 8, Cots. Ram.—A. Purdy, Wallace,	31 00
No. 9, Lest. do. do. do.	21 00
No. 10, do. Ewe.—T. Irving,	66 00
No. 11, do. ram Lamb.—R. Campbell, R. Hill,	10 50
No. 12, do. do. —Pictou Agr. So.	23 00
No. 13, Cots. ram Lamb.—Don. Fraser, M.P.P.	21 00
No. 14, Lest. Ewe.—Pictou Agr. Soc.	58 00
No. 15, do. Ram.—do. do.	34 00
No. 16, Cots. ram Lamb. do. do.	14 00
No. 17, Lest. ram Lamb.—R. Trotter, Antigonish,	14 00
No. 18, Lest. ram Lamb.—D. McDonald, F. Grant,	12 50

The remainder of the sheep (ten in number) were retained to be forwarded to Halifax, and disposed of there.—Pic. Chronicle.

[We comment the following paper, written, we believe, by the late Mr. James Irons, to the careful attention of our readers.]

**ON THE RAISING AND FATTENING OF CATTLE IN NOVA SCOTIA.**

The subject of raising and fattening cattle in Nova Scotia deserves the serious consideration of the farmers, and we consider it our duty to record our opinions on the subject, and in doing so, we feel some degree of confidence in the system we recommend, having proved it by our own experience, and witnessed the illustration of it in the practice of other.

It may be regarded as an axiom in agriculture, as in other professions, that to render any department profitable it must be reduced to a system. We are aware of the obstacles in the way of establishing systems in agricultural pursuits in a young country; but from our knowledge of the general character and intelligence of the Nova Scotian farmers, we have no hesitation in recommending any practical improvement to their notice.

In the first place we consider Nova Scotia capable of producing very superior beef, at a remunerating return to the farmer, under the following system:— Let the upland farmers confine themselves to breeding and raising young stock, but never attempt to fatten cattle for market, which they never can do well, at a saving price. Let the farmer in Horton, Cornwallis, Falmouth, Windsor or Newport, adopt the fattening, and relinquish the raising of cattle, which he must lose money by. His rent is too high, his produce too valuable, and pastures too limited to raise young cattle advantageously.— The upland farmer, with his extensive range of good pasture, can produce the finest young stock at half the cost to the feeder, and have a better profit than if he attempt to feed. If cattle fairs were established in such localities as Horton, Windsor, Truro and Sackville, the feeder could purchase his cattle at a proper age for feeding up to fatten; at half what it now costs him to raise them; he could

then feed them well, and have a good profit at the price he now loses by.— Halifax might then have salting and curing establishments, turning out ship stores and salted provisions which would be a credit to the country and yielding a fair remuneration to the breeder, the feeder, and the butcher. Nature points out such systems as a part of her grand designs. The diversity of soil and local situations favors the production of different articles; the exchange of which renders one portion of mankind dependent on another, and these mutual exchanges beget a rational and friendly intercourse, and the interests of all are then identical. By our present system we are all attempting what we cannot accomplish without loss. We are not embracing the natural advantages of the country, consequently are neither contributing to our own property nor the credit of the country. The upland farmer may say truly, "We can raise fine young cattle on our extensive pastures, and not feel the expense, but where is our hay to winter such stock?" We answer, "Your good straw, with a very small portion of roots, will make better stock than if you feed with hay alone, and cattle thus reared are more profitable both to the breeder and the fatterer."

An animal raised upon the fine marsh farm, and kept four years, till it has attained its growth fit to stall feed; has cost its raiser more than double its beef price; hence he is not able to make a good beef animal. Until some such system is adopted we may look in vain for remuneration to the farmer, or uniformity in a supply of good beef in our market.

**THANKSGIVING DAY.**

Thursday, 16th November, was, by proclamation, set apart as a day of thanksgiving for the blessings enjoyed by our husbandmen and fishermen, and for freedom from plague and pestilence. We fear that a very large portion of the husbandmen and fishermen of our province had not sufficient faith in the efficacy of their prayers, to relinquish their daily avocations on thanksgiving day.

In anticipation of thanksgiving day in the States, the *American Agriculturist* gave the following advice:—"Thanksgiving is but a few weeks distant, and the best fattened poultry will bring top prices. Let our readers take the hint, and have their turkeys, chickens, geese, and ducks ready. In fine, 'What thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for the chilling storms will soon herald the approach of winter.'"

This is good advice for those who look upon thanksgiving as a national fair market, and as a fitting occasion for the hardening of their hearts by indulging in the greed of gain, and the prospect of a full barn and fat larder.

But we should like the advice to go a little further, and to extend to those who are capable of seeing in thanksgiving something more than worldly advantage, to the end that our farmers might not only fatten turkeys, but might likewise allow their own hearts to swell with gratitude to the Giver of all Good, for the blessings we so abundantly enjoy; and might further join their prayers in sympathy with, and in behalf of, those of other lands, whose herds are being cut off in the stall, and amid whom the plague is stalking. Unworthy and impotent as we may feel our prayers to be, it becometh us at least in a prayerful spirit to prepare for the calamities that we see around us, and from which we are still enjoying immunity through the goodness of a merciful providence. As a farmer remarked to us, in reference to the small attendance at church on thanksgiving day, "The farmers might surely spare one day, it would not make so much difference at the end of the year."

Let us hope that when thanksgiving comes round another season, (if we are spared to see it,) the echoes of the Nova Scotian hills will not be awakened so loudly as they were this year with the stroke of the ear, the crack of the whip, the splash of the mill-wheel, the blast of the quarry, and the axe of the woodman. If the "Zendavesta" prescribed to the Persian saint the sowing of the ground with superior care and diligence, as a means of attaining greater religious merit than the repetition of ten thousand prayers, and if the Chinese still preserve the religious observance of laying aside their grandeur once a month to eat with husbandmen, surely the Nova Scotian husbandman, (if inspired by no worthier motive) should not so far forget his own dignity as to omit the observance of the day of thanksgiving, whose observance, (apart from higher considerations,) is a national tribute of honor to his calling.

## CROPS OF THE PAST SEASON IN THE UNITED STATES.

### REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON.

**Wheat.**—In nearly all the States the representations are, that the wheat proved better on the threshing than anticipated; and the estimates based on the last returns show that the deficit in quantity, compared with the crop of 1864, is 12,172,994 bushels. The quantity and quality in the eastern States and in New York are slightly above those of the crop of 1864, but in all the other States, except Wisconsin and Minnesota, the quality is below that of 1864, and in nearly all of them the quality is below the yield. Hence the deficit in quality is greater than in quantity, making the total deficit

greater than given in the August report.

**Old Wheat.**—The return of this gives a comparison of the amount on hand in September, 1865, compared with the amount on hand in September, 1864. It is less this year than last; but many correspondents state that it was purchased up in August. As complaints are made at the seaboard that the wheat is not coming forward, it is to be presumed that the old wheat, on account of its superior quality, is held back. How much there is of it cannot be determined, for the great scarcity of corn last year caused an unusual consumption of wheat.

**Rye.**—The decrease of this product is 329,070 bushels.

**Barley.**—The gain of this crop is 759,108 bushels.

**Oats.**—There is a great increase in this crop. It is much the largest ever produced, the tables showing a gain of 48,562,321 bushels.

The amount of these four crops for the last three years is as follows:

	1865.	1864.	1863.
Wheat, bush.,	118,522,329	160,635,323	169,404,036
Rye, "	19,543,905	19,372,575	20,732,732
Barley, "	11,391,238	10,432,168	11,368,155
Oats, "	225,252,295	176,630,064	173,800,575

Total bushels, 404,710,315 367,891,040 385,355,584

The increase in bushels for 1865 is 36,819,275 over the yield of 1864.

**Hay.**—This crop is large, being 5,421,989 tons greater than in 1864. The quality is good in those States in which the wheat was good, and in the other States it is not as much injured as at first supposed.

**The fall crops.**—It is unnecessary to dwell upon the condition of these; it is good. The corn crop throughout the entire country, north and south, has never before been equalled. The monthly report for November will contain the estimates of these in bushels, &c.

**Cotton.**—This crop has improved much in the northern States, but reports from the south indicate that it is much injured by the rains and worms. The price of cotton has advanced materially in consequence; and what effect this fact will have on the price of wool cannot be certainly known at this time; it cannot but be favorable to the wool-grower.

**Pasturing Cattle.**—There is a very material decrease of these in nearly all the States, but as the census never took an account of their numbers in 1860, there is no basis by which this department can calculate the actual decrease in numbers.

**JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.**—This plant seldom flowers in England. On this continent it flowers abundantly every year, so that seedlings might readily be raised, and improved races obtained. Some one with the time and turn for experiment could not undertake a better service in plant improvement.

## ADVANTAGE OF AGRICULTURE IN A NEW COUNTRY—FUNCTIONS OF AN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY —HOW THE FARMER IS TO SUCCEED.

[Extract from Report of Carleton, New Brunswick Agricultural Society. Re-printed at the request of George I. Ince, Esq., Niagara, Am.]

The business of farming in our country rests in the hands of the people, and it is for them to say whether it shall be well done or ill.

Let us consider what an advantage agriculture has here, over the same pursuit under that state of society in which large landed estates are cultivated by tenantry. In one case all the strongest impulses of man's nature are appealed to, and his call to duty comes from the most powerful force within himself; whilst in the other the stimulus of ownership is wanting.

An agricultural society is, in the highest sense, an agricultural school in which all are teachers and all are pupils; and in this lies its most important duty. The best professor of agricultural chemistry is he who comes from the manure heap, which, by judicious application, has forced a larger yield from each of his well cultivated acres. The best teacher of the art of tilling the soil is he who has, by long experience become acquainted with the habits of plants from their infancy to their ripened harvest. The best farmer is he who, while he becomes intimate with the laws of nature and learns her mysteries, so far as she will reveal them, has a quick eye for those useful discoveries and inventions, which the ingenuity of man is constantly laying at the feet of agriculture.

To be successful the farmer must think and work; he must observe and obey nature's laws; he must, by practical study, become a living barometer,—a patent wind and weather gauge,—such an instrument can be made only of mind, strong mind, and when it is made it is worth the cost. Such men are walking folios, and exhaustless volumes of available information; they are practically, and thus really, the graduates of, and the professors in, the great university of natural science, and have the honorary degree, L. L. D., Lord of Land and Digging; the college they enter and honor is one in which problems are solved by a personal use of the axe, the hoe, the plough, the scythe, and the flail, and they are unsurpassed in reach of influence and importance of effect on mankind.

**PITMASTON DUCHESSE D'ANGOULEME PEAR.**—This variety is very favorably reported upon in the Gardeners' Chronicle. Some samples are described 21 ounces in weight, the quality excellent, flesh-melting, juicy and high flavored.

## DRESSING SHEEP WITH CASTOR OIL.

Mr. James Wilson, 146 George Street, Edinburgh, has addressed the following communication on this subject to the *Irish Farmer's Gazette*:—

"I think I made a promise last year to you or some of your subscribers that I would let you know the results of my experience in applying castor oil to the autumn dressing of my flock of sheep on my farm of Screggan, near Tullamore. I am glad to say with one trifling exception, which I will explain, it turned out a great success. Not to speak of the much more comfortable state it kept the sheep in, the extra length and strength—hence weight—of the pile of wool was very considerable; so much so that my clip of wool (numbering nearly the same, and the sheep getting the same keep), which was sold this season at 1½d. per lb. under the price of last year, came to more money in the aggregate, which I attribute entirely to the influence of the extra oil I gave. I leave these facts to speak for themselves."

"The 'exception' that I referred to above was this: I gave my lambs and one-shear sheep a second dressing of the castor oil alone about the end of January, which, no doubt, produced a most extraordinary growth; but it discolored the wool a little, and left some black ends on it. But for this I might have got from 1½ to 2d. per lb. more for it. However, I think the additional weight fully covered the reduction in price."

"I do not reflect in the least on myself in doing this. I was trying an experiment, and I am now satisfied that I did wrong. I will, therefore, not do it again, and I will advise all others against doing it too. I am quite convinced that one good autumn dressing is quite sufficient for all good and useful purposes."

"As early dressing is very important, I cannot too strongly recommend you to impress upon the flock owners in Ireland, who have any regard for the comfort of their sheep during winter, and also an eye to having, say, from 10 to 15 per cent. added to their next year's wool account, the great necessity of having their sheep dressed without delay, before the broken weather sets in."—*The Farmer*

**CAULIFLOWER.**—"Cauliflower is a good collie," wrote John Reid; the old Scottish Gardener. "Of all flowers," said Dr. Johnston; "give me the Cauliflower." In this Province, we seldom see good Cauliflower. The great secret of success is to plant in rich well-worked soil, with plenty of manure, and to give plenty of water in the dog days. Collie is a grateful dog and will flourish well if well fed and watered.

## Communications.

## ON THE RAISING OF SHEEP, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SUPERIORITY OF CHEVIOTS.

Mr. Editor,—As I had a few moments to spare, I thought I would occupy them by giving the public, through your valuable journal, my experience in the raising of sheep; and as the new Leicester and Cotswold are so highly prized at present, my object is to show they are not suited to this country. I have raised the old Dishley, the Cheviot, Southdown, Leicester, Cotswold, and Dorset sheep, and have some good specimens of all those breeds in my possession now, and the Cheviot I would give the preference before any of the others, or any that I have ever heard of, according to their history. The Dishley sheep are good woolled, but they are coarse, and it takes them about three years to come to maturity. At that age the wether, when fattened, weighs from 90 to 100 lbs. The Cheviot sheep are not large, but come to maturity very young; the lambs weigh from 50 to 75 lbs; the wool is thick and fine, and of good length, and extends well down the legs; their form good; they are very hardy and can stand the cold. These sheep are a native breed of the Cheviot hills, in Northumberland. They have been here from time immemorial. This breed has greatly extended itself throughout the mountains of Scotland, and also into Wales and the west of England.—They are a hardy race, well suited to the storms of winter, thriving well on poor keep, and making more flesh on an equal quantity of food, and quicker than any other breed.

The Southdown are a hardy race of sheep, but not large; light in the fore-quarter; wool short, thick and fine. They stand the cold well, but the lambs seldom or never reach the weight of the Cheviot lambs, and when come to maturity they do not exceed in weight the former.

The Leicester and Cotswold sheep are well formed; the lambs generally get very fat; their fleeces are heavy, but very thin; the sheep are scarce ever as good after the first fleece is taken off; very tender and cannot stand the cold, and very short lived.

The Dorset sheep is a long and well-formed sheep, with long well-set horns; long legs, with very little wool on them, or lower parts of the body; they are very good milkers, and raise their lambs with very little trouble.

The farmers generally are anxious to keep that kind of stock that will give the most profit with the least expense of feed, and make the best appearance. This, according to my opinion, they will find in the Cheviot sheep.

I send you these few lines, which you are at liberty to publish if you think them worthy of a place in your paper, and I only hope they may be the means of doing the good for which they are intended.

When time will permit I may give my views and experience in keeping sheep, but for the present I must draw to a close.

ELIAS CALKINS.

West Cornwallis, King's Co.

[We shall be glad to hear what some of our other experienced correspondents have to say on the respective merits of different breeds.—Ed.]

## THE MICMAC POTATO.

Sydney, Nov. 10, 1865.

SIR,—I noticed in your last number of the *Journal of Agriculture*, a query concerning the Micmac potato. I take the plant to be *Medeola Virginica*. In the States it is called Indian Cucumber Root; but among the Tete or Bull Indians, it goes by the name of Indian potato.—It belongs to the natural order *Smilacaceae*, and has a thick white tuberous root, not unwholesome, and used by some Indians, but I think more as a soloristic than as a vegetable. I think it is the only tuberiferous plant indigenous to this country, with the exception of the Trilliums, which belong to the same order and some orchids.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

T. BUTLER.

## REPORT OF THE NORTH EAST MARGAREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.

The society submits the following observations as to the state of this county, and of the stock of cattle and sheep in their possession for improvement:

1.—The *hay* crop of this year turned out more than an average crop. The hay in this district is consumed at home, and the farmers calculate on the improvement of their stock.

2.—The *wheat* crop has been tried for a number of years unsuccessfully, by the ravages of the wheat midge or weevil.

3.—The *barley* crop is a splendid crop in this quarter, yielding about nine returns of an excellent quality.

4.—The *oat* crop is more than an average crop this year, entirely free from rust in the straw, and of a good quality.

5.—The *turnip* crop.—Both Swedish and Yellow Aberdeen were laid down in drills and broadcast. The ravages of the fly and caterpillar caused, nearly a total loss to farmers.

6.—The *potato* crop.—This is the ostensible crop of our farmers in this locality, and when a deficiency occurs the

whole community is discouraged. We are now nearly done of housing the crop, and have lamentably to announce that the crop will not exceed one half of last year, the blight having struck very early in the month of August.

7.—*Apples*.—This crop has turned out favourably, and of an excellent quality. Of late years farmers in general take an interest in the improvement of their orchards.

8.—*Plums*.—This crop was greatly damaged by frost in June last, but the horticulturists have reaped a good harvest notwithstanding.

9.—*Stock of bulls and rams*, the property of the Society.—On the 7th day of September last, two bulls, one of the Ayrshire and the other of the Durham breed, (imported in October, 1861, from P. E. Island.) were exchanged in the district, and delivered over to two members of the society, for safe keeping and for their use only. From the healthy appearance of the cattle and their uncommon growth for months past, the society look for great improvement in stock.

In like manner ten Leicester rams, also imported from P. E. Island in 1864, were exchanged and delivered to new custodiers, members of the society, for preservation; hence we anticipate a great change profitably in the stamp of cattle and sheep.

Respectfully submitted by

JNO. MUNRO, Sec'y.

N. E. Margaree, Oct. 19, 1865.

WESTERN HALIFAX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in terms of the Act, on Tuesday 5th December, Charles Hamilton, Esq., in the chair. The Annual Report of the Board of Management was read and adopted, and the Treasurer's accounts were audited and reported correct. Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—*President*, HON. CHIEF JUSTICE YOUNG. *Vice-President*, CHARLES HAMILTON, Esq. *Secretary*, PROF. LAWSON. *Treasurer*, W. C. SILVER, Esq. *Auditor*, J. H. DEVAR, Esq. *Directors*:—JOSEPH KAYE, S. TUPPER, CHAS. HEFLER, H. T. WRIGHT, and FRANCIS WEBBER, Esqrs.

JOINT EXHIBITION AT WOLFVILLE OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN KING'S COUNTY.

We, the undersigned, joint Secretaries of the U. A. Society of Cornwallis and the King's County Agricultural Society of Lower Horton, beg leave to report, that at the stock exhibition of the two societies held at Wolfville, on Wednesday, the 11th day of October, 1865, (the same day on which the Fruit Growers held

their annual show of fruit, &c.) the following stock, &c., were exhibited, viz.

Entire Horse, .....	1
Brood Mares and Foals, .....	3
Three year old Colts, .....	5
Two do. ....	2
One do. ....	18
Bulls over three years old, .....	3
do. under do. ....	2
do. Calves, .....	3
Pairs Oxen over five years old, .....	4
do. five years old, .....	2
do. four do. ....	4
do. three do. ....	6
Pairs two year old Steers, .....	6
do. one do. ....	1
do. Steer Calves, .....	2
Cows, .....	28
Two years old Heifers, .....	19
Yearling do. ....	4
Heifer Calves, .....	5
Rams, .....	2
Lambs, .....	29
Ewe Sheep, .....	3
do. Lambs, .....	8
Boars, .....	11
do. Pigs, .....	8
Brooding Sows with litter of Pigs, .....	8
	2
	16
	2
	3
	2
	7

Making in all as follows:

Horses, Mares, &c. ....	18
Bulls of all ages, .....	8
Oxen and Steers, 25 pairs, .....	50
Cows, .....	19
Heifers, .....	10
	105
Rams, .....	11
Ewe Sheep and Lambs, .....	16
Boars, .....	5
Sows, .....	2
	34

Although the day, and other circumstances, were rather favorable, the exhibition of stock was more limited than was desirable. This, in the opinion of many persons, was owing to the nature of the list of premiums. In most of the classes but one premium was offered, which deterred a large number of persons from exhibiting their stock, feeling assured that some one person had a superior animal to their own, and consequently they would obtain a premium. As long as this feeling actuates the farmer, exhibitions (unless the premiums are large and numerous) will be but meagre affairs. Exhibitions, to become successful, should largely partake of the nature of fairs, when the admirers of fine stock could purchase any animal they wish, or ascertain where they can be had.

We hope to see an improvement in this respect as we advance in intelligence as a farming people.

The following is a list of prizes awarded by the judges, viz:

1. Best entire Horse, J. Duncanson, .....	\$10 00
1. " brood Mare and Foal, T. Battue, .....	5 00

2. " do. do. John Starr, .....	4 00
3. " do. do. Levi Eaton, .....	3 00
1. " three year old Colt, Levi Eaton, .....	4 00
2. " do. do. Leander Eaton, .....	3 00
1. " two year old Colt, J. T. Newcomb, .....	3 00
2. " do. do. Francis Bouldigo, .....	2 00
1. " yearling Colt, Jonathan Bond, .....	3 00
2. " do. do. G. W. Eaton, .....	2 00
1. " best Bull, Cornwallis Agr. Society, .....	8 00
2. " do. do. ....	6 00
3. " two year old do. Jas. W. Hains, .....	4 00
1. " yearling do. Stephen Gould, .....	3 00
1. " bull Calf, Charles Beckwith, .....	3 00
1. " pair Oxen, Richard Stow, .....	8 00
2. " do. Leander Eaton, .....	6 00
1. " pair five year old Oxen, E. Chase, .....	7 00
1. " pair four do. do. J. Hand, .....	6 00
1. " pair three do. do. R. Stewart, .....	5 00
1. " pair two do. Steers, J. Stow, .....	5 00
1. " pair one do. do. L. Eaton, .....	4 00
1. " pair Steer Calves, Joseph Stow, .....	3 00
1. " milch Cow, John T. Newcomb, .....	7 00
2. " do. Dawson Patterson, .....	6 00
3. " do. T. Harding Fitch, .....	4 00
4. " do. Wm. Crane, .....	4 00
5. " do. Leander Eaton, .....	3 00
6. " do. do. ....	2 00
1. " two year old Heifer, Ed. P. Borden, .....	4 00
1. " yearling do. John Stow, .....	3 00
1. " heifer Calf, Leander Eaton, .....	2 00
1. " Ram, Cornwallis Agr. Society, .....	3 00
1. " do. Wm. Stewart, .....	2 00
1. " ram Lamb, Wm. H. Mudge, .....	1 00
2. " do. do. ....	1 00
1. " two ewe Sheep, do. ....	3 00
2. " do. Leander Eaton, .....	2 00
1. " two ewe Lambs, Joseph Starr, .....	2 00
2. " do. do. ....	1 00
1. " Boar, Charles Beckwith, .....	4 00
1. " do. James P. Johnston, .....	3 00
1. " breeding Sow and Pigs, J. Eaton, .....	4 00
2. " do. do. Jas. F. Dill, .....	3 00

\$173 00  
Expenses connected with the holding of the exhibition, paying for use of grounds, and fitting up the same. 15 90  
\$189 90

You will find as above a short report of the exhibition held by the U. A. Society of Cornwallis, and the King's county Agricultural Society, at Wolfville, on the 11th October last past, stating the number of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine, on exhibition, together with the premiums paid and the names of the successful competitors, and expenses connected therewith, &c.,—all of which is submitted for your examination.

We remain,  
Your obdt. scrvts.,  
C. U. HAMILTON,  
Sec'y U. A. Soc. of Cornwallis.  
G. HAMILTON,  
Sec'y Agr. Soc., Horton.

Nov. 8, 1865.

AMHERST AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

I return you the enclosed signed as requested.

Our agricultural show came off on the 31st ult., and was largely attended, I think it will have a good effect upon the society.

I did intend to send you an account of the "show" for the Agricultural Journal, but as the Chronicle has copied the principle part of a communication I sent to the "Borderer" on the subject it will hardly be worth while.

W. F. CUTTEN.  
Amherst, 17th Nov., 1865.

REPORT ON SEEDLING POTATOES,  
"EARLY GOODRICH" AND "No. 241."

BY F. R. PARKER, ESQ., M.P.P.

*Shubenacadie, Nov. 7, 1865.*

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of this month I beg to state that the potatoes did not do very well, owing, as I believe, to this land being very dry, and a very dry season. I planted in my usual way in my general field. They appeared to be of an early kind, getting ripe very early. They are not of a very large size, but are without any disease, appearing very healthy; and in quantity one and a half bushels of each kind.

## HAVE THE OLD MEMBERS OF SOCIETIES THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE NEW ONES.

*Nictaux, Annapolis, Nov. 21st, 1865.*

SIR,—Is it consistent with the principles upon which Government grants money to Agricultural Societies, for such societies or society to prohibit new members from joining, by raising the annual subscription in these cases, to two, three, or four dollars? Are they at liberty to do so if they see fit? Could the Board consistently recommend to the government that such society renew the yearly grant?

If you will be so kind as to inform me on this subject, you will much oblige.

T. H. RANDALL.

[If we understand properly the query of our correspondent, he desires to know whether the existing members of a society have the right to shut out others by requiring from them a larger subscription than they themselves pay. If that be his meaning, we believe that such a practice is at variance with the spirit of the Agricultural Act, unless there be special circumstances rendering it necessary or desirable. The balance of funds carried forward to a new year is as much the property of new as of old members.—Ed.]

## STIRLING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*New Annan, Nov. 27th, 1865.*

I enclose a list of the prizes given by our Society at the exhibition held on the 18th October. We had a very good show of animals, the best we have had yet. The lambs after the imported rams show a vast improvement. The wheat exhibited was a very superior article, the first prize weighed sixty-six pounds, and the second sixty-five.

WM. CREIGHTON,  
Secretary.

[We are sorry we have not room for the prizelist in the present number.—Ed.]

REPORT ON SEEDLING POTATOES  
"CUZCO," "GARNET CHILI," "No. 241" AND "GOODRICH SEEDLING."

By C. C. Hamilton, M. P. P.

*Canard, Cornwallis, Nov. 24, 1865.*

As regards the result of the Goodrich potatoes entrusted to me, I am sorry that I cannot go into particulars at present in reference to their yield, as I have not had time to measure or weigh them, suffice it to say that I planted the specimens I had, viz:—the cuzco, garnet chili, 241, and goodrich seedling, the two latter received from Dr. Hea of Wolfville, on saved ground turned over this spring without manure, and where there were other kinds of potatoes planted in the same field. The yield of these exceeded them by far, and the only variety which showed any decay was the cuzco, and but two or three of them.

I have not tried their eating qualities yet, but they are a handsome and fair growing potato, with strong and high tops, and I have no doubt but that they will be a great acquisition to the sorts of this valuable escent now cultivated.

I intend distributing them among the members of our Agricultural Society.

PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF 1867.—The Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education has issued a series of papers referring to the Paris Exhibition to be held in 1867. It is to embrace produce and manufactures of all kinds, from German tinder to locomotives.

NATURALIZATION OF PINES IN AUSTRALIA.—From a notice in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, we observe that Dr. Ferdinand Muller, the distinguished government botanist of Victoria, is introducing large masses of the Pines of the Northern Hemisphere into Australia, with a view to their final naturalization in the Australian forests.

WILLOWS.—Professor Anderson of Stockholm has completed his monograph of the genus *Salix*, which has occupied his whole time during the last eight years, although the previous part of his life had been chiefly devoted to this genus. 1000 species have been described by botanists; but Professor Anderson reduces the number to 200. His monograph will appear in a volume of DeCandolle's *Prodromus*.

RAM FOR SALE.—A correspondent having obtained one of the English rams imported by the government, wishes to dispose of a good ram which he has had for a year or two. It is described as the third stock from a prize ram at the provincial exhibition some years ago. The animal will be sold for \$10. His sire weighed 150 lbs. when killed last fall.

BERKSHIRE BOARS.—Mr. Foley, near King's corner, has several Berkshire boars, about 15 months old, for sale.

*The Garden.*INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION  
AND BOTANICAL CONGRESS.

To be held in London, May 1866.

We have already called the attention of our readers to the Exhibition which is to take place in the Garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington, in May next, and to which the leading botanists and horticulturists throughout Europe are to be invited. In addition to the Exhibition, two morning meetings (of the nature of a congress) are to be held, at which papers prepared by leading botanists or horticulturists are to be read, the papers to be previously printed in English and French or German, and circulated, and discussion thereon invited. There are to be two conversazioni and a banquet.

A subscription list on a most extensive scale has been opened for the purpose of obtaining funds for prizes, for the erection of necessary buildings, and for the entertainment of foreign visitors. In the subscription list we observe the names of the leading members of the aristocracy of England and Scotland, from the Queen downwards. We heartily wish the scheme a full measure of success.

THE NEW RACE OF MIMULUS  
DUPLEX.

The Duplex, or "hose-in-hose" mimulus, which has been wrongly called "The new double" in some catalogues, was figured and described at page 82, and further noticed at page 215. This new and decidedly improved form of an old and deservedly popular florist flower originated in the nurseries of Messrs. Dickson and Turnbull, Perth, who disposed of the whole stock to Mr. Wm. Bull, of Chelsea, and he now offers for sale a selection of no less than twelve distinct varieties, of which he has sent us the following descriptions:—

*Andersoni*.—Ground colour rich yellow, lower lobe blotched with deep crimson, the upper lobes and lower part of the throat beautifully spotted with a lightish pink.

*Brightness*.—Rich sulphur ground, intensely marbled or belted with a beautiful vermilion crimson.

*Coquette*.—Clear pale primrose, the upper lobes having three or four distinct rosy crimson spots, and the lower lobe handsomely blotched with a light maroon, thus giving the flower a novel and pleasing appearance.

*Diadem*.—A beautiful straw-coloured variety, the lobes blotched with rich carmine, while the lower part of the throat is intensely marbled with rosy pink, producing a striking effect.



*Eclat*.—Bright orange, lobes heavily blotched with a rich and very dark maroon, the lower part of the throat thickly spotted with a palish crimson.

*Glowworm*.—Bright golden yellow, all the lobes heavily and largely blotched with a brilliant maroon spotted throat, a very attractive variety.

*Heroine*.—Ground colour citron, heavily blotched and regularly spotted with crimson maroon. The flowers of this variety are frequently edged and banded with light crimson.

*Incomparable*.—Orange, prettily spotted and maculated with crimson, the lower lobe blotched with a glowing maroon.

*Liveliness*.—Bright yellow, lobes blotched and pencilled with a very rich velvety crimson, and frequently banded with brownish red.

*National*.—Lemon, marbled with intense maroon round the lobes, the lower one blotched with deep crimson.

*Royalty*.—A deep golden variety, the lower lobe prettily marbled with bronze and blotched with beautiful velvet crimson, the throat thickly studded with spots of the same hue, very showy and fine.

*Wandsworth*.—Orange yellow ground, blotched on the lower lobe with dark vermilion, the upper lobes thickly spotted with the same colour. The throat also faintly spotted.—*The Farmer*.

#### THE NEW SPOTTISWOODE RAT-TAIL OR POD RADISH OF JAVA.

At the third Great Exhibition for the present season of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, (5th July) Mr. Bull, the London Nurseryman, exhibited "a new Radish, in which instead of the root the seed pods, which have the flavor of a radish, are eaten. Its pods are stated to grow three inches in a night, and when fully grown attain a length of between three and four feet. It comes from India, but it is said to succeed in the open ground during summer in this country."—(*Gardeners' Chronicle*, 8th July, 1865.)

The vegetable referred to in the above paragraph is no doubt the same as "the Spottiswoode Rat-Tail Radish," of which a full description and engraving were published by Dr. Lawson in *Downing's Horticulturist*, (New York), August 1860. It had been referred to in the *Revue Horticole* by M. Courtois Gerard, as the Madras Radish. It had been in cultivation for some years at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden and in Canada. It is a delicious veget. etc, a native of Java (not of India,) and appears to have been in cultivation in some parts of India for a considerable time, particularly in the neighbourhood of Benares. However, in *Hoitus Madraspatensis*, it is not referred to, and the name Madras Radish must be dropped as having probably originated in some error. It was introduced to Europe by Mrs. Colonel Spottiswoode, who, on Dr. Lawson's suggestion, sent seeds to Professor Balfour, and it was successfully reared by Mr. McNab, in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.

Cultivators of this Radish regard it as one

of the most valuable vegetables that have been introduced for many years, being far superior in delicacy of flavor to the best varieties of Root Radish. The pods have a peculiar pungent yet delicate flavor, and are perfectly succulent, and may be used either as salad or to form a pickle. Its cultivation is extremely simple, very much that of the common Root Radish.

Notwithstanding the opinions expressed by writers in the *Revue Horticole*, we believe the plant to be identical with the *Raphanus caudatus* of botanists. The French horticulturists seem to find their pods comparatively short, while those of *R. caudatus* are described by botanists as three or four feet in length. It must be observed, however, that there are many varieties of the Rat Tail Radish, varying in the length of their pods, and that a good stock is only obtained by carefully saving seed from the very long attenuated podded sorts. Fourteen or fifteen inches was found to be a good length for the pods in Canada. In moister climates they will no doubt grow much larger, under good management, and in Nova Scotia we need not despair of obtaining pods that will approach De Candolle's description. "*Silqua tota planta longior, imo 4-5 pedalis,*" &c. We are sorry to see the root referred to as edible. In the true large podded varieties, the root is quite worthless, and the pods alone should be used. The young leaves, however, are succulent, and edible, and have the same flavor.

#### WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF TIMBER TREES BY BEETLES.

Mr. Gorrie has called attention to the destructive effects of beetles on young plantations, as shown in several localities in Scotland. At Wraes the young trees are so much injured that nothing can be done to save them, and cattle have been turned into the plantation. In Kirkton more than one-half of the trees are killed, while in Borthwickfield the number destroyed is considerably less than the half. The beetles attack the plants first at the base of the stem, eating and then puncturing the bark upwards. The plants destroyed are Scots fir, larch, spruce, Austrian, Weymouth, and other coniferous trees and a few beech, birch, oak, and mountain ash. The beetles occur in great profusion, and Mr. Myles gave a description of what he had done to diminish their numbers. Three boys were able to collect for some time between 1300 to 1400 each day in the plantation, but the beetles had so far diminished that the boys could only gather 600 or 700 a day. Mr. W. R. McNab, who had examined the insects, finds three different species—viz., *Hylurgus piniperda*, *Hyllobius Abietis*, *Otiobrychus notatus*.—*Proceedings Bot. Soc., Edin.*

#### WILD FLOWERS OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mrs. Miller, whose talents as an artist are well known in Nova Scotia, intends to issue a new series of coloured drawings of our Wild Flowers. We have had an opportunity of examining these drawings very carefully, and are pleased to find that they not only display much artistic taste, but are likewise very accurate in a scientific point of view. The present series of drawings are, in fact, the

best set of botanical drawings we have seen for several years, as regards drawing, artistic effect and colouring combined. Our only fear is, that it will be difficult, even in England, to find an engraver sufficiently accurate, painstaking and conscientious, to give a faithful rendering of the originals. We understand that subscribers names will be received by Mr. Gossip and Miss Katzman.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—Fifth annual report of the Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick, 1865; *Journal of Agriculture and Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*, Oct. 1864 to July, 1865; *American Agriculturist*, Nov.; *Journal de l'instruction publique (Bas-Canada)*, Octobre et Novembre; *Canada Farmer*, November; *Meehan's Gardener's Monthly*, Nov.; *Honeyman on the Geology of Arisaig*, (from *Pro. Geol. Soc.*); *Monthly report of Agricultural Department, Washington*, Sept.; *Report of Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada for 1864*; *The Farmer*, (Edinburgh) Nov. 1st, (from *Prof. Balfour*); *The Horticulturist*, (New York), Nov.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

#### ADVERTISEMENTS!

#### LEICESTER

—AND—

#### COTSWOLD SHEEP.

Importation from Canada.

#### FOR SALE!

TEN of the RAMS and RAM LAMBS imported by the Board of Agriculture, from Canada, will be sold by Public Auction, (W. M. Allen, Auctioneer,) on

Friday, 8th Decem., at 12 o'clock, noon, at the RAILWAY DEPOT, Richmond.

By order of the Board of Agriculture,

GEORGE LAWSON, L. L. D.,

Secretary.

Halifax, Nov. 30th, 1865.

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