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Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1871.

No. 66.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES OF SOCIETIES.

By direction of the Central Board of Agriculture, ten copies of this Journal will be mailed monthly to the Secretary of every Society in the Province, for which the reduced price of \$4 will be deducted from the Annual Grant. The Board publish the Journal entirely in the interest of Agricultural Societies, and it is essential that all the Office-Bearers of Societies should read it, and thus be informed of the operations of the Board. The postages will be prepaid, and Societies desirous of having their copies mailed singly to Members will please send the necessary directions to the Secretary of the Board. Any Society desiring a larger number will be supplied at a corresponding reduction.

Single Subscribers who do not obtain their copies through a Society must pay the annual subscription of Fifty Cents in advance, otherwise the Journal cannot be sent.

Free copies will continue to be sent to all Members of the Local Legislature, and to all Newspapers in the Province.

HALIFAX, 27th March, 1871.

The proceedings of the Board of Agriculture occupy so much space this month, that the usual editorial article is omitted. There are several important matters requiring comment, and they will receive it in next number.

Since the meeting of the Board on the 22d and 23rd inst., three additional Agricultural Societies have been formed,—one in Cumberland County, the Malagash Agricultural Society, and two in Shelburne County, viz.: the Sable River Agricultural Society, and the Eastern District Agricultural Society, each having upwards of forty members. These two Societies are recommended to the Board by Thomas Johnson, Esq., M. P. P.

Who owns the Champion Cow in Nova Scotia? See article by J. L. Truro, in another column.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

Agricultural Room, New Provincial Building, March 22, 1871.

The half-yearly meeting of the Central Board of Agriculture commenced this morning at ten o'clock. The Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly were invited to join the Board in deliberating as to the course to be pursued during the ensuing season, in affording encouragement and assistance to the Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, and otherwise promoting the objects of the Board. The following gentlemen were present, viz. :—

*Of the Agricultural Committee:—*Amos Purdy, Esq., M. P. P., Chairman; D. M. Dickie, Esq., M. P. P., King's Co.; Elkanah Young, Esq., M. P. P., Hants; J. McDonald, Esq., M. P. P., Antigonish; R. S. Copeland, Esq., M. P. P., Pictou; D. C. Landers, Esq., M. P. P., Annapolis.

*Of the Board of Agriculture:—*Hon. Sir William Young, Knight; Hon. R. A. McHefsey, M. E. C.; D. Matheson, Esq., Pictou; George C. Lawrence, Esq., Port Hood; Joseph J. Northup, Esq.; Dr. C. C. Hamilton, Cornwallis; H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq., Lunenburg; Henry Yeomans, Esq.; Avar Longley, Esq., Paradise; Hon. John Mackinnon, Antigonish; J. B. Calkin, Esq., M. A., Principal of Normal School; Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Minutes of last half-yearly meeting, and of adjourned meeting of the Board held in November, were read and approved of.

The Hon. Mr. Macfarlane, President of the Board, being absent, attending to his Senatorial duties at Ottawa, it was moved by H. Yeomans, Esq., Vice President, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McHefsey, and agreed to, that the Hon. Sir William Young be requested to act as chairman of the meeting.

Sir William Young, having taken the chair, stated that the annual report re-

cently presented to the Legislature exhibited very gratifying results. The County and District Societies were rapidly increasing in number and strength throughout the whole Province. The existence of effective Societies, embracing 2742 farmers of the province, who had contributed \$3,046 to their funds, was the best evidence of the substantial interest taken in the agricultural movement. The Board had invited the Agricultural Committee of the House to this meeting, as they felt that from the Legislature they drew their inspiration as well as their funds, for it was better not to move at all than to move in opposition to public opinion, or the opinion of the Legislature. The benefits of the importations of stock made by the Board were now patent all over the province, and every successive importation seemed to excite a demand for more. The taste for thorough bred stock was happily growing, and there was still ample room. The Board had suffered a considerable drain upon its funds, in consequence of the small pecuniary returns received for the animals sent to Cape Breton, but they felt that the sacrifice was a profitable one to the country, and they cheerfully looked upon the Cape Breton animals as a gift properly given;—yet the funds had in consequence been drained, and if any more importations of stock or grain were to be made, funds must be supplied. The Board had in reserve a fund of \$8000, voted in 1864 for a Stock Farm. This, they thought, might be utilized in stock importations, and it was for the Agricultural Committee to consider the matter, and recommend such a scheme as should commend itself to them as the best for the interests of the Province at large.

Mr. Purdy stated that the Agricultural Committee had had this matter under consideration, and he thought there was a disposition to meet the requirements of the Board and the Societies in a liberal and judicious spirit.

Mr. Dickie stated in reference to the loss that had been sustained on the Cape Breton stock, that the committee would no doubt free the Board from embarrassment.

Mr. Elkanah Young also thought that the Board should be sustained in these importations.

Mr. McDonald brought forward the claims of the Morristown Society, in Antigonish County, and it was agreed that the Society should be treated as a County Society, and be entitled to draw the full amount of \$200, provided the subscriptions of members reached \$100.

Mr. Dickie mentioned that arrangements were being made for a Stock Exhibition in King's County, and the Chairman stated that although matters were not in position to enable the Board to take any decided action, yet they would

be disposed to aid such a movement in every practicable way.

Mr. Dickie also stated that a petition had been presented from King's County relative to the mode of making nominations to the Board, and he had introduced a Bill to overcome the difficulty complained of.

The Board felt that it was a matter for the Legislature rather than the Board to deal with, and several members expressed a desire that the present mode of constituting the Board should not be changed unless an additional Legislative vote were given that would cover the extra expenses incurred by an increase of representation.

The subject of importation of stock was then taken up, but the Board, after some discussion, deferred its final consideration until they should receive the suggestions of the Agricultural Committee, as there are at present no funds in hand, and the grant for 1871 will be wholly required to meet the allowances to societies and current expenses. Mr. Matheson thought that in view of the spirited way in which the farmers of the Province had received the last importation, it was the duty of the Board to encourage the spirit shown by making another large importation as speedily as possible.

An application from A. James, Esq., for two copies of the "Letters of Agriculture" for the library of the Young Men's Christian Association of Dartmouth, was granted.

The Secretary laid before the meeting an attested schedule signed by 53 farmers in Cape Negro, County of Shelburne, who had formed themselves into an Agricultural Society. The Hon. Robert Robertson recommended the society as suitably located, and it was therefore ordered to be placed on the list of recognized societies entitled to participate in the Legislative grant.

An application from the County of Halifax Agricultural Society was received, and the society recognized under its new organization.

Moved by Dr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Calkin, and resolved, that in order to encourage exhibitions, open to the Province, a premium of 25 per cent. be given upon prize funds raised outside of societies' subscriptions, the amount to be devoted to this purpose by the Board not to exceed \$500.

On motion of Mr. Kaulback, seconded by Dr. Hamilton, the prizes previously offered for hemp were renewed for the present season.

It was stated that the Bone Mill was in successful operation, and all the wants of farmers in the Province were regularly supplied.

The Board, considering the great importance of the office-bearers of all the

agricultural societies being acquainted with the operations of the Board, and receiving early notice of official announcements made from time to time in the Agricultural Journal, which is published exclusively in the interest of these societies, resolved, that in future ten copies of the Journal be mailed to every Society in the Province, and that a sum of \$4 be annually deducted from the grant of each society in payment.

The Secretary stated that a new cheese factory was being established in Aylesford, in addition to the two in operation in Annapolis.

Mr. Calkin stated that a cheese factory was also being established in Onslow.

Mr. Longley mentioned that one factory in Annapolis had paid from 90 to 92 per cent on the capital last year, and that there would be six factories in operation during the ensuing season in Annapolis. There were 150 factories established in New York State alone last year.

Sir William Young and other members bore testimony to the excellent quality of the factory cheese.

In accordance with the nominations of societies, the Board is constituted, for the ensuing year, as follows:—

- District No. 1.—Hon. Sir William Young.
H. Yeomans, Esq.
Joseph J. Northup, Esq.
W. Cunard, Esq.
- " No. 2.—Dr. C. C. Hamilton.
A. Longley, Esq.
- " No. 3.—H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq.
A. C. A. Doane, Esq.
- " No. 4.—Hon. Alex. Macfarlane.
Hon. R. A. McHefley.
- " No. 5.—Hon. John Mackinnon.
D. Matheson, Esq.
- " No. 6.—Henry Davenport, Esq.
Geo. C. Lawrence, Esq.
- Rev. A. S. Hunt, Supt. of Education.
J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of Normal School.
- The Board then adjourned till to-morrow (Thursday) morning.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Agricultural Room, New Provincial Building, March 23, 1871.

An adjourned meeting of the Board was held this morning at ten o'clock. There were present the Hon. Mr. McHefley, Hon. Mr. Mackinnon, Joseph J. Northup, Esq., George C. Lawrence, Esq., D. Matheson, Esq., A. Longley, Esq., H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq., J. B. Calkin, Esq., and Dr. Lawson, Secretary.

Several members of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly likewise attended, viz.: Amos Purdy, Esq., M. P. P., J. McDonald, Esq., M. P. P., and John Ross, Esq., M. P. P.

Mr. Purdy, as chairman of the Committee, stated that the Committee had reported to the House yesterday, the desirability of placing the Stock Farm grant of \$8000, together with the interest that had accrued thereon, at the disposal

of the Board for the importation of horned cattle, sheep, and pigs, but that no greater sum than \$4000 be used in one year, and the loss only taken from the fund; also that the loss on last year's importation be made up from that fund. There was some difference of opinion in the Committee, but they had further recommended the Government to put in the estimates a sum of \$5000 for the purchase of horses, the proceeds of the sale of which would have to be paid back into the Provincial Treasury.

The Hon. Mr. McHefsey stated that he feared the Government could not afford to give \$5000 for horses.

Mr. Ross spoke of the urgent necessity for improved Stock in Cape Breton, and urged the propriety of sending down a portion of the proposed importation for sale in that island.

Mr. Matheson thought that the Board had acted very judiciously and consistently hitherto in these importations, and that the farmers of Cape Breton might rest assured that their interests would be attended to by the Board in future, as they had been in the past. It would be unwise at present to come to any detailed arrangement or resolution that might hamper the Board, and it was matter for serious consideration in what form special encouragement should be given to Cape Breton and other outlying sections; but no doubt some equitable and just arrangement would be made.

Mr. McDonald took an enlarged, and what seemed to members of the Board to be a judicious view of the matter. He thought that it was the duty of the Board to see that no section of the country was neglected. He was opposed, however, to sectional legislation; it was unfair he thought that Cape Breton should have special favors; it was not justice to Cape Breton that was wanted, but justice to the whole Province, and he hoped the Board would see its way to give satisfaction to the country at large.

Mr. Kaulback thought the great objection to allowing animals to be sacrificed at nominal prices in Cape Breton was that animals that cost so little would not be properly cared for and valued.

Mr. Northup suggested the propriety of allowing a discount equivalent to expense of transit to all distant sections. The great advantage of having sales at Halifax was that when the animals were kept together, intending purchasers might make a better selection of what was really suitable for their purposes, instead of being obliged to take the animals sent by the Board to their particular section.

Mr. Matheson suggested the propriety of selling the animals at Pictou, where they would probably be landed. This view was not concurred in, as it would be inconvenient to the farmers of the Western counties, and the attendance at

the sale would not be so large as at Halifax.

Moved by Mr. Kaulback, seconded by Mr. Longley, and resolved—That the Hon. Mr. Macfarlane, Hon. Mr. McHefsey, Joseph Northup, Esq., and the Secretary, be requested to ascertain from Societies the kinds of stock most urgently required, and to make arrangements for the necessary purchases, so soon as funds were available.

In reference to Cheese Factories, Mr. Longley stated that Mr. Weeks, Secretary of the Dairymen's Association, Syracuse, New York State, was prepared to furnish information as to Managers of Factories open to engagement. The wages would be higher this year than formerly. Persons establishing Cheese Factories should write to Mr. Weeks. Mr. Longley stated farther that there were now 500 Factories in New York State, 150 new ones having been established during the past year.

There was placed on the table a sample of "Excelsior Oats." This is a beautiful heavy white oat, remarkably thin-skinned and well adapted for meal. Messrs. Avery, Brown & Co. have imported a quantity and offer it at \$5 per bushel or \$1.50 per peck.

Dr. Hamilton brought under notice the following potatoes:—Bresee's King of the Earlies or No. 4; Bresee's Prolific; Peerless or No. 6, and Excelsior. He had raised a small quantity of Bresee's Prolific, and for yield and soundness it certainly excels any other potato. The Surprise Oats proved ten days earlier than the Norway, which latter is a great producer, yielding 22 or 24 fold with ordinary culture. W. M. Rand, of Canard, has 100 bushels for sale at \$1.00 per bushel of 34 lb., delivered at his place. Several members made enquiries as to where Surprise Oats could be obtained in the Province.

The meeting then adjourned.

GEORGE LAWSON, Sec'y.

COUNTY OF HALIFAX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Agricultural Room, New Provincial Building, March 21, 1871.

A meeting of the members of the old Western Halifax Agricultural Society was held to-day. Present:—the Hon. Sir William Young, Knight, President of the Society; the Hon. W. A. Henry, Mayor of the City; Hon. Judge Ritchie, Colonel Laurie, Colonel Milsom, Joseph J. Northup, Esq., Henry Yeomans, Esq., William Duffus, Esq., James Stauford, Esq., Charles Hamilton, Esq., J. P., Windsor Road, A. K. Mackinlay, Esq., North West Arm, Alex. Anderson, Esq., W. C. Silver, Esq., F. W. Fishwick, Esq., John Parker, Jr., Esq., Thomas Leahy, Esq., J. M. Geldert, Esq., D. Hullisey,

Esq., Beaver Bank, P. Monaghan, Esq., William Stevens, Esq., Four Mile House, Alfred Saunders, Esq., Seedsman, Alfred Byers, Esq., Andrew Downs, Esq., Wm. Longard, Esq., William Veith, Esq., Thomas Byers, Esq., William Richardson, Esq., George Madill, Esq., Gay's River, Dr. Lawson, Mr. Hutton, Jr., Horticultural Gardens, Mr. Stevens, Jr., Bedford Basin, Messrs. Blackadar, McLeod, and others.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Henry, seconded by Henry Yeomans, Esq., the Hon. Sir William Young was called to the chair.

The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to revive the Society and reorganize it on a more extended basis. In addition to the members on the Peninsula and in the Sackville district, applications had been received from forty farmers in the Gay's River district, who proposed to unite with the Society. The large and respectable meeting that had assembled was, therefore, in a favorable position for taking effective action. He then read the following resolutions which would be submitted to the meeting:—

1. That the Western Halifax Agricultural Society be revived and re-organized as a County Society.

2. That Agriculturists and others residing in any part of the city or county of Halifax, not within the limits of any other existing Society, be eligible as members.

3. That the annual subscription be one dollar.

4. That the Society be in future called the County of Halifax Agricultural Society.

5. That application be made to the Board of Agriculture to recognize the Society in its new form as entitled to participate in the annual legislative grant for Encouragement of Agriculture.

These five points were debated at length. The only one on which there was much difference of opinion was the third, His Worship the Mayor and several other gentlemen being of opinion that the subscription should be at least \$2, while Colonel Laurie and Mr. Hamilton argued that \$1 was sufficient.

After a full expression of opinion, it was moved by Joseph J. Northup, Esq., and seconded by the Hon. Judge Ritchie, that the resolutions be adopted as the basis of constitution of the re-modelled Society. The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Secretary then recorded the names of the members of the Society, all present giving in their adhesion.

The Society then proceeded to the election of office-bearers:—Mr. Northup moved that Sir William Young be elected President, which was seconded by Colonel Laurie, and passed with acclamation.

His Worship the Mayor moved that Colonel Laurie be elected Vice President, which was seconded by Mr. Silver, and also passed unanimously.

Mr. Northup moved that the Hon. W. A. Henry be elected a Vice President, which was seconded by Mr. Mackinlay and passed unanimously.

On motion of Colonel Laurie, George Madill, Esq., Gay's River, was elected a Vice President.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, W. C. Silver, Esq., was elected Treasurer, and Dr. Lawson Secretary.

The following gentlemen were named as a committee, and were empowered to nominate four additional members for the outlying districts, so soon as the Society should be fully formed:—Joseph J. Northup, Esq., Charles Hamilton, Esq., J. P., Alex. Anderson, Esq., Wm. Veith, Esq., Wm. Duffus, Esq.,

Sir William Young then addressed the meeting in terms of congratulation and encouragement. It was highly gratifying, he said, to see so large an assembly of gentlemen interested in the industrial welfare of the country, coming forward to take a personal part in the promotion of agricultural improvement. The great importance of the agricultural interest was but very imperfectly known. Our fisheries, manufactures, and mines are all important, and it is not wise to exalt one branch of industry above another, but the fact should be better known that the produce raised by our farmers amounts in value to four times that of all the other producing classes together. Boards of Agriculture are apt to become hypothetical, and to aim at imaginary benefits, but our Provincial Board, in its importations of stock, and grain, and other improvements, had steadily kept in view, in a real and substantial manner, the actual wants of the country, and no one who reads the reports carefully could doubt but that twenty pounds worth of benefit had been derived from every one that had been given to the Board by the Legislature. He then referred to the pleasant green fields of Belgium with their cows and other cattle, perfect pictures of rural beauty; to the taste among the aristocracy of England for improved breeds of farm stock; to the large amount of capital employed by English tenant farmers, one man not infrequently having a capital of thirty thousand pounds laid out upon a rented farm.—and contrasted this with the condition of Nova Scotian farming. The Board is doing much good; the stock in many parts of the Province is exhibiting a marked improvement, and the best thing that could happen was a continuance and acceleration of the steady progress in which our farmers are now engaged. Mind is the origin of all industrial power, and material wealth. Lawyers and

Doctors, if they are to succeed, must spend all their spare time in reading and study. Much more must the farmer read—read the agricultural periodicals of the day, and teach his children to read them. If he does so, and keeps free of debt, he can look abroad upon the expanding buds and green fields of spring time with a satisfaction and independence and happiness unknown to either lawyer or politician. Let us all venerate the farmer.

Mr. Monaghan suggested that application should be made to Hon. Horace Capron for the Washington Reports.

His Worship the Mayor also addressed the meeting, urging the importance of reading. Every one who has a plough on his farm, or uses one, should read a periodical.

A vote of thanks was cordially passed to the Hon. the Chief Justice, and then adjourned the most spirited and successful agricultural meeting that has been held in Halifax for several years.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture:

TRURO, MARCH 17TH, 1871.

Sir,—While I have frequently been highly gratified in perusing notices of remarkable cows in agricultural papers of other countries, I have as often regretted that they did not appear in the *Journal of Agriculture* in relation to the kind of Nova Scotia. For various cogent reasons, it is very unfortunate that, to a large extent, the true mission of a cow is not properly understood by the farmers of this Province. The majority of them consider her an animal for getting stock, to raise for the butcher, and do not attach sufficient importance to her milk, and its quality for making butter. Many of these, by feeding their cows, when dry, on straw, and letting them stand out in cold weather, fail to accomplish successfully their chief object in keeping them, and do themselves as much injury financially as they occasion the animals physically, which they would soon discover from a different and more generous treatment. Even not a few of the members of our Provincial renowned Onslow Agricultural Society would look askance at a brother member who advocated the purchase of a thorough bred Ayrshire Bull, to displace some grade Durham not very celebrated for its milk strain, and if a committee were appointed to buy such an animal, ten chances to one if it would not select a bull of the larger breed, in whose stock are not combined to perfection all the qualities to be desired in horned cattle. But our Society is waking up in this respect, as may be judged from its late purchase of Captain Jinks, considered the handsomest, and about the

finest Devon bull in America. No doubt the Captain, and the Cheese Factory, shortly to be erected at Onslow, will do much to convince our farmers that beef is not every thing, but that an additional and equal profit may be derived from keeping cows in a milk and butter point of view as well.

To accomplish this great end, cows of the best breed to be had must be obtained; and not only that; they must be fed, and well fed. When the Cheese Factory gets in good running order, farmers will realize that if it is to be of any benefit to them, their cows must be well kept. They will find it manifestly for their interest to abandon the too-common and foolish practice of selling so much off their farms, that in many cases they are obliged to turn their cattle out to browse and grow poor in the Spring of the year, when they should be under cover, keeping up their condition and flow of milk, by converting farm produce into rich manure, with which the lands of their owners may be vastly improved.

The results attained from good cows well kept, have, in many cases, been most extraordinary; and in no case, where cows were worth keeping, have they failed to be otherwise than highly satisfactory.

A correspondent in the *Country Gentleman* gives an account of an astonishing yield of milk by an Ayrshire cow, bred and owned by Mr. S. Scammon, of Stratham, N. H. The writer of the communication from which we quote, took considerable personal trouble to ascertain the facts of the case, and vouches for the correctness of the statement. The cow was of a "pale yellow colour, and girths 6 feet 3 inches." The year that she was six years old Mr. Scammon kept an "exact account" of the butter made from her which amounted to six hundred and ten pounds. Her milk weighed 14,540 lbs.—being almost 40 lbs. per day, through the year, and nearly 12 lbs. per week of butter, through the year. Mr. Scammon gives his cow good hay during the winter, and generally two quarts of corn meal per day when she gives milk. In summer he gives her four quarts of meal per day, till July, then decreases to two quarts, and after haying turns her out to grass and gives no meal. He also gives her green corn stalks in their season. He thinks the meal is principally useful in increasing the quality rather than the quantity of the milk.

His two daughters, he says, milk this cow, "one on each side of her, with a large pale apiece." Would sell her "for \$1,000," and nothing less.

This cow "usually give milk the year round, but is usually dry one month before calving." She "runs all to milk," so that if no meal were given her she would get very thin."

He says, (this was in 1867) "some four years ago he went up into Vermont and bought four full-blood Durham cows, but this *Ayrshire*, in a heifer, would make more butter than all of them!" Has tried "several different breeds, but prefers *Ayrshire* before any." Four years ago he slaughtered an *Ayrshire* ox, which weighed, dressed, nineteen hundred and ten pounds."

"Colonel Fitch, of New London Co., U. S., possesses a cow that is remarkable in many respects. She is one-fourth *Ayrshire* and three-fourths *Jersey*. In January, 1870, she was 24 years old, had had 15 heifer-calves in succession, and was in calf again. When 15 years of age, she gave 17 lbs. 4 ounces of butter a week, besides the new milk and cream used in a family keeping three servants. Every one of her heifer-calves that has come to maturity has proved a first class butter cow. He has another cow, a pure *Ayrshire*, that gives 5,000 quarts of milk each year, and a *Jersey* cow that gives milk yielding one pound of butter to $5\frac{1}{4}$ quarts of milk; also another *Ayrshire* cow that has given 28 quarts of milk per day for several weeks. He has a herd of 200 head of *Ayrshire* and *Jerseys*, and crosses between the two breeds, that are said to have no equals anywhere for quantity and quality of milk and butter."

"In the *Agricultural Gazette* for Feb. 8, 1868, a correspondent gives his experience of dairy farming. He says: "I consider 720 gallons (2,880 quarts) a fair return in a year for a cow, and this quantity of milk, if the food do not contain more than 80 per cent of moisture, will produce from 280 to 290 lbs. of butter." This same writer says that $25\frac{1}{4}$ lbs of milk, or about 10 quarts, will make one pound of butter. He also states that 5 gallons, or 20 quarts, was the highest daily yield of one cow. He was evidently a practical man, for he actually kept 48 cows. He states that 47 cows actually gave throughout the year an average of 84 gallons daily, or 84 by 365—30,660 gallons, or 122,640 quarts in one year, from 47 cows, or 2,610 quarts from one cow; and if 10 quarts produced 1 lb. of butter, that would be 261 lbs. of butter yearly from each cow, as the average from 47 in one year. Again, in the *Farmer's Almanac* for 1868, I find it stated that a *Holderness* cow gave 29 quarts daily, yielding 1 lb. of butter from each 12 quarts; an *Ayrshire* cow gave 20 quarts daily, yielding 1 lb. of butter from $9\frac{1}{2}$ quarts; an *Alderney* cow gave 19 quarts, yielding 1 lb. of butter from 12 quarts; and a *Devon* cow gave 17 quarts, yielding 1 lb. of butter from $9\frac{3}{4}$ quarts. Of course these last are exceptional cases, but your own correspondent gave his actual experience of one year: of a dairy of 47 cows. Now I reckoned on 3,000 quarts, but I allowed 12 quarts to

produce one lb. of butter, which gave 250 lbs in a year, instead of 261. I do not think that I have greatly overestimated the produce of a cow. Moreover, in *Dorsetshire*, it is by no means uncommon for a farmer to let out his dairy to a dairy-man at £15, and even £18, per cow per annum, and that dairy-man makes a profit out of it."

But what are our own farmers doing? Will some of them reply through the columns of the "Journal?" My experience has not been such that it may be contrasted with that of English and American farmers, but in order to stimulate others, and for the benefit of the farming interest, I will narrate it. In doing so, I trust that due allowance will be made for the common cows of the country, of which mine are, and the dry hills of *Truro*.

In 1869 I kept a strict account with two cows. One calved on the 18th of March, and gave 20 quarts per day at the flow of her milk; the other on the 8th of June, and gave 24 quarts. Kept one calf one week, and the other three. We reserved four quarts of new milk every day for family use. The rest was set aside for butter, the cream only being churned. Began to churn 31st March, and finished February 4, 1870, during which time 339 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of butter were dressed. Had all the milk been churned, allowing 11 quarts to yield one pound of butter, 114 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. would have been added to the result, making a total of 454 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of butter from two cows between calving and going dry before calving again.

Yours respectfully,

J. L.

Miscellaneous.

HINTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL.

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

It is often said by those who have plants to set out, that they give so much more satisfaction than sowing seed. We hardly think so; and, then, see the thousands who can have some flowers from seeds, who could have no plants in other ways. In going among amateur horticulturists, we scarcely find a place where we are not shown some choice flowers which we are told, with a pardonable air of triumph, was bought of Henderson, or Dreer, or Thornburn, or Bliss, or Vick, or some other of the well-known names familiar to the readers of our advertising columns. During this month of March, and the next April, millions of little packages will have traveled through the mail, and find their resting place on the bosom of mother earth; and here we find we are giving a hint unconsciously, but one which is a capital one to the seed sower, namely, to sow the flower seeds

on the surface, and not beneath it. Much of the ill luck with them comes from rotting in the ground. A rain comes after sowing, and if the seed has partly swelled, it easily rots by being a few hours under water. To avoid this, sow on the surface, and close the earth over with a trowel. It is even a benefit to make a little mound of a half-inch or so, before sowing. Then it will make no difference if the rain continue for a week, the seeds will always be above the level, and never get saturated. Another little thing, often neglected by seed sowers, is to mark the place where the seeds are sown. A little stick set in will always be found useful, as all who have not done so will readily understand. In olden times this was always attended to, and a little slit made in it, in which the name on the paper was neatly folded and set. Of course a neat label looks prettier, but somehow those people of the olden time, who followed these primitive ways of naming their plants, knew more about them than many of the moderns. Only the hardy Annuals must be sown in March; those which are tender must be reserved until the soil and weather is settled warm. We need not give a list of these, as every seedsman has now these particulars on every package he sends out.

If flowers have been growing in the the ground for many years, new soil does wonders. Rich manure makes plants grow, but they do not always flower well with vigorous growth. If new soil cannot be had, a wheelbarrow of manure to about every fifty square feet will be enough. If the garden earth looks grey or yellow, rotten leaves—quite rotten leaves—will improve it. If heavy, add sand. If very sandy, add salt—about half a pint to fifty square feet. If very black or rich from previous year's manurings, use a little lime, about a pint slacked to fifty square feet.

Prune shrubs, roses and vines. Those which flower from young wood, cut in severely to make new growth vigorous. Tea, China, Bourbon and Noisette roses are of this class. What are called annual flowering Roses, as *Prairie Queen* and so on, require lots of last year's wood to make a good show of flowers. Hence, with these, thin out weak wood, and leave all the stronger.

To make handsome, shapely specimens of shrubs, cut them now into the forms you want, and keep them so by pulling out all shoots that grow stronger than others during the summer season.

Do not transplant extensively till the ground is warm and the buds are about to push. Many things die by exposure to winds for a few weeks before they have warmth to push roots and leaves into growth.

The rule for pruning at transplanting

is to cut in proportion to apparent injury to roots. If not much the worse for removal, cut but little of the top away. Properly pruned, a good gardener will not have the worst case of a badly dug tree to die under his hands. In a nursery, where these matters are well understood, trees "never die."

Box edgings lay well now. Make the ground firm and level, plant deep, with tops not more than two inches above ground.

Roll the grass well before the softness of a thaw goes away. It makes all smooth and level.

Graft trees or shrubs where changed sorts are desirable. Any lady can graft. Cleft grafting is the easiest. Split the stock, cut the scion like a wedge, insert in it the split, so that the bark of the stock and scion meets; tie a little bast bark around it, and cover with Trowbridge's Grafting-wax, and all is done: very simple when it is understood, and not hard to understand.

Chrysanthemums are now indispensable for autumn decoration of the flower garden. Now is the time to secure a supply. They do well in any rich garden soil that is not too dry. The Lilliputian, or Pomponé class are still popular for conservatory or pot culture, but the large flowering kinds still remain the gems of the open ground.

Hyacinths, Tulips, Lilliums, and other hardy bulbs set out in the fall, and covered through the winter, should be occasionally examined, and when they show signs of active growth, must be uncovered; in this latitude this is not safe until April.

Most things have been pruned, but Roses are always left to "see what damage the winter may do." In the "summer" roses, or those which bloom only once in the season, the rule is to thin out the weak shoots and leave the stronger ones, merely shortening their tops. If pruned severely in the usual shortening style, they will not bloom freely. The hybrid perpetual roses, if wanted for early flowering, should also be served much in the same way; but as their chief value is as fall flowers, a severe pruning now produces a vigorous autumn growth, bearing large and luxurious blooms. The Tea, China, Bourbon and Noisette roses which flower best on young wood, should be well cut in.

FRUIT GARDEN.

It will often be found that Pear trees blossom freely without producing fruit. At one time, it was thought this failure resulted from late spring frosts. It is now known to result from weakness, a "general debility," a disease of which our best pomologists of the last generation never heard. The best temporary remedy for this is a vigorous pruning. Trees which have this bad habit, should

have many of their weaker branches thinned out, leaving the stronger ones, many of which will then bear. But a permanent remedy must be sought in encouraging the surface roots to feed. This is done by heavy top dressings, and not injuring, more than can be helped, the surface roots during the growing season. There are differences of opinion as to whether the soil about fruit trees should be kept stirred, or left entirely under grass or mulch; but there is no difference about the value of not destroying the roots during the growing season.

If Pear or Apple trees are infested with white scales, cut away all the weaker shoots, and wash the bark with a composition of lime and sulphur. Sometimes Pears are affected with a disease, known in nurseries as frozen sap blight. In this case, just as the leaves are pushing, the branches will have spots of slimy black, and the leaves often have this appearance also. The only remedy is to cut back below any of these appearances.

Grape vines in the open air, on arbors and trellises, should have their pruning finished before warm spring days set in, or they will bleed. It does not injure them much, but it looks bad. The pruning must be regulated by the condition of the vine. If the vines are young and the shoots weak, cut them all back, to make a new and vigorous growth. If already a fair quantity of strong shoots of last season's growth exists, cut out the weaker ones, so as to leave enough of stronger ones. The cane system, slightly modified, is best for arbors and trellises in the hands of amateurs generally. This implies a new set of canes every year or two. If, as frequently happens from bad management, all the young and strong-bearing wood exists only at the end of the vines, and these latter have become nothing but long, rosy-looking apologies for what a vine should be; the whole cane may be buried down in the soil to where the strong shoots spring from, and the young wood of last season trained up from this. The plant will then recover its good appearance quite as well as by cutting down, with the advantage of not sacrificing a year's crop of fruit. Grapes that have become weak from age may be renewed by layering down a branch some feet just under the surface, and then cut back, so that one good eye only be left at the surface of the soil.

Apple trees in orchards are often so thickly matted with branches, that none of the leaves get their full share of light and air. This should never have been permitted, but as it is, a vigorous thinning should be effected, though the axe and saw be called in to effect it. Sprouts will come out thick next summer, after such pruning, but they should be torn out while green.

Peaches, it is said, grow too strong

generally, and should not be pruned; but the same rule holds good as with apples. Thin out all weak or crowded shoots. Our experience is that if a Peach tree's constitution is not impaired by bad treatment, it seldom grows too strong for its own good.

Plum and Cherry trees are often injured by the knot. These can often be renovated by a severe pruning. Cutting away all branches on which the swelling came the last season, a new growth will follow, which never has any knots on that season. The spores of the knot fungus, however, find their nests, and the next season grow, and then, if the trees are examined next May, the swelling will appear as soft frothy masses, which, if then taken out by the finger and thumb, usually destroys the crop at once and forever. Horticulture has made great progress the few past years in many of these things; and now, if Entomology shall prove its great value to gardening, by fixing the end of curculio, as mycology has, in its way, done us good, America will be the paradise of fruit growers.

In setting out Raspberries and Blackberries, remember the hints we once before gave, not to set out deeper than the plant grew before. A currant or gooseberry set deep, will root from the cane, but a raspberry will not. The new buds have to come up from the roots. Thousands of these plants die every year. In nurseries there are two kinds of plants—plants which are simply suckers, taken off in winter, and plants taken up as they sprout during summer, and set out to grow awhile before fall. These are called transplanted plants, and are worth much more than others. Transplanted plants seldom die. Both Raspberries and Blackberries should be cut down within six inches or a foot before planting. Transplanted plants may be left longer, and be allowed to bear a little; but if these plants are allowed to produce much the first year after setting out, the suckers for next year are very weak. Little is gained by having fruit the first year.

Strawberries, like Raspberries, are often destroyed by planting deep. Only the fibrous roots should be set under the ground—never the bud. Sometimes the excuse is that the plant will not set firm in the ground without; in this case, make the ground firm by rolling or beating down before planting.

People often complain that their Currants drop their leaves early, in which case they don't mature a very large crop the next season. The Currant is a native of cool regions, and the coolest ground should always be devoted to it. The leaves do not fall early then. In this section the currant borer is the worst insect pest. About this season the larvæ will be found in the pith, and the shoots containing them should be cut off and

burned. If the shoots look weak and starved like on plants which have some of them very strong and vigorous, it is quite likely they have the larvæ of these borers in the weak ones. This can then be determined by examination.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

In the open ground Peas and Potatoes receive the first attention. Then Beets and Carrots. Then Lettuce, Radish, Spinach, Onions, Leeks and Parsley. Beyond this, unless in more favored latitudes, little can be done till the last week in April. There is nothing gained in working soil, until it has become warm and dry.

Those who have no Spinach sown in the fall should do that right away; no amount of stable manure but will be a benefit to it, though guano, in even smallish doses, will kill it. Guano produces excellent Cabbage, mixed with the ground while it is being dug for that crop. Cabbage, by the way, may be put in as soon as the ground is ready; many plant Cabbage between Potato rows.

Onions are better put in early, but the ground ought to be dry, and trodden or beaten firm when the sets are planted; the ground ought not to have rank manure—wood-ashes and pure undunged loam will alone produce an excellent crop.

Where new Asparagus beds are to be made, now is the time; the ground should be rather moist than dry, and be trenched two feet deep, mixing in with it a good quantity of stable dung, and, if the ground be inclining to sand, add some salt; the beds should be marked out four feet wide, and the alleys about two feet. If pegs are driven down at the corners of the beds permanently, they will assist operations in future years. Having marked the positions of the beds and procured a stock of two year old plants, place them on the soil nine inches apart in rows one foot asunder, making three rows in each bed; then cover the whole with soil from the alleys and rich compost a couple of inches.

To have Turnips good in spring they must be sown very early; they are hardy, and must be put in as soon as the ground can be caught right.

Parsley delights in a rich gravelly loam, and should be sown very early.

Parsnips, another crop which should receive early attention, also delights in a deep gravelly soil, but detests rank manure.

Lettuce and Radishes continue to sow at intervals.

Herbs of all kinds are best attended to at this season—a good collection is a good thing.

The Carrot will thrive in soil similar to the Beet; lime is an excellent manure for it—we use the long Orange. Celery

may be sown about the end of the month, in beds of very light rich soil, and Tomatoes, Egg Plants and Peppers sown in pots or boxes, and forwarded. It is as bad to be too early with these as too late, as they become stunted.

GREENHOUSE.

This is the season when the most plants will require re-potting previous to their making their new season's growth. The difficulty always is to find the increased room the re-potting requires. Usually room is made by turning out the bedding plants into hot-bed frames, protecting them from frosts at night by mats. Much may be gained also by not increasing the size of pots, as pointed out by a correspondent; but merely changing the soil; where, however, plants are not shortened in previous to the repotting, care must be exercised in shaking out the soil, or serious results may follow. The ball of roots should be soaked in water, so that the particles of soil may fall away easily from the roots. The soil for potting, too, should be nearly quite dry, and then rammed into the pots about the roots very hard and tight. Immediately after potting, the plant should be well watered, and placed in a close and partially shaded atmosphere till the roots take hold of the new soil again. Where the roots are not much disturbed these precautions are unnecessary. In addition to dry soil for potting it should be fibrous, that is, it should have a good portion of old fine roots through it to give it a spongy texture. It is this which gives the top soil of a pasture such value in the eye of a good gardener for potting purposes, as the innumerable fine roots of the grass through it renders it particularly spongy or "fibrous" as the technical term is.

Look out for a good stock of bedding plants in time; by striking cuttings of such things as grow rapidly and speedily, and sowing seeds of such annuals as may be advanced to advantage.

Fuchsias may now be readily struck from the young growth of the old plants, which will make excellent blooming plants for the next blooming season.

Dahlias should now be brought forward. A good plan is to shorten the extremity of the roots, put them in six inch pots, and place in a warm greenhouse. In a few weeks they will sprout, when they should be shaken out, divided with a piece of root to each sprout, and separately potted in 4-inch pots.

Pansies are now coming into flower. They like an airy frame, where they will not be roasted at mid-day nor exposed to drying winds, and yet have a free circulation of air and plenty of light. Planted out in such a frame, and the old shoots cut away as soon as the plant has done flowering, the plants will keep healthy

over till the next season. Superior varieties can be raised from seed. Choose those with the roundest petals, best colors, and the first flowers that open, to raise seed from.

Camellias will require rather more water while growing than at other times. Just before they grow is a good season to graft. Cut down the stock, cleft graft in the crown, wax, and plunge in a bottom heat of 70°. A great many kinds may be had on one plant by the bottle system: A shoot about to grow is obtained, and attached to the stock as in inching, the end of the shoot being put in a small phial of water suspended beneath it. This plan does best, however, with the young wood in July.

Geraniums, Pelargoniums, Cinerarias, and Chinese Primroses, must be kept as near the glass and light as possible; they do little good in shady places. Keep off the green Aphid—for this on a small scale there is nothing like hot water; on a large scale tobacco-smoke, in several successive light doses, is still the best remedy.

Azaleas succeed well by grafting with the half ripe shoots of the present season's growth on plants raised either by seeds or cuttings. Old wood does not take readily.

Auriculas, Carnations, Pinks, and Polyanthus—the prettiest of florist's flowers, must be kept cool, just free from frost, with plenty of air, if the best results are desired.

Chrysanthemums should now be raised from cuttings for fall flowering. They make better blooming plants than off-sets.

New-Holland and Cape plants, such as Epacris, Acacia, Heaths, etc., are now the glory of the greenhouse; hot bursts of sun on them should be avoided, as it lays in them the seeds of "consumption," which frequently carries them off the following summer.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

PRESERVING FRUIT TREES FROM INSECTS.

[A gentleman in the city who has a constant eye to the interests of our farmers has sent us the three following extracts.—Ed. J. A.]

Quarter of a pound of white hellebore dissolved in a gallon of boiling water—when cold add ten gallons of water to the solution. Early in the spring wet the ground well about the roots with this mixture, with a common watering-pot. This is done to kill them at once. The sooner done in the spring the better.

The Hellebore I have tried, and found all and more than is said above of it.

C. C. T.

PROTECTION OF TREES FROM INSECTS.

The following simple method of preserving fruit trees from ravages of insects is recommended by the Director of the school of Arboriculture of the Parc de la Fete d'or at Lyons:—The creatures are said to have a great antipathy to vinegar, the mere odour of which is enough to drive them away, and in some cases to destroy them, and nothing more is required than to sprinkle the branches with a mixture of vinegar and water at the moment the blossoms begin to appear.—The mixture recommended consists of one part of vinegar to nine parts of water, but as the French vinegar is very strong, perhaps the amount of water should be less when English vinegar is used. When mixed, the solution is to be sprinkled over the flower-buds, by means of a garden syringe, or watering-pot, with a fine rose. Said to be very effective.

A CHEAP AND SURE GRUB-KILLER.

Cauliflowers, brocolis, and other brassicaceous plants (cabbage tribe) are generally much infested with grubs and parasites at certain seasons of growing time. To clear them off is an easier task than it appears. Dissolve a cupfull (coffee-cup) of salt in hot water, then put it into a common sized watering-pot, and fill up with cold water. Just give each plant a gentle switch over with this mixture, and they will all disappear, and the salt and water will nourish the plants wonderfully. Some persons would be afraid of killing their cauliflowers; but it must be borne in mind that the salt and water will not penetrate the leaves; it runs off to the roots—killing every caterpillar in its way.—From the Gardener's Magazine.

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