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JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE,

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VOL. I.

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Board of Agriculture.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 96 OF THE "REVISED STATUTES" "OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE."

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows:—

1. Five members of the Board of Agriculture shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. The officers of the several societies, elected at the annual December meetings in each of the four rural districts, shall then nominate one person to be a member of the central Board in place of the member for such district who may go out, the secretary of the society shall forthwith transmit to the secretary of the central Board the name of the person nominated, and the person nominated by the greatest number of the societies in the district, shall be a member of the Board in place of the retiring member.

3. In addition to the sum mentioned in section 12, the Board shall be entitled to draw from the Treasury annually, such further sum not exceeding four thousand dollars, as the governor in council may authorize, from which shall be paid to the several societies by order from its President on the Treasurer of the Board, the amount it may be entitled to receive in proportion to the sum annually raised by subscription and payment, which sum shall be certified by the oath of the secretary of the society.

4. The rules and bye-laws of any society shall not be repealed or altered without the consent of a majority of the members present at a general meeting.

5. So much of this chapter as is inconsistent with this act is hereby repealed.

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES OF AGRICULTURAL SEEDS BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The following seeds, grown under direction of the Rev. Dr. Forrester, from samples presented to the province by the Commissioners of the International Exhibition, have been distributed by the Board of Agriculture to some of the leading agriculturists in the different parts of the province, with a view to experiment; and we hope to be able to make known the results in the fall:—

1. Bald Tuscan Wheat, Victoria Australia	1 packet.
2. New South Wales Wheat (64 lbs. per bush)	4 "
3. Canada Spring Wheat	1 "
4. Italian Wheat, bearded, No. 34	1 "
5. Australian Wheat, Victoria	1 "
6. Italian Barley	1 "
7. Black Swedish Vetches	1 "
8. Golden Vine Pea	1 "
9. Dwarf Italian Pea, No. 64	1 "
10. Tender Pod Pea	10 "
11. Swedish Pea (A.G.S., A.L.)	1 "
12. Black Pea, Canada	1 "
13. Canadian Pea, very early	2 "
14. Canadian Pea, very large	1 "

TOTAL - 27 packets.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE GOODRICH SEEDLING POTATOES, BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Goodrich Potatoes purchased by the Board of Agriculture, from the family of the late Mr. Goodrich, have been distributed to the following persons, and societies, who have undertaken to cultivate them carefully, with a view to disseminate them among the farmers of their respective localities. The various recipients have been requested to furnish a report of the results to the Board, prior to the semi-annual meeting in October next:—

William Cunard, Esq., Halifax, Cuzco and Garnet Chili. Joseph Northup, Esq., Halifax, No. 380 and Harrison. Hon. Alex. Macfarlane, Wallace, No. 380 and Harrison. Henry Pryor, Esq., N. W. Arm, Gleeson and Goodrich Calico. Dr. C. C. Hamilton, M.P.P., Cornwallis, Garnet Chili and Cuzco. Avarad Longley, Esq., Paradise, Ann., Coppermine and Pink-eye Rustycoat. R. B. Dickie, Esq., for Amherst Agricultural Society, Early Goodrich and No. 241. H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq., Lunenburg, No. 380 and Harrison. Hon. R. A. McHessey, Windsor, Gleeson and Goodrich Calico. W. H. Harris, Esq., Pictou, Coppermine and Pink-eye Rustycoat. Hon. J. McKinnon, Antigonish, Coppermine and Pink-eye Rustycoat. Hon. W. McKeen, Mabou, Cuzco and Garnet Chili. Henry Davenport, Esq., Sydney, Coppermine and Pink-eye

Rustycoat. Mr. Joel Densmore, Noel, Cuzco and Garnet Chili. Rev. Dr. Forrester, Truro, Cuzco, Pink-eye Rustycoat, Coppermine, No. 380 (early), Gleason, Harrison, Goodrich Calico, Garnet Chili, No. 241. Michael Tobin, Esq., Dartmouth, Early Goodrich and No. 241. Horticultural Gardens, No. 380 and Harrison. Fruit Growers' Association (Dr. Hea), Early Goodrich and No. 241. F. R. Parker, Esq., Shubenacadie, Early Goodrich and No. 241. W. Ross, Esq., St. Ann's, Gleason and Goodrich Calico. John Campbell, Esq., Gleason and Goodrich Calico.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GOODRICH SEEDLING POTATOES.

Reference to these potatoes was contained in the first Report of the Board of Agriculture, presented to the Legislature in February last, and printed in the 2nd number of the *Journal of Agriculture*.

The late Rev. CHAUNCEY E. GOODRICH spent a large share of the last fifteen years of his life in the origination and test culture of new varieties of the Potato. During this time, he propagated directly from the seed-ball nearly or quite sixteen thousand plants, no two of them being exactly alike. The most of these new varieties, were grown from seed saved from potatoes that he imported, at great cost, from those sections in South America where the potato is an indigenous plant. Mr. Goodrich obtained twelve kinds of South American potatoes, but of these one only, which he named the Rough Purple Chili, was early enough to mature in this climate. The object the experimenter had in view was to obtain new, productive, and healthful kinds, of high quality, such as our fathers used to cultivate forty years ago. To accomplish so desirable an object, Mr. Goodrich spared neither labor, care, nor expense in the test culture of such a vast number of plants. All the young plants grown some years, after several years of patient trial, had finally to be rejected; while in others, only a single kind would be saved, as in 1853, when the Garnet Chili was the only variety, out of over seventeen hundred, that this patient and exact man thought worthy of continued propagation.

Out of the first twelve thousand kinds tested from one to five or six years previous to 1861, only fifteen varieties were named by Mr. Goodrich, and sent out in larger or smaller quantities. Since then, only a few other sorts have been spared for trial. In 1853, 4 and 5, he scattered his earliest named seedlings, and the Rough Purple Chili, almost broadcast over the country: so anxious was he to benefit the public that he did not always stop for compensation, but sent out, free, large assortments of his best seedlings to many of the Northern States.

The following are the principal named varieties that originated with Mr. Goodrich, and were first sent out by him. Samples of those marked with an asterisk (*) have been imported this season by the Board of Agri-

culture for experiment as to their suitability to the soils and climate of Nova Scotia.

1. **THE BLACK DIAMOND**.—A grand seedling of the Western Red, originated in 1852. Round, dark purple, yield good, matures with the season, bears no balls.

2. ***THE GARNET CHILI**.—Originated in 1853, from the Rough Purple Chili. It is round, a little inclined to be rough; light red, good table quality, and matures with the season, bears few balls. A standard kind.

3. **THE MOUNTAIN JUNE PINK EYE**.—Derived from the Old Early June, in 1853. Slightly rough; white, with purple splashes, and pink eyes; yield good and bears balls freely.

4. **UTICA PINK EYE**.—Brother of No. 1. Round, white, with splashes of pink and pink eyes; yield large; not entirely hardy, early, good quality, no balls.

5. **PALE BLUSH PINK EYE**.—From Western Red, in 1855. Round; a blush white when wet, with pink eyes; yield medium; moderately hardy; early, bears some balls.

6. **OVATE PERUVIAN**.—Originated in 1853, from a wild Peruvian; ovate, white, good yield, moderately hardy; rather early, and bears a few balls.

7. **NEW HARTFORD**.—Brother of No. 6. Longish, knotty, white; yield large, moderately hardy, bears ball freely.

8. **AMAZON**.—Seedling of a wild Peruvian, in 1855. Large, round, smooth, light red, yellow fleshed; yield large; a little earlier than Garnet Chili, bears some balls.

9. ***CUZCO**.—Origin same as No. 8. Round, large, deep eyed, white, sometimes slightly pinkish; yield very large; bears balls freely; a little too late for central New York, but is well reported of in the latitude of Philadelphia especially in 1864. It is highly productive.

10. **TITICACA**.—Brother of Nos. 8 and 9. Round, large, deep eyed; light red; yield good; bears balls moderately, and matures September 12th.

11. **CALLAO**.—Brother of the three previous. Very long, smooth, medium size; light purple, bears balls moderately, and matures with No. 8.

12. **CENTRAL CITY**.—Originated from No. 5, in 1856. Varying from roundish to kidney-shape; size, medium to large; white, with a pinkish hue at the root end; yield medium; ripe last of September, and bears a few balls.

13. **NEW KIDNEY**.—Brother of No. 12. Varying from egg to kidney-shape; smooth, size medium; pinkish white when first dug; yield large; matures September 12th, and no balls.

14. ***COPPER MINE**.—Brother of the last two. White, with a coppery hue; eyes pink; yield good, hardy here, but sometimes a white tender further south; matures about September 12th, and bears balls abundantly.

15. ***PINK EYE RUSTY COAT**.—Brother of the last three. Large, round; a brownish rusty coat, a little pink-eyed; yield large; hardy, matures last of September, and bears no balls here. A desirable sort.

16. **WHITE CHILI**.—Originated in 1856, the third generation in a direct line from an imported Chili. Round, white, hardy; yield large; but too late to mature here. A few only were sent out.

17. **ANDROS**.—Originated in 1857, a grand seedling of a wild Peruvian, as are Nos. 8 to 11. Round, large; white, with splashes of purple; yield very large; bears balls freely, but too late for culture here.

Of these seventeen sorts, the Garnet Chili, the Cuzco, the Copper Mine, and the Pink Eye Rusty Coat have proved themselves the most desirable; and by their hardiness in seasons of "potato disease," have saved the country millions of money.

The following sorts have not been sent out, except to a few on trial, until the past fall:

18. ***GOODRICH CALICO**.—A seedling of the Garnet Chili of 1859. Mr. Goodrich thus described it in his journal: "White, with irregular sharply defined splashes of red; longish, flattish, smooth, and most beautiful. Vines spreading and dark; leaves, large and dark; flowers, bright lilac; yield large; no (seed) balls." It ripens with or a little earlier than the Garnet Chili; cooks white and dry for a new seedling, and promises well for winter use. It is highly productive; planted three feet each way, on a fertile sod without manure, it yielded the past year nearly at the rate of four hundred (400) bushels to the acre.

19. ***EARLY GOODRICH**.—A seedling of the Cuzco of 1860. In 1862 Mr. Goodrich described it: "Round to longish, sometimes a crease at the insertion of the root; white, flowers bright lilac; (produces) many balls; yield large. Table quality is already very good. This sort is No. One every way." He said to me in the spring of 1864: "This early sort gives me more satisfaction than any other I have grown." It ripens with the old Early June; and though it matured the past season during the long drouth, it yielded over three hundred (300) bushels to the acre, grown as the Calico. It has thus far been perfectly hardy, and is the most promising early potato grown.

20. ***THE GLEASON**.—Also a seedling of 1860 of the Pink Eye Rusty Coat, No. 15. When two years old, Mr. Goodrich described it thus: "Longish, rusty, coppery; leaves and vines dark green; flowers white; a very hopeful sort." September 29th, 1863, at digging time, he added: "Very nice; many in the hill; no disease." The past season, 1861, under Dr. GRAY'S cultivation, this variety has yielded at the rate of over four hundred (400) bushels to the acre. The tubers are not overgrown, but numerous; have a fine grained solid flesh, that cooks white. For winter use this kind is highly promising.

***HARRISON**.—A very productive sort, remarkably solid, and a promising sort for winter use. Not yet sent out except to the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

*241 (rather early.) Not yet sent out except to the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

*380 (very early.) Not yet sent out except to the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.
D. S. HERRON.

Abstract of Annual Reports and Proceedings of Agricultural Societies.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26.)

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

SYDNEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Having been appointed Secretary of the Sydney Agricultural Society on the 6th day of December last, (at the annual meeting,) and having this day been put in possession of the records of the Society, I find that the late Secretary has neglected sending in to the Central Board, a report of the proceedings of the Society for the past year, and I shall now endeavor to repair the omission, so far as lies in my power.

The Society was re-organized under the provisions of the late act, on the 2nd day of September, 1864.

69 members have joined the Society; \$69 have been received for subscriptions; \$3 have been received for debts due; \$107 have been allowed out of Provincial Grant; total amount of funds in hands of Treasurer, \$179.

At the meeting for the Election of Officers, &c., on the first Tuesday of December last, the following persons were chosen:—

President, Thomas Butler; *Vice-President*, John Lewis; *Secretary*, C. H. Harrington; *Treasurer*, William Buchanan; *Directors*, John George Andrews, Alex. Campbell, William Bradford, Alexander Howie, John Muggah.

The re-organization of the Society is too recent to afford much matter for a report, but it is hoped we are in a fair way to do so at our next annual meeting.

The Society is about importing for spring use, to the extent of \$100, in seeds and grain, and \$80 in implements, which will be sold to the members of the Society at cost and charges. [The Secretary of the Society has been written to in reference to this proposal.]

Before the close of the proper season for doing so, the directors will, if possible, introduce a short horn Durham bull, some pure South-down ewe sheep and Leicester rams, with other improved breeds of animals.

The lateness of the spring, and an excessively wet fall, were unfavorable to farming operations in this county.

Late sown grains on low wet soils, did not fill; and hay, on the dried and more exposed uplands, suffered from cold and drouth in the earlier months; otherwise the yield has been sufficient to recompense the farmer, as the value in the market is greater than in former years.

Potatoes are better in quality, and the yield more abundant, than for several years past.

Turnips are not cultivated to any extent,—they require more attention than farmers are willing to give them, are not sufficiently stimulated in their earlier growth, and the yield generally is poor. The same may be said of root crops generally.

Very little fruit is raised in this county, and, except in the gardens of a few gentlemen, is poor in quality.

A large quantity of butter is made, much of which is exported to Newfoundland. The quality of this article is improving from year to year. Very little cheese is made.

The increased consumption of all kinds of farm produce,—occasioned by the opening of new mines, railway extension, and the rush of shipping,—it is hoped will stimulate the farmers to increased exertion. The cultivation of clover and turnip crops—the foundation of all good farming—must be attended to. This will require the application of lime, and more stimulating manures than the droppings of ill-housed and poorly fed animals, and above all, the introduction of draining. We expect improvement in these things.

C. H. HARRINGTON,
Sec. Sydney Ag. Soc'y.

COUNTY OF HALIFAX.

LOWER MUSQUODOBOIT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The semi-annual meeting of the Lower Musquodoboit Agricultural Society, took place on the 14th April, 1865.

No. of members for the present year, 55; paid \$55. The following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That we purchase an improved breed of bulls, from the western part of the province, for the use of the Society. The bulls to be sold at auction.

One hundred and twenty dollars was voted for that purpose.

Resolved, That we hold an agricultural show in October next, for the exhibition of agricultural and horticultural produce.

\$80 was voted to be given for prizes for the best articles.

C. N. SPROTT,
Sec. of the L. M. A. Soc'y.

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

CHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

After due publicity given by posted notices, a meeting was held in the Town House, on the 24th day of March, 1865, at 2 o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of re-

organizing the "Chester Agricultural Society."

On motion the Rev. Charles Shreve was elected Chairman; and H. B. Mitchell, Secretary.

After reading the act relating to such societies, and the names of forty-two subscribers being already on the list, the society proceeded to the election of its officers, when the following were chosen:

President, Edward Heckman; *Vice-President*, Robert A. Smith; *Treasurer*, David Witford; *Secretary*, H. B. Mitchell; *Directors*, William Duncan, Thos. Whitford, Joseph Veizor, Stephen Corkum, John Webber.

On motion, it was decided that the society take in its circuit the limits of this district of Chester, as represented by the sessions of the same.

A committee was appointed to inspect and report as to the advisability of purchasing a certain bull offered to the society by Robt. Smith.

On motion, it was decided to appropriate \$20 to the purchasing of an improved breed of hogs, and \$40 in the purchase of seeds.

The next meeting was appointed for Monday, the 10th day of April, at 2 o'clock, P.M.

The second meeting took place according to appointment, when it was decided to purchase the bull before alluded to, for the sum of \$32, and arrangements were made for his keep; he is to be kept only for the use of the members of the society. It was also decided that one young boar be bought, and the remainder of the \$20 be expended in purchasing young sows; and, also, that the \$40 appropriated for seeds, be devoted, \$20 for purchasing clover seed, and \$20 for timothy seed; and, also, that \$12 be devoted to purchasing black seed oats, and some of the imported new potatoes, if procurable.

The sum of \$1, annually, to constitute membership.

H. B. MITCHELL,
Secretary.

INDIAN CORN AS A FODDER CROP.—Grow it on strong soils—no matter how rich—the nearer it approaches in richness to a barn-yard, the better; but sow the seed very thick, so that it cannot get an overgrowth, and become "worthless" for fodder. Let its density act as a check to its lofty aspirations. When grown on soils of this description, and seeded quite thick, the amount of fodder per acre would be apt to make a novice stare.

EARLY SPRING FLOWERS.—In Scotland the snow-drop first showed its flowers this year on the 2nd of February, the winter aconite on the 14th of January, according to reports by Mr. McNab and Mr. Saddler.

The Field and Farm Yard.

DRAINING—ITS INFLUENCE IN PREPARING THE LAND FOR CULTURE AND MANURES.

Over a great portion of the surface of Britain the land is a perfect illustration of the evils of no drainage.—There is a hardened "pan" about 6 inches down, through which there is no exit for the melted snows. Even yet the thaw has scarcely overcome the frost, and till then the soil, so far as it is melted, must continue water-logged. When once the frozen layer has been fairly penetrated, then on all drained land we shall in the course of 48 hours, see the full advantage which such a condition gives it. Now little better than a puddle, it will then tread firm, and permit the use of implements of husbandry which would at present only poach it into mortar.

Those are wise who wait until the land is perfectly fit to work. Any attempt to gain lost time by too hurried a recommencement of either seed or tillage operations will be mischievous. Let the soil become firm and dry again before the plough is set to work; and it will turn over land already "tilled" by frost, without spoiling the good effect of the "tillage" it has thus received. But squeeze or knead or stir the soil thus loosened while it still is full of water, and you will effectually spoil it for the season.

The special conditions of Agriculture in these islands are a stiff soil and a moist atmosphere.

Look Europe over, and you will not see these conditions elsewhere such as they are with us. No where else does these three questions press with the same emphasis, under the same modifications upon the attention of the land owner and farmer. And they are more intimately connected together than their general treatment either by the agricultural or the non-agricultural world, would at first sight, lead any one to suppose. Travelers in France, Belgium, Tuscany, or China, who admonish us of the value, and effective application of sewage in those countries, almost invariably omit to notice the *non sequitur* which a moist climate and a stiff soil place, like an extinguisher upon most of their calculations and conclusions. Something of the same kind of pretermission seems to run through all the discussions, and most of the writing upon steam culture. As it is upon the heavier soils that this great auxiliary of Spring and Autumn cultivation is preeminently needed, so it is upon the lighter and drier districts of the kingdom that profitable results are to be, if any where looked for from profusely diluted manures.

It is difficult to make a sanguine improver clearly understand that let a fertilizer be ever so precious in itself, it may

like the pearl in Cleopatra's cup, be lost to all practical and commercial use, by mere solution, having become in fact more costly to restore, and apply, than its intrinsic value will repay. There still are rivers in whose sands like those of the once-famed Pactolus, gold-dust runs that will not repay the labour of separation. Ammonia, and the Sulphates and Phosphates are very precious; but they are not more precious than gold; nor, in like case, able to repay the costly labour of extraction, by chemical or mechanical reagents. This, at least, is the true point to be objectively kept in view, not the intrinsic but the relative, or resulting value; not the market-price of the metal, but whether it will pay for smelting from the ore. Wherever there is, under a dry climate, a light thirsty soil, free enough to filter off the fluid part, yet close enough to absorb that essence—volatile as it is precious—the Ammonia, from sewage water,—there let enthusiasts glorify its value. But under our skies, and upon our retentive soils, one word about solids, how to deal with them, is worth five upon liquids, except how to get rid of them.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURE OF FLAX.

The demand for fibres, both of animal and vegetable origins, has of late years been greatly increasing. This circumstance has led to an extension of flocks in many countries, and to the growth of fibre plants.—Although there are several fibre plants well suited to our climate, yet Flax is likely to prove the most important and most useful one. Its culture has been revived in Ireland as well as in England and Scotland, and in Canada great efforts have been made, both by public Boards and private individuals to render its culture more general. The editors of the *Canadian Farmer* have given a useful account of the establishments carried on by the Messrs Perine at Doon, and other parts of Upper Canada, from which we extract the following details. The moister climate of Nova Scotia, and the character of its numerous streams, point it out as even better suited for flax culture and preparation than Upper Canada:—

"As actual trial demonstrated the practicability and profitableness of the undertaking other points beside Doon were sought as centres of operation, and Mr. W. D. Perine was joined by his two brothers, the trio forming the firm now carrying on business as Perine Brothers. They have at present four scutching mills at work in Upper Canada, located respectively at Doon, Conestogo, Drayton, and Baden. At Baden the premises are rented, but at the other places the works are owned by the firm. They consume at these establishments the product of about

1500 acres of land annually, tilling about 200 acres themselves, and depending upon the adjacent farmers for the balance. They have enlarged their business to its present dimensions mainly by a quiet exhibition of the advantages of flax culture, in the way of personal intercourse with the farmers, whom they visit, and encourage by placing facts and figures before them, loaning them seed, and pledging them a market for the crop. They have no difficulty now in obtaining all the raw material they want. The results on the whole have been such as to encourage the Messrs. Perine, and induce them not only to increase the number of their scutching mills, but to import machinery for the manufacture of linen. This most useful plant accommodates itself to almost all the climates of the world, and may be grown successfully upon any soil of ordinary productive capacity. After thorough trial of every description of land from light sand to heavy clay, the Messrs. Perine are of opinion that flax does best on a strong loam, somewhat inclined to clay. They recommend about 70 lbs.* of seed per acre as the quantity to be used when the plant is raised for both seed and fibre. In Canada the last week in April or the first week in May, may be set down as the proper time for sowing. Seasons vary, however; and nothing is gained by hurrying in the seed before the land is in proper tilth, which is sometimes as late as the second or third week in May. About the middle or end of July, the crop will be ready for pulling, a process usually performed by hand. In Ohio it is a very common practice to cut flax with a mowing machine, but this is objectionable, as it wastes a portion of the fibre, and leaves butt ends which are troublesome to the spinner and manufacturer. A flax-pulling machine which will supersede the necessarily slow hand process is greatly needed. The inventor of such a machine would be sure to make a fortune by his patent. In the meantime, hand-pulling must needs be the prevalent mode of gathering the crop.

The average yield of flax is from one-and-a-half to two tons of green straw per acre,—or about one ton when rotted,—and 12 bushels of seed. Green straw is worth about \$6 per ton, at the scutching mill, and rotted straw \$10. Flax seed is worth on the average \$1 25 per bushel. At present it commands a higher figure, the market price being \$1 50 per bushel. The above is, according to the experience of the Messrs. Perine, a safe, and if anything, a low estimate. In one instance, five acres of flax grown in the township of Waterloo, U.C., yielded 725 lbs. of dressed fibre per acre, and 15 bushels of seed, value \$53 75 per acre. This was an unusual yield. The crop grew in a rich field, close to the farmer's barn,—the season was every way favorable,—pains were taken to harvest the straw properly, and on the whole, this must be taken as an instance of maximum success. Four to six hundred pounds of dressed flax to the acre is by no means uncommon, and while 12 bushels of seed per acre is perhaps about the average, as high a yield as 24 bushels has been obtained.

In reference to the cost of this crop, and its profitableness, the testimony of the Messrs. Perine is highly satisfactory. They do not consider that more labor is required than for a crop of winter wheat, indeed the most of what has been raised, under their inspection, has

not received one-half the attention as to preparation of the land which is usually bestowed upon fall wheat. Doubtless deeper ploughing and more thorough preparation of the soil would materially increase the yield. The cost of harvesting a crop of flax and preparing it for the scutching will does not exceed \$7 per acre, while the preparation of the land costs little if any more than that of any spring crop. The average of the producer's profit, exclusive of harvesting and preparing for scutching, is something more than \$30 per acre. All who have grown flax under the auspices of the Messrs. Perine, admit that it is far more remunerative than wheat, while it is perfectly safe to affirm that it is 25 per cent less risky than spring wheat, and 50 per cent less than fall wheat in this country. No instance of a failure in the flax crop has taken place when the seed has been put in at the right time, and the land has been in a proper state of cultivation. What poor crops have been raised, have been more the result of inexperience or neglect on the part of the producer than the fault of the crop itself.

The Messrs. Perine purchase the straw either in its green or its rotted state. They also receive it, and put it through the scutching process for the growers, as flour mills grind small lots of wheat for the family use of the farmer. Those who get flax scutched for their own use, spin and weave it into towelling, linsy woolsey, table-cloths, grain-bags, shirting, and other articles of wearing apparel. Most of the straw sold by the farmers at the mills is dew-rotted by themselves. Some of them are beginning to be quite *au fait* at the rotting process, while many are so inexperienced in regard to it, that the straw they offer commands only an inferior price, from the imperfect manner in which it is prepared.

All the mills carried on by the Messrs. Perine are on what may be styled the old principle. The straw is broken between heavy fluted iron rollers, and scutched by means of steel-bladed knives fixed in a cast-iron wheel. The flax is first passed in handfuls between the rollers, then a man exposes the seed end to the action of the scutching knives, a process peculiar to the Messrs. Perine, and by which the seed is separated from the tow. Unless the seed be removed, it makes rough places in the manufactured article, even in cordage. In the next place, the handful passes to the roughers, who partially scutch it, the finishers then take it and complete the process of scutching. By a very simple arrangement of a framed stool and lozer, the scutched flax is made up into bales, when it is ready for shipment and sale. Most of the fibre produced at the Messrs. Perine's mills find its way to the American market, while the seed not required for next year's crop, is sold to Lyman, Clare & Co., of Montreal, who manufacture linseed oil, oil-cake, &c., from it. The works of the Messrs. Perine are simple, and might be regarded by connoisseurs as rather primitive in design, yet in the opinion of the proprietors, they are superior to some of the more modern arrangements. They prefer their own method to the much-eulogised Rowan machine, more particularly for the following reasons. The Rowan machine they think fails in securing evenness of length, and leaves the flax "rat-tailed." It also breaks the ends of the bunches too much, and does not break the

middle sufficiently. This arises from the fact that first one end, and then the other is put into the machine, leaving the middle only partially broken. Whether this opinion as to the merits of Rowan's machine be correct or no, certain it is that the Messrs. Perine succeed in turning out an excellent article of marketable flax.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING BUTTER.

The following is the most approved method of making and preparing butter for the London market, and is submitted for the advantage of farmers and dairy-men throughout this country. Butter made on this system, with care and quick dispatch, will insure high prices and quick returns. The best land is old pasture, as free from weeds as possible, with abundance of good water. The cows should not be heated or tormented in any way; housed at night, and fed on green food, and the pasture changed when practicable. In milking, take saltpetre in the pail, one-eighth of an ounce to eight quarts of milk. The dairy should be perfectly clean, airy, of equal temperature (say 50°), very little light, and completely shaded from sun, by trees or otherwise; and in winter a stove may be required. Strain the milk into coolers, sweet and dry, (never mix warm and cold milk,) keep it from two to four days, then put the whole of the milk and cream into a clean churn, which is not to be used for any purpose, except during the time it is in operation. Boiling water to be added to raise the temperature to about 68° or 60°, if horse or water power be used. The time occupied is from one to two hours, depending on the size of the churn; but churning should not be continued beyond the proper time. After churning, put the butter into bowls or pans of pickle, made from pure water and fine-stoved salt (as common gives the butter a bad flavour). It should be well washed, and the pickle changed frequently, until all the milk is extracted, working with the hand the two pieces alternately, until the grain becomes quite close and firm, when it is to be cured with the finest dry-stoved salt and sugar. The proportion to be one ounce of refined sugar to one pound of salt, to be well worked into the butter with the hand; but the quantity of curing materials will depend on the time and labour given by the dairy-woman, in working and beating the butter (after the salt and sugar are applied), which should continue until all the pickle is driven out. The butter should be finished the day it is churned, and then be pressed as closely as possible into the cask. The cask should be well seasoned for some days previous, with strong pickle, frequently changed, or hot pickle; and must be strong and air-tight; the size is of no consequence; if filled and

sent off in one week. If not filled at one churning, the butter is to be covered with pickle until the next; but no cask to contain more than one week's butter. If butter should, at any time, appear pale in colour, after churning has commenced, a little grated carrot juice may be put into the milk, and will not injure either milk or butter. All butter intended to be shipped should be at the place of shipping one day prior to the steamer leaving, so as to run no risk of going forward to the agents.—Garden, Florist and Agriculturist.

ORCHARD GRASS, (DACTYLIS GLOMERATA.)

Judging from the fact that the above is seldom asked for at our seed stores, compared with clover and timothy, it would appear that its true value is not understood, or else not appreciated. We consider it a very valuable grass for certain uses, and in particular localities, and are almost prepared to say that no farm, where pasturage is part of the rotation, should be without some of it.

The mistake made about orchard grass is that it is allowed to become too old before cutting for hay, or having stock to graze on it in the spring. No grass grows so rapidly or continues growing so long throughout the season, or allows to be pastured so early. It requires, when intended for hay, to be cut young. Blossoming about the same time as clover it is ready for cutting with it, which timothy very often is not. The bad repute of orchard grass hay is because it is allowed to get old before cutting, when its stiff, fibrous stem is almost as unsuitable for food as timothy which has gone to seed. It's only value then is to use it as straw for litter.

Many of our best farmers who feed all their hay, and do not depend on selling it, value a mixture of orchard grass and red clover before any other grasses. It makes a highly nutritious hay much relished by stock of all kinds. Clover hay (so called), that is hay where clover predominates, so far as we know, is seldom cut, for the reason that it grows too rank and coarse. This is owing either to its chiefly occupying the ground as in the year succeeding wheat, or else in the second season growing so much more rapidly than the timothy, it outgrows the latter, allowing but very little to mix with the clover.

Red clover is a biennial plant, and every farmer experiences that it is only after the second year from when that the timothy has much chance to develop, and then makes the article so saleable in market under the name of timothy hay. Orchard grass, when sown with clover, obviates this difficulty, grows as rapidly

as clover, starts in the spring as early, and by this similarity of habit makes a suitable grass to mix with it.

For pasturage we greatly value orchard grass, for three reasons: It stands a drouth better than any other, will bear heavier stocking, and comes forward in the spring very early.

We have often been surprised to observe how quickly orchard grass recovers and grows after being closely cropped; a week or ten days of summer growth will make quite good pasturage. Orchard grass also, by its great amount of fibrous root, tends to improve instead of impoverishing the soil, and we have observed an orchard grass sod generally turns up a good dark color on being ploughed. It is not at all fit for a lawn, as it sometimes grows in bunches or tussocks, especially when sown thin. The proper quantity when sown alone is two bushels per acre, when sown with clover one bushel is sufficient. It grows better than most grasses under shade. Orchard grass weighs about twelve pounds to the bushel.—*Rural Advertiser.*

Orchard and Fruit Garden.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF THE GOOSEBERRY.

Gooseberries are raised from cuttings, or from seed, and some raise them from suckers, but the latter is not a good method, as bushes raised in that manner are more liable to throw out suckers than those which are raised from cuttings or seed. Spring time is the best season for planting cuttings, always cutting them from the strongest and cleanest shoots. The length of the cuttings should be from six to eight inches, planting them on an eastern or northern border, at the distance of one foot from row to row, leaving them about three inches above ground. By planting at this distance, it will be practicable to hoe and keep them clear of weeds. Water them frequently in dry weather during the spring.

The gardeners about London plant the gooseberry in rows from eight to ten feet apart from row to row, and six feet from plant to plant in the rows.

In spring time if you find it convenient lay a good coat of rotten dung on the ground, then dig in and plant early potatoes, but not so near to the gooseberries as to hurt them.

The roots of gooseberries should always be kept clear to admit the sun and air. In small gardens we would recommend planting them in a quarter by themselves, at the distance of six feet between the rows, and four feet from the path; the ground will then be clear for cropping,

and a man by setting one foot on the border can gather the gooseberries without injuring the crop.

As gooseberries love a rich soil, they should be manured every year, or at least have a good coat of dung once in two years.

Never plant under the shade of other trees, as it will injure the flavour of the fruit.

It is a practice too common in pruning gooseberries, to let them branch out with great naked stems, suffering them to remain in that state for years. When that is the case, they should be cut down near to the ground in the winter pruning; this will make them throw out fine strong healthy shoots, which will bear fruit the second year. Gooseberry bushes, in general, bear their fruit on the second year's wood. Care should be taken in summer to keep the middle of the bush clear, so as to admit a free air into them, leaving the finest and strongest shoots from six to ten inches distant from each other. This will help to ripen and harden the wood. It is a practice with some gardeners to shorten the shoots in the autumn or winter pruning, this should be always near to a wood bud, which may be known, by its being single, whereas fruit buds are in clusters. The shoots may be shortened to eight or ten inches, according to their strength, some leave them at full length for three or four years, thinning those that are superfluous. Always leave a proper number to be trained up between the full length shoots, to succeed them when they are tired of bearing; then cut the old ones down to the young ones that are to succeed them. By these means, you will always keep the bushes in a constant state of bearing.

It must be observed, that those branches which were cut the first year, will in second throw out short dugs or spurs, which produce the fruit, and these should by no means be cut off, unless the branches are in a sickly state, and require to be cut close down, when the bushes are overloaded with fruit. It will then be necessary to cut a good deal of the old wood, in order to assist nature to recover herself, after producing so great a quantity of fruit, for in some years the bushes are so loaded, that the branches are beat down to the ground. Gooseberries are well worth paying attention to, as they supply the table so amply, till the large fruit comes in.

There have been considerable additions made in the varieties of the gooseberry of late years, from the great attention that has been paid by gardeners, and the growers at Manchester and its neighbourhood, to the raising of gooseberries from seed. The catalogues of the Manchester growers, now contain between four and five hundred sorts or varieties, but some are so very similar to each other, as hard-

ly to be distinguished. By mixing up a rich soil to plant those in, which have been raised from seed, and by watering, shading, and thinning the fruit, they have grown to a size much larger than any that had ever been seen in this country. They have made it their principal study to improve this valuable fruit, and have given great encouragement, by establishing societies for distributing prizes annually, to those who raise the largest and finest new sorts. It must however be allowed, that some of the largest, are much thicker in the skin, and not so well flavoured as some of the old sorts.

Great attention should be paid to the cultivation of the early and late sorts. In some old gardens, in particular, there are very valuable sorts, that have been of late too much neglected, we should therefore recommend to those who live in the neighborhood of such gardens, to observe their time of ripening, and to cultivate those especially which are early and late.

It is a practice with some to clip the tops of gooseberries with a pair of garden shears, as they would clip a thorn hedge, this plan however we by no means approve of, as the fruit will not be half the size, nor of so fine a flavour, as when the bushes are kept clear of superfluous wood.

Care should be taken in spring and summer, to stock, or grub up all the suckers from the root of the bushes, leaving their stems clear and unencumbered.

Many of the Lancashire sorts are apt to grow horizontally and the branches frequently trail on the ground, which renders them liable to be broken by high winds, especially when they are loaded with fruit. In that case we would recommend two or three hoops to be put round them, to which the branches may be tied, to support them, and prevent their being broken by the wind.

Those who wish to have their gooseberries very late should plant on north walls and palings between the other trees, and they may be removed when the trees begin to meet. If laid in thin, they will bear very fine and handsome fruit. We would advise to plant the finest late sorts, as by this method the table will be supplied much longer than by the common custom of planting in quarters.

Gooseberries are very much infested with a small green caterpillar, which frequently devours both leaves and fruit.

Great attention must therefore be paid to observe their first appearance on the bushes, for if not destroyed early, they will increase so fast that they will soon devour all the leaves, and the fruit will then be good for nothing, they make their first appearance generally on the edges and under sides of the leaves.

Take some sifted quick lime, and lay it under the bushes but do not at first, let

any of it touch the branches or leaves; then shake each bush suddenly and smartly, and the caterpillars will fall into the lime; if the bush be not shaken suddenly, the caterpillars on being a little disturbed will take so firm a hold as not easily to be shaken off. After this is done, sift some of the lime over the bushes; this will drive down those which may lodge on the branches. The caterpillars ought to be swept up the next day, and the bushes well washed with clear lime water mixed with urine: this will destroy the caterpillars, that may still remain, and also the aphides, if there be any on the bushes.—*Gardener and Florist.*

Communications.

REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS ON POTATO CULTURE AND THE WEEVIL, (SO CALLED.)

Your communication came to hand the 7th inst., and it was exceedingly acceptable; it contained the desired information as you would perceive on the receipt of my letter dated the 5th inst. I have no further suggestions to offer respecting the potato, than that it should in my opinion be cultivated in as dry and early a soil as possible, in order that its season of growth may be correspondent to its native locality, otherwise I fear the tuber will not be so dry and palatable. This is why, in my opinion, the selection of the wild potato should be as far south as possible in order that its organization may be better adapted to this climate. With these few remarks respecting the potato, may my position be pardonable while I make a few suggestions in order that your valuable attention may be drawn to the important subject—the weevil, an insect that has power to be quite fatal to the wheat crops of this province. A number of classes or species of the animal kingdom we are quite familiar with; but of other classes again we are as ignorant of, and the object of their existence and the relation they hold to each other, as if they did not exist, or we were never affected by them. Hence the evil effects of the weevil and its sudden appearance in this province seeming so mysterious. While otherwise, that is if we had a proper knowledge of the weevil, and the relation it holds to other insects—we would in my opinion not only be able to account for its appearance in this province, but would be able to prevent in a great measure its evil effects. According to my limited knowledge of the animal kingdom to which the weevil species belongs, there is not an animal but either preys or is preyed upon by some other class of animals; which being true indicates the possibility of there being a species of insect that preys upon the

weevil in this Province. Admitting that insects do prey upon each other, the harmless position of the weevil in Europe compared with this Province is quite reasonable to the benevolent order of nature and also makes quite apparent that an increase of knowledge gives an increase of power, and that evil experienced is simply the effect of misimproved privileges. Please as soon as convenient give me your opinion respecting the suggestions here made respecting the weevil.

I was much pleased with the report of the Board of Agriculture, particularly as you have imported some potatoes.

JOEL DUNSMORE.

Noel, April 24th, 1865.

ALDERNEY BULL.—A correspondent informs us of an Alderney Bull, which is for sale near Halifax; price £15. [We shall be glad to furnish further particulars to any individual or society wishing to purchase.]

CANADA FARMER.—Mr. S. Selden writes to us in behalf of the *Canada Farmer*. He has consented to receive orders for the publication, and is naturally anxious to correct an error in regard to its price, &c., which occurred in our notice of the *Farmer* last month. The *Canada Farmer* is published fortnightly, being issued on the 1st and 15th of each month, and the price is one dollar per annum, and thirteen cents for postage. It is a remarkably cheap as well as ably conducted periodical, and may be read with much profit by our Nova Scotian farmers.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—We have several communications on this subject. Once for all let it be understood by Agricultural Societies participating in the government grant that the Board of Agriculture has not sanctioned, and will not sanction, the purchase, distribution, or sale of hay forks, manure forks, or such like implements. The funds of societies must be devoted to the encouragement or advancement of agriculture, not to the personal advantage of agriculturists.

BULL FOR THE MAXWELTON SOCIETY.—The Maxwelton Agricultural Society has purchased a superior Bull, which took a prize at an exhibition held in the county of Sydney in the fall of 1863.

JAMES W. PATTEN.

PROPOSED PLOUGHING MATCH AT HALIFAX.—A joint ploughing match has been partially arranged between the Dartmouth and Western Halifax Agricultural Societies.

Miscellaneous.

DEATH OF COL. THOMSON, THE LEADING FARMER OF CANADA.

It is our painful duty to record the death of this truly estimable and useful man. This sad event occurred very suddenly on the morning of April 20th, the intelligence of which has cast a deep gloom over a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the Province. Mr. Thomson, after taking breakfast as usual with his family, left on foot to attend a meeting of a sub-committee of the Board of Agriculture in Toronto, and after having walked about three miles he was seen to grasp the fence, and almost immediately to fall; life became extinct in a few minutes. The cause of this awfully sudden visitation was probably apoplexy or the bursting of a blood vessel in close relation to the vital organs of the brain or heart. Mr. Thomson had enjoyed his usual good health till within the last few months, during which time the symptoms were not at all regarded as of a serious nature; and on the very morning of his death, he said, before leaving his family, that he felt better, and left in cheerful spirits. In half an hour he was a corpse! thus affording another illustration of the oft-quoted words: "In the midst of life we are in death."

Mr. Thomson was a native Canadian, having been born in Kingston, in January, 1794; he had consequently recently completed his 71st year. His father emigrated from Scotland to the then colony of New York before the American Revolutionary War, on the outbreak of which he took up arms in the service of his king, and came on military service to upper Canada, where he subsequently settled. Being a man of energy and sound judgement, he obtained for himself a good position in society. He married Miss McKay, of Quebec, also of Scotch origin, and had several sons, one of whom, Mr. Hugh Christopher Thomson, became a member of the Provincial Parliament, and was the first Warden of the Provincial Penitentiary, but died before he entered on the duties of his office. The elder Mr. Thomson's family, after some time, left Kingston and settled in the neighbourhood of Toronto, which was then only an insignificant village.

The subject of this notice during the troublous times of 1812, when only a youth, volunteered his services in defence of his country, and soon won the confidence and esteem of his superiors for his high soldier-like qualities. He received a commission for valiant services at the battle of Queenston Heights, and was selected, with Ensign Charles Denison, to receive the silk colour presented to the regiment by the ladies of York, now Toronto. He was for many years a full colonel of militia, and Col.—Commandant of the Fifth Military District of Upper Canada.

But Col. Thomson was better and wider known as a steady and energetic promoter of the most important and peaceful art of agriculture than for his military services. He was one of the most active of the few who formed the Home District Agricultural Society,—one of the earliest in the Province,—and he served as the President or Vice-President thereof for more than twenty years. He stood in a similar relation to the Provincial Association, and became its first President in

1846. He was the following year elected again to the same office, and it is not too much to say that that prosperous organization, which has done so much for the agricultural and mechanical arts of Upper Canada, owes more to Col. Thomson than to any other individual, however zealously and successfully many others have laboured in its behalf. At the subsequent organization of the Board of Agriculture, he was unanimously elected its President, a position which he continued to hold till the period of his death. Those who had a personal knowledge of the practical working of the Board, will readily and gratefully acknowledge the time and assiduous attention which the late President devoted to his duties, which were uniformly discharged in a faithful, efficient and conciliatory manner.

Col. Thomson belonged to a class of Canadians, now almost extinct, who, notwithstanding the absence in their early days of the means of liberal education, managed to educate themselves, and by their persevering industry, force and integrity of character, laid securely the foundation of the domestic and civil life of the colony. He was always the consistent and zealous advocate of our broad system of national education, and his mind was ever open to welcome light, from whatever source it might come, that would tend to dissipate the darkness which hung around both the science and practice of agriculture. In 1836, he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly, for the second riding of the county of York, now the county of Peel, and evinced much energy and a truly patriotic spirit, during the critical time of the rebellion, in restoring peace and order on the basis of constitutional freedom. In politics he may be said to have been a liberal conservative, and as a magistrate, to have enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the public. At both World's Exhibitions in England, in the years 1851 and 1862, he was appointed by the Government as one of the Canadian Commissioners, and faithfully discharged his duties, with no small advantage to his native country. He held also several other offices of trust and importance, among which may be specified, the Wardenship of the Home District Municipal Council, on its first organization, for several years. He was president of the Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and a director of the Canada Landed Credit Company.

Col. Thomson was thrice married. First, to Miss Terry, of Scarborough, by whom two sons and one daughter survive him. Second, to Miss Ketchum, daughter of Jesse Ketchum, formerly of Toronto, now of Buffalo, by whom he had one son, who survives him,—and third to Mrs. Chisholm, daughter of the late Dr. Lee, of London, C. W., by whom he leaves one daughter.

The Colonel's vacant place will long be painfully felt, at several important Boards, as also his absence at the gatherings of many local agricultural societies, to which he devoted considerable time and attention. Being a good practical farmer himself, and having great experience in organizing and working agricultural societies, that numerous and important portion of the community had great respect for his judgment and ability. With his own hands he at one time or other performed every operation on the farm,—from the chopping and burning of the forest, to the perfectly cleared and level fields, and

well stocked pastures of the most advanced colonial husbandry. He was among the first to import and advance the breeding of pure stock, of the various kinds, which are now such striking characteristics of the advanced state of Canadian agriculture.

Mr. Thomson, at various times, undertook large contracts on several public works of the Province, amongst which may be mentioned the Rideau Canal, the Credit Harbour, and the Welland Canal, all of which were executed faithfully and satisfactorily.

The writer of this hasty and imperfect sketch of the life and character of Mr. Thomson, whose intimate friendship he enjoyed for nearly eighteen years, would direct the minds of bereaved relatives and sorrowing friends, under so solemn and sudden a visitation, to the hopes and consolations of our common christianity. Mr. Thomson was an attached member of the Church of Scotland, and occupied an important position in that branch of the British Church in Canada. He took an active part in the establishment of Queen's College University at Kingston, in connection with that body, and was for some years one of the trustees of the institution. He was also for many years a Vice-President of the Upper Canada Bible Society. He closed a long, exemplary and most useful life, suddenly, but we cannot say prematurely; his work was done, and he breathed his last, it may be said, while on his way to perform a public duty. A long train of appreciating and sorrowing friends followed his remains to the grave, and deposited them in a well grounded hope of a blessed immortality. — *Canada Farmer.*

VEGETABLE IMMIGRATION IN NEW ZEALAND.—In a paper on the flora of Otago, New Zealand, Dr. W. Lauder Lindsay remarks that hardy immigrant plants are gradually displacing the more delicate and rarer herbaceous natives of Otago and New Zealand. In the majority of cases it is to the detriment of the colonist, whose fields or pastures are destroyed by the luxuriant intruders, though in certain exceptional cases, for instance in the pasture grasses and clovers, he is decidedly and largely benefitted. Nova Scotia has suffered less from this cause than most colonies, certainly much less than Canada, which is becoming over-run with thistles and other large weeds, in spite of legislative enactments.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications are to be addressed (pre-paid) to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Prof. Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S. Communications must be in the Editor's hands not later than the 15th of the month, if intended for the ensuing number.

MANURES.—We regret that the Printer cannot find room this month for the valued communication of BEDFORD, on the subject of Manures. It will appear in our next number.

ADVERTISEMENTS!

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and BERKSHIRE PIGS.

H. F. DECIE, Bellisle Farm.

Bridgetown, An. Co., May, 1865.

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A New Supply of GARDEN SEEDS;—comprising all the most approved early sorts.

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A Good Assortment of FLOWER SEEDS from the same source as those which last year gave entire satisfaction. Catalogues will shortly be ready and may be had on application to
G. E. MORTON, & Co.

Halifax, April, 1865.

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A HORSE POWER for Two Horses, with THRESHING MACHINE, CIRCULAR SAW TABLE, and Mill for Cracking Corn.

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Apply to S. TUPPER, Jr.,
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