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HALIFAX, March 14, 1871.

The Egerton Agricultural Society, in the County of Pictou, have imported a Ditching Machine, Carter's Patent, from Eyer & Bro., Ontario. Mr. Falconer, the Secretary, writes to us that the machine is fully up to their expectations, and a "splendid thing" on land that is not too stony. He does not say how many rods he can dig in a day, but we hope soon to hear more fully of the results.

We had a visit lately from the Rev. Mr. Brodie, who has taken so active an interest in the formation of the New Gairloch Society, which is also in Pictou County. It appears that some of the Members are not satisfied with paying merely a dollar a year into the Society's funds. They think that they could do more good by contributing larger sums, if this were allowed by the Act. Now the Act does not in any way limit the contributions of Members, and we hope that the Members of this and of all other Societies in the Province will freely

contribute as much as they can afford. They will find this course the most profitable one in the end, and if they all contribute double the minimum amount required by law they will be able to do as much good in one year as they would otherwise in two. Subscriptions are like seed sown on a good soil; the result need not be feared.

The scheme of a County Exhibition in Pictou, originally proposed by the Pictou Society, is being co-operated in by the Egerton Society, and the latter Society has resolved to devote its funds this year principally to the purchase of improved Stock. During the past season, this Society held an independent Exhibition, which is reported as "very fair for the extent of the Society." Robert McNaughton, Esq., was elected President at the annual meeting.

We have received from the Hon. Martin Welker, of Ohio, a copy of his speech delivered a few weeks ago in the House of Representatives. His remarks apply very well to our own Province in

several respects, and therefore we make no apology for presenting our readers with a few extracts from the address:—

"Agriculture is a national interest. The importance of this branch of industry, the great interests to develop, the wide field for improvement, demand the fostering care of the General Government. Our people are an agricultural people. With the most productive lands, every variety of soil and climate, growing the products of almost every land, we have the capacity to develop the greatest agricultural resources of any country of the globe.

"This Department is organized in the interest of labour. This interest, as well as capital, must be taken care of by the Government. There is no need of any conflict in this country between labor and capital. They are coworkers; the one cannot dispense with the other, and both must be fostered. Capital is, however, more able to take care of itself than labor. In the old countries of Europe capital is supreme and labor subordinate. Not so in this country. Here it is reversed, and labor is the great foundation of our national prosperity and advancement.

"It is said that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one did before is a public benefactor. This Department has done this, and more, in many varieties of agricultural products. It has established relations with organized associations for agricultural improvements, whether governmental or otherwise, making exchanges of seeds, plants, and

publications. Through an extended correspondence with foreign societies and our consuls abroad it is searching the world for new and valuable plants to acclimatize, new varieties of cereals to test, and, when found valuable, to distribute, thus finding and introducing into our agriculture the valuable products of all countries suitable and profitable for our cultivation.

"Agriculture is the great civilizer of the world. Its improvements and advancements mark national as well as individual progress. Whatever will add to its success, furnish it with valuable inventions and discoveries, are so many steps towards accomplishing the highest forms of civilization and human happiness. In this country with its broad and fertile acres, the cultivator of the soil is generally its owner. So large a proportion of our population being engaged in this pursuit, it must ever be a leading occupation. The great extent of our country and its capabilities make it necessary that there shall always be a great diversity of agricultural labor. To give direction to this diversified agriculture is one great purpose of the Department, and it will be able to lead the way in processes of culture, as well as selection of products and their varieties, in the different localities, and thus enable farmers to give attention to that culture which promises and secures the best results and rewards.

"Intimately connected with this subject is the land policy of the Government, about which I desire to make a few additional remarks. In the early days of the Republic our public lands were regarded as a source of revenue. It was expected from their sale to pay a large proportion of the expenses of the Government; but in later days it was found that, with expense of survey and sale, these expectations were not realized, and a new policy was adopted, and large quantities of the public domain have been used in constructing railroads, endowing colleges, rewarding military services, and stimulating immigration by giving homesteads to all persons who will live on and improve them.

"In this way this heritage of the people has largely contributed to the material development of our country. These grants have not always been wisely made, and in many respects have no doubt been great outrages upon the rights of the people. The future policy of the Government should be to so provide by legislation that our public lands should be preserved for actual settlers, and thereby furnish free homes to the landless. Concentration of large quantities in the hands of monopolists and speculators is the great curse of most of the Western States, and has and does impede agricultural improvement and development.

"Of our public lands about seventy-eight million acres have been granted for schools and colleges, over ten millions of which have been given to agricultural colleges. Two hundred million acres have been appropriated and given to build railroads and other improvements. About seventy-three million acres have been given to our soldiers, their widows and children. The Government still own about a thousand million acres. This vast domain as fast as it is surveyed is open to settlement under our homestead laws, which give every man or unmarried woman one hundred and sixty acres for the cost of survey and entry, upon living upon and improving the same for the time limited, which is five years, except a soldier, who, under the

bill passed by the House, is allowed to count three years of his term of service in the Army, or whatever term under that period he has served, as part of the five years' residence.

"In the year 1869 about two and a half million acres were given to homestead and pre-emption settlers. In the same year about eight million acres were converted from wild lands into farms, making some sixty thousand farms. We now have over six million real estate owners, being one in about every six of our population, and nearly one half of our whole population are engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.

"The whole landed property of England is now owned by thirty thousand persons, making one in every six hundred and fifty of its population. One half of its soil is now owned by about one hundred and fifty persons. Nineteen and a half million acres in Scotland are owned by twelve proprietors. In this country this extensive ownership of the soil, the sense of proprietorship resulting therefrom, encouraging independence of action and thought, constitute the corner-stone of our Republic. The multiplication of these free homes for the people, instilling into their minds the spirit of agricultural and mechanical progress, and education, and moral development, and improvement, will secure freedom, equality, and prosperity among our people, and perpetuity to our Government.

"In this grand work, with such support as should be and no doubt will be given to it, the Agricultural Department, in the future as in the past, will be an efficient and important aid to the other branches of the Government."

During the Franco-Prussian war, the French Doctors have been using Eucalyptus leaves instead of lint. The leaves are laid on the wounds, and it is said that their balsamic nature not only enables them to cure, but all unpleasant odour of the matter ceases. Last Fall we had an opportunity of seeing a splendid Eucalyptus tree, raised from Australian seed, in the house of one of the leading citizens of Pictou. We hope it is still in life and so leafy that the experiment may be repeated by some enterprising medical man in that County. Sixteen bad cases were treated successfully in this way at Cannes by Dr. Buckersley, an eminent physician.

A new species of globular Cactus is described as growing on the Sierra Nevada of California, close to the snow. It grows as big as a cabbage, is as round as a globe and completely covered with spines like a hedgehog, but of a snow-white colour. It is used instead of Asparagus. If introduced to Nova Scotia and found to be hardy, some of our enterprising nurserymen might make a fortune out of it.

Accompanied by a friend in the city who takes a warm interest in horticulture and currency, we recently paid a visit to the Conservatory adjoining the palatial

residence of Martin Black, Esq., and were received with much kindness by that gentleman, who pointed out the chief objects of interest. To pass from the dreary snow and leafless trees of Göttingen Street into a wilderness of green foliage and gay flowers, is to realize in a realistic form a mid-summer dream of sunny skies. Here were splendid bushes of Indian Azaleas in full bloom, *A. Indica alba*, of the purest white, *Victoria* delicately tinted with rose and purple and several deep red and crimson sorts. *Cobæa scandens* threw its gigantic wreaths overhead, its large and striking flowers, at first green, afterwards purple, giving a tropical aspect to the scene. The chaste *Solanum jasminoides* hung its pure white yellow anthered blossoms down against the vertical panes of glass, and the gay hyacinths diffused throughout the house a delicious fragrance. The red clusters of *Habrothamnus* were peculiarly showy, the plants being luxuriant and appropriately fencing in the lower part of the stage. At one end of the Conservatory there is a small pond for water-plants, with *Richardia Ethiopica* displaying its large green leaves and noble flowers of the most perfect opaline white that a painter could desire, and glancing down upon it were the deep cerulean blue stars of the little *Lithospermum*. Then, as a contrast to the latter, there was near by the brilliant yellow clusters of the *Cytisus*; and all through the house were manifold forms and shades of colour, peering out from among the green leaves, that were beautiful to look upon but would be tedious to enumerate except in a botanical Catalogue. Of the free flowering plants that are especially gay at this season, we may mention the *Cumelias*, red and white, the Double white, however, being our favourite, as it is, we believe, all the world over. There was a fine large *Cineraria*, purple and white, a genus of plants, admirably adapted for winter decoration. *Veronica Gloire de Lorraine* was showing, over its handsome glossy leaves, several large spikes of flowers, beautiful but rather dull, of a sort of lavender purple, as if mourning the fate of its native home. There were Chinese *Primulas* of many kinds and colours scattered about. *Chorizema* from Australia, Heaths from the Cape, and *Erica mediterranea*, the Bruyere Heath, whose large root is used to make Bruyere, or, as they are vulgarly called, Briar Root, pines; it is chiefly a native of the Landes, but grows also in Galway, in Ireland, being a remnant of the old Spanish and French Floras there represented. Of foliage plants there were many, and these are always beauti-

ful, although some of them, as the *Cannas*, lose a little of their brilliancy at this dull time of year. The variegated *Pelargoniums* were very pretty. Mrs. Pollock has been the fashionable sort for some years, but we see her brilliant zoned leaves beginning to peep out of humble windows in Water Street, and fortunately for aristocratic gardens and conservatories, the Grieve family have come to the rescue, and several of these are thought to be much better, besides being more select, than the world-renowned Pollock. *Abutilon striatum* is one of our very best Conservatory plants, stately and of neat growth, clean in foliage and flowering freely. The Ivy leaved *Pelargonium* is one of the best Conservatory climbers, after being established for some years, and we hope Mr. Black's will be trained permanently in this way, and not thrown out when it becomes large and old, which is the orthodox method of treating pelargoniums; the Ivy leaved never grows too old, as age brings additional beauty. One of the most striking foliage sorts in the Conservatory is one called Oak Wreath, or some such name; the leaves are unusually large for a pale leaved sort, of bold, almost lobed, outline, and with a very broad white margin. When placed amongst dark foliaged plants, or, as it is at Mr. Black's, in a shady corner, the effect is striking. We observed an unusually large plant of the neat little *Mahernia*, just beginning to show blossoms. There were also *Polyanthus Narcissi*, the ever graceful *Deutzia gracilis*, with its snowy bells, humble green ferns and tall *Araucarias*, Hesperidian orange trees, nodding *Cyclamens*;—but we must not count the leaves of the forest, or our readers will say we are giving them a botanical catalogue. The Vinery showed strong healthy canes that give promise of good clusters; the fig trees are singularly healthy well grown trees, and the peach trees are already covered with their evanescent peach blossoms. A few hardy *Polyanthuses* are beginning to show their pips in the Vinery, and a large pan of Mayflower attested the accuracy of the statements made in Temperance Hall on Tuesday night by the President of the Young Men's Christian Association that our native emblem prefers the mossy bank to the most elegant culture. We have not for a long time spent a pleasanter half hour than that occupied in walking round Mr. Black's Conservatory. It only remains to be said that the plants are all in excellent health, and well arranged, and that there is throughout the perfect order and neatness that may be expected in such an elegant establishment.

The Agricultural Society of Noel and Maitland is making arrangements for importing for its Members one or two hundred bushels of Fyfe Wheat from Wes-

tern Canada. We are almost daily receiving fresh evidence of the extension of Wheat Culture in our Province, and feel assured that the time is coming when many of our farmers will have flour to sell instead of having to buy all their breadstuffs, and they will then rejoice when prices run up.

We lately paid a visit to the Halifax Nursery to examine one of the most interesting plants that have ever bloomed in Halifax, viz., a variety of the Banana, the one cultivated in European Conservatories, *Musa Cavendishii*. A very good account of it was given in the *Colonist*, which we append. On a future occasion we may add some further particulars:—

"Some five or six years ago we noticed, somewhat at length, the partially successful culture of this Plantain by Mr. Betts, then gardener to W. B. Hamilton, Esq. The plants grew with great luxuriance, but the appliances at command were not suitable to bring them into fruiting, and their culture was abandoned. Mr. Harris, of the Halifax Nursery, has, however, at his establishment a plant which stands about six feet high, and with its immense leaves expanding to the length of four or five feet, seems to threaten destruction to the glass above. The spadix, or fruit-bearing stem, rises from the centre of the leaves, and the fruits hang from it in circling clusters. Mr. Harris has laboured under many disadvantages in bringing the plant to its present perfection. There are many private hot-houses throughout the city, admirably adapted, from their height and heating apparatus, to the culture of the Plantain, and we should like to see an attempt made under such favorable circumstances. That it is worth the trial will be readily admitted when it is known that one plant will produce from fifteen to thirty pounds of delicious fruit. The culture is simple, and with the hope that the experiment may be tried, we will furnish a few directions. When the fruit is cut from old plants, these are taken out of the ground, partially disrooted, and placed in pots to produce suckers. This they readily do when plunged in a bottom heat, of about 85°. These suckers are removed and set in small pots, and thence from pot to pot, until finally set in a large tub. These suckers will produce fruit within the year. A lively heat is the great essential to the culture, with a liberal amount of atmospheric moisture. 70° to 90° of heat will be necessary during the bright part of the year, and from 60° to 70° during the duller season.

COUNTY OF HALIFAX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Arrangements are being made to hold a meeting of the Western Halifax Society on Tuesday, 21st March, at 12 o'clock, noon, when business of great im-

portance will be brought forward. All are invited to attend. It is expected that several prominent agriculturists and patrons of agriculture will address the meeting, and the proceedings are likely to be of an interesting character.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Halifax, 24th February, 1871.

To THE HON. W. B. VAIL, }
Provincial Secretary. }

Sir,—The Board of Agriculture beg to submit their Seventh Annual Report.

The Agricultural Societies of the Province are in a more satisfactory condition than they have been for several years past. The statistics appended to this Report show that they have increased in numbers, that they have raised a larger amount by annual subscriptions, and that they have expended larger sums of money in substantial improvements. The number of Societies qualified under the "Act for Encouragement of Agriculture," is now forty-nine (49), the number of members 2,752, and the amount of annual subscriptions paid during the year \$3,046.00. This sum is exclusive of special subscriptions and other monies raised for exhibitions and purchase of stock, &c., which have been considerable.

The following table represents the condition of effective Societies, from year to year, since the organization of the Board in 1864, as shown by the attested returns filed by the Board:—

Year.	No. of societies.	No. of Members.	Amt. of Subscriptions.	Grants in Aid.
1st year, 1864..	37	1,754	\$1,858.00	\$3,010.00
2nd year, 1865.	48	2,198	2,384.80	3,384.00
3rd year, 1866.	52	2,548	2,800.50	3,566.00
4th year, 1867.	58	2,833	3,051.25	3,444.50
5th year, 1868.	45	2,246	2,519.75	3,232.50
6th year, 1869.	48	2,289	2,340.50	3,001.00
7th year, 1870.	49	2,742	3,046.00	3,372.00

It will be observed that there are six more Societies than last year, and that there is an increase of \$505.50 in the amount of subscriptions raised. The Board have thus carried out the desire expressed by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, last session, that existing Societies should be sustained, and new ones induced to be formed.*

In former years the Board made extensive importations of cattle, sheep and pigs. The diffusion of these animals over the Province has resulted in a very decided improvement in the character of our Live Stock. This is most conspicuous in Cornwallis and other rich Agricultural Districts where the fattening of animals for market is systematically pursued; but in nearly all the counties of

* NOTE.—Since these returns were prepared new Societies have been organized, by which the number of members and total amount of subscriptions are both higher than for any previous year since the organization of the Board.

the Province marked results have been obtained from the introduction of thorough bred animals. Thus in the Middle River valley of Cape Breton the Leicester rams have doubled the produce of wool, whilst the Berkshire Boars have enabled the farmers to raise nearly twice the weight of pork formerly obtained, and at a far less cost of feed. At Truro, during the past season, some of the finest pigs ever seen in the province were shown. In short the Annual Reports of our forty-nine Agricultural Societies, printed in the "Journal of Agriculture," are replete with evidence of the good results flowing from the introduction by the Board and the Societies themselves of Thorough Bred Stock. But another result showed itself, which, although highly gratifying, was somewhat embarrassing to the Board, during the past season. The introduction and diffusion of these animals throughout the Province had fostered a taste for Thorough Bred Stock among our farmers in the various counties, and created a desire for more, and, if possible, animals of a still higher class. Several of the Societies took upon themselves the importation of pigs and sheep, but in the case of expensive horned cattle, which had to be brought long distances, the Societies felt that the expense and risk were too great to justify them in making the attempt.

The necessity of the Board coming to their aid was so strongly felt that, although no appropriation was made by the Legislature for importations, yet it was deemed advisable by the Board to make the purchases required to meet the immediate wants of Societies.

To enable the Board to do so, the Provincial Government made a loan to the Board of \$2000.00 on condition that it should be repaid before the close of the year, out of the proceeds of the sales. The Hon. Mr. McJeffery and Messrs. Northup and Lawson were deputed to attend the provincial fair at Toronto, and purchases were made by them to the extent, including expenses of conveyance, keep and sale, of \$3,695.83. In accordance with a desire expressed by the Agricultural committee of the House of Assembly two years ago, a portion of the stock was transmitted to Baddeck and there sold by public auction. The rest of the animals were sold in a similar manner at Halifax. Those sold at Halifax realized very good prices, in several cases considerably more than had been paid for them at Toronto; but at the Baddeck sale it was very different and a heavy loss was incurred. On this account the small amount of surplus funds held by the Board has been exhausted, and therefore no further importation of cattle or seed grain can be made without a special appropriation by the Government or Legislature for that purpose.

The balance in hand of the Treasurer of the Board at the beginning of the year 1870, was \$319.24,—against which there were arrears of grants to societies then due and since paid, \$761.60. The usual grant of \$6000.00 was drawn by the Board for the past year, and the grants to societies for 1870 are now in course of payment. The apparent balance in the Treasurer's hands is at present \$2,828.84. The arrears of grants to societies amount to \$2,769.00, which, when paid, will leave only \$50.84 in hand, and the other liabilities of the Board cannot be met.

The principal liability which the Board is desirous of discharging is a sum of \$1,117.42, being the amount of the interest that had accrued on the stock farm deposit, and which the Board borrowed to aid in the purchase of stock, on the understanding that it was to be replaced on deposit along with the principal sum as soon as possible. The Board would suggest that the Legislature might with propriety allow them to appropriate the above mentioned interest, which has been expended in purchase of thorough bred stock, and therefore as nearly as possible in accordance with the purposes of the original grant. Should it be thought better, however, that the money should be replaced, the Board would beg leave to request an additional vote of not less than \$1000 this year, over the usual grant of \$6000, in order that this liability may be discharged, and the grants to societies and other necessary expenditure met. The Board have less hesitation in requesting this small additional grant, as the deficiency has arisen from the Board providing, during the year 1869, for the grants to societies and the whole years expenditure, entirely out of the savings of previous years, without any grant from the Legislature or advances from the Government.

The Board have only further to report that they have continued their exertions, through the Agricultural Societies and otherwise, in promoting improved cultivation and the introduction of new and improved varieties of agricultural plants. The Fyfe wheat, which has been so largely introduced, has proved very successful and the numerous reports published in the "Agricultural Journal" show that wheat culture is rapidly extending throughout the Province. The efforts of the Board to introduce hemp culture have not been so successful as could be wished. This is attributed partly to the imperfect preparation and manuring of the soil, and partly to the want of suitable mills for preparing the fibre, the erection of which would have involved more expenditure than the Board was in a position to make. Prizes for hemp fields have been awarded as follows:—To John Prat, New Ross, County of Lunenburg, \$20; to Rupert Fulton,

Stowiacke, Co. Colchester, \$15; to Chas. Mitchell, Merigomish, Co. Pictou, \$15. The Norway oats and the Surprise oats, largely distributed by the Board last spring, have proved quite as successful as was anticipated. The Surprise oat is reported from all districts where it was tried as a most beautiful oat, clean and heavy, and well adapted for the manufacture of meal. The Norway oat was known to be a rather coarse oat, but it has given enormous yields wherever it was sown in good soil. The new varieties of potato continue to receive increased attention, and several of the Goodrich seedlings, introduced by the Board some years ago, are now largely cultivated. The Early Rose, which has been extensively grown in several districts, is one of the most productive and promising kinds, although not so free from rot as some of those previously introduced.

Upon the whole, the Board may justly congratulate the Legislature upon the success of the efforts that have been made in the improvement of the agricultural condition of the country. They trust that these results, and the judicious economy displayed in the expenditure of the grants hitherto placed at their disposal, will induce a still more liberal appropriation in time to come, for they believe that by assisting the farmers to introduce needed improvements, and thereby increase the amount and heighten the quality of the productions of the soil, the Legislature will, in a substantial manner, promote the enrichment of the country, and increase the comfort and happiness of the people.

By order of the Board of Agriculture,
ALEX. MACFARLANE, Pres.
GEORGE LAWSON, Sec'y.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

An Informal Meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held on the 24th Feb. The general half yearly meeting of the Board being required by the Act to be held during the month of March, it was thought necessary to call together a few of the accessible members to make preliminary arrangements for that meeting, and to sanction the Report of the Board to the Legislature, the presentation of which could not well be deferred this year to the usual time.

The Hon. R. A. McJeffery presided, and there were likewise present, Henry Yeomans, Esq., V. P., Rev. A. S. Hunt, Supt. of Education, Joseph J. Northup, Esq., J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of the Normal School, and Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Messrs. Yeomans and Calkin, Auditors, presented their Report of the Treasurer's Accounts for the year, which were found

correct, and ordered to be sent to the Legislature with relative vouchers, in the usual manner; as also a classified abstracts of receipts and expenditure.

The Annual Report of the Board was submitted in draft. Agricultural Societies have increased in number and in strength, and a larger amount of money has been expended by them in the purchase of thorough-bred stock, new varieties of agricultural plants, and implement-inventions, than during any previous year. Their wants are still, however, imperfectly satisfied, and the necessity of very frequent importations of live stock of thoroughly pure blood, and of the very best kinds that can be obtained, becomes more and more evident. The proceedings of these Societies show that at no former time has there been so much genuine interest evinced in the improvement of Stock. Since the Returns were prepared several applications for new Societies have been received, one through the Hon. Robert Robertson, Commissioner of Mines, from fifty-three farmers at Cape Negro, in Shelburne County, who have all paid in their subscriptions; another from the same County, presented by Thomas Johnston, Esq., M. P. P., a third from the farmers of the northern part of Halifax County, bordering on Colchester and Hants, presented by Henry Yeomans, Esq., and a fourth from Hon. E. P. Flynn, from Arichat, Cape Breton; whilst in other counties similar movements are being made. New Societies, that have not forwarded their applications for organization are requested to do so before the March meeting.

The information contained in the report of the result of Wheat Culture is very satisfactory, the Fyfe wheat distributed by the Board having been eminently successful. The Norway and especially the Surprise Oats are highly valued; the latter is a most beautiful Oat, and has given an enormous yield in suitable soils.

It was arranged to hold the half yearly meeting of the Board on Wednesday, 22nd March, at 10 o'clock, A. M., when the members from the various Rural Districts of the Province are expected to be present.

The efforts of the Board to introduce Hemp Culture have not been so successful as could be wished. This is attributed partly to the imperfect preparation and manuring of the soil, and partly to the want of suitable mills for preparing the fibre, the erection of which would have involved more expenditure than the Board was in a position to make. It is hoped, however, that those who have cultivated Hemp during the past season will continue the experiment, which may be more successful next season, from the experience gained during the past.

Communications.

OAKFIELD, March 4, 1871.

SIR.—I think that there can be no dispute that our most pressing need is now the improvement of Stock. This seems to bring all other improvements in its train. When the farmer has valuable stock, he will not neglect them, but takes more pains to house them properly in winter; when he has stock that thrive fast, he does not try with how little food he can bring them through the winter; but instead of grudging them every lock of hay, he is willing to supply them with what they will eat, as he knows they will compensate him in their more rapid growth.

Again, instead of selling almost all the calves and then selling off as much hay as possible, as is still to far too great an extent the case, the farmer will raise the calves, seeing his advantage in selling beef instead of veal; and the hay being consumed at home will make manure which will serve to enrich, and make more productive, the uplands.

Nothing is more striking about the older settlements of the Province, than the quantity of old cleared upland which is mown the summer through—as long as it would produce hay—hay was cut—then it was turned off to pasture, and being pronounced run out, it was left for cattle to range over, and for the bushes to start up in and gradually to over-run. It is actually our misfortune that we are too much favored. We are blessed with splendid dyke lands and intervalles, and on these the farmer depends to maintain his stock and the farm.

Let us look at England, there the farmer has to live by his uplands; necessity has taught him to find the means of doing so, and of growing rich, and that, in spite of rent and taxes, which amount greatly to more than the fee simple of Nova Scotia. The Aberdeenshire farmer, who has to deal with a climate very-like ours, who is 500 miles away from his market, London, who pays nearly as much for his labour, and who pays 8 to 10 per cent. on the value of his farm in rent and taxes, has brought farming to such a pitch, that men like Mr. McCombie can fatten and send to market 300 head of cattle every year, and they have attained such political influence in the country, that Mr. McCombie himself was returned as M. P. for the County by the tenant farmer's interest. *These are upland farmers.*

To produce good crops on upland, requires both skill and labour; these will not be applied without a prospect of proper returns, and whilst the man who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, has been called the benefactor of his kind, I hold that none

the less so, is the man who can make two lbs. of beef out of the same food which formerly made one; I look upon stock simply as meat manufactories, our aim must be to make the greatest quantity of the manufactured article out of the smallest quantity of the raw materials; and further, to turn the young stock as early as possible into food, that is into money. If double the weight of meat can be made in the same time, on a fixed quantity of food, or if the same weight can be made in half the time on the same quantity, I think it is plain that we sell our produce of forage for double the amount we otherwise should. The present quantity of forage raised in the Province will thereby provide for double the number of animals that are now kept; that is, one of the most important items of wealth in the Province will be doubled, and to obtain this result it is simply necessary to improve judiciously our breed of stock.

Unfortunately we have not the capitalists that other countries, and even other parts of our own Dominion, can boast of among our farmers. Few are able to spare the time and money to attend the Annual Exhibitions, and to select and import pure bred stock.

The farming class, although the most numerous in the Province, is as a body poor. Young men from its ranks are constantly recruiting the population of the towns. Elsewhere, these men, when they have made their money in commerce &c., purchase an estate in the country to which they retire either occasionally or entirely, and making a hobby of it, spend their income in improving stock and trying experiments by which the professional farmer benefits. In this Province, I am sorry to say, that except to a small extent on the Halifax Peninsula, hardly a single such instance has occurred. Farming is looked down upon, instead of being looked up to as the noblest occupation, and specially the recreation of the rich.

I mention this to show why the farmers are not in a position to benefit themselves as they might; it therefore becomes the duty of Government to take the matter in hand, and benefit the farmers and through them the whole Province. The Board of Agriculture, acting under the auspices of Government, have from time to time imported pure bred stock, and already a marked improvement is manifest in stock and in the interest farmers take in their occupation, as shown in the reports of the different societies. Several Exhibitions have also been held, a strong proof of the increased interest. Of late the funds at the disposal of the Board have not warranted any extensive importations. The few animals brought into Nova Scotia last autumn commanded good prices, and proved the demand that exists for good stock.

With the surplus now in the Treasury

the farming interest will indeed be strangely neglected, if a handsome sum is not voted for the importation of thorough bred stock; it is the duty of the farmers to put a pressure on their representatives to this end. Some more stringent regulations should however be laid down regarding the purchase of stock—we ought not to see, (as we did at Richmond last autumn), Societies selling their pure bred bulls, at 3 years old, hardly indeed in their prime, to butchers to be killed for beef, simply because they had got rather large and strong. Our Agricultural Societies are rendering great service to the country, let them add to those so rendered the practice of keeping grown bulls, instead of forever depending on yearlings, and killing them off when they come to maturity

Yours obediently,

J. W. L.

Miscellaneous.

LEPTOSIPHON ROSEUS.

"If an exception be made in favor of the admirable *Phlox Drummondii*, none of the annual *Phlox* sorts are more popular, or so well deserve popularity, as the plants included in the genus *Leptosiphon*. Of dwarf and compact habit, yielding profusely their star-like blossoms of various shades, and of the easiest cultivation in almost any soil, it can scarcely be a matter of surprise that they have from their earliest introduction taken place in the first rank. For twenty years the genus was represented in our gardens only by the well known *L. androsaceus* and *L. densiflorus*, with their white varieties. To these were at length added the charming *L. luteus* and its variety *aureus*, both introduced by Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea; and another, though it may be hoped not a final addition, may now be chronicled in the *Leptosiphon roseus*, a most charming plant, closely related in habit to the two last named, which it equals, if not exceeds, in beauty and in usefulness.

This elegant and attractive little annual differs from *L. aureus* almost solely in its colour which is a most pleasing tender rose, a shade by no means easy to represent adequately on paper. Like that of its congener, its habit is very dwarf, rarely exceeding 3 or 4 inches, with similarly palmate foliage, the flowers being produced in clusters terminating the stems and branches. The elongated corolla tube, so characteristic of the genus, is fully three times longer than the limb, which is about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. In most of the specimens the rose-color is uniform, but in some there is an approach to a stripe or flake, which, however, in no degree detracts from the appearance of the plant. Well-

grown strong plants will yield their flowers for several weeks in succession. To obtain specimens, however, that will give the maximum number of flowers, it is essential with this, as with the other species, indeed with all other annuals, to sow thinly, or to transplant the seedlings while young to such a distance from each other as will afford full space for development. When the same care and attention that are bestowed on bedding plants are given to the hardy annuals, then, and then only, will their capabilities be discerned."—*Florist and Pomologist*.

ANEMONE JAPONICA.

When passing Kendall's nursery, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Stoke Newington, a few days since, I observed this noble autumnal flower to be quite a wonder in its way. There stands near the entrance gate a specimen which must be full a yard high and a yard through, and there cannot be fewer than a hundred flowers fully expanded, with perhaps as many more in bud to keep up a succession. The flowers are of a paler tint than the common variety, a sort of very pale pinky rose, most fresh and charming. I make note of this in order to arrest the attention of cultivators of hardy plants, not for the purpose of advertising Kendall's nursery, which is not, so far as I know, managed with any other view than to supply the markets, and is therefore (probably) beyond being benefited by publicity. The autumnal anemones are all blooming earlier than usual, and, as I have at least half a dozen varieties, I will venture to say of them that they are the handsomest autumnal hardy plants we have. Mr. Kendall's plant is the largest I have seen, and no doubt has been left undisturbed many years past, that being the way to secure the full development of such a handsome specimen.—*PASSERBY, in Gardener's Weekly*.

NEW MODE OF PREPARING DRIED FLOWERS.

The mode in which the beautiful Dried Flowers are obtained, which have for some time past appeared for sale in the shops, has thus been described in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*:—"A vessel, with a moveable cover, is provided, and having removed the cover from it, a piece of metallic gauze of moderate fineness is fixed over it, and the cover replaced. A quantity of sand is then taken sufficient to fill the vessel, and passed through a sieve into an iron pot, where it is heated, with the addition of a small quantity of stearine, carefully stirred, so as to thoroughly mix the ingredients. The quantity of stearine to be added is at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 100 lb. of sand. Care must be taken not to add too much, as it

would sink to the bottom and injure the flowers. The vessel, with its cover on, and the gauze beneath it, is then turned upside down, and the bottom being removed, the flowers to be operated upon are carefully placed on the gauze and the sand gently poured in, so as to cover the flowers entirely, the leaves being thus prevented from touching each other. The vessel is then put in a hot place, such, for instance, as the top of a baker's oven, where it is left for 48 hours. The flowers thus become dried, and they retain their natural colours. The vessel still remaining bottom upwards, the lid is taken off, and the sand runs away through the gauze, leaving the flowers uninjured." This process, by means of which the colours are in great measure preserved, is, it will be seen, an adaptation of the old plan of drying in hot sand.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

NEW PEAR—BROCKWORTH PARK.

This is an English seedling, and far in advance of nineteen-twentieths of the continental trash which is year by year forced upon us. It is, indeed, a first-class pear, and the standard is now placed high. It has been awarded a first-class certificate by the Fruit Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. At the first glance, it greatly resembles the *Louise Bonne* of Jersey. The fruit is large, pyriform, rather bulged in the centre; skin smooth, pale yellow, slightly flushed and streaked with crimson on the exposed side; eye small, close, segments of the calyx pointed, set in a shallow basin, the end of the fruit being frequently blunt; stalk about an inch long, stoutish, obliquely inserted without any depression; flesh white, delicate, buttery and melting, very juicy, rich and vinous, exceedingly pleasant to eat, greatly resembling in texture the well known *Marie Louise*. This we welcome as a valuable addition, and congratulate the raiser on his success. We believe it will be sent out by Messrs. J. C. Wheeler & Son, of Gloucester.—*London Journal of Horticulture*.

FULTON APPLE.

We received from Mr. T. W. Willson, Iowa City, Iowa, by his daughter, Mrs. Coolidge, of Leavenworth, Kansas, a very fine specimen of this handsome apple, for a name, it not being recognized there. The following is the description of the apple sent us, which is fully worthy all we say of it: Fruit large; weight ten ounces; form round, truncated, or flattened, slightly oblique, compressed and faintly ribbed; skin rich, bright, deep yellow, with a soft buff blush; dots numerous, small, green and gray; stem short, slender; cavity wide, deep, regular, green; eye large, open; basin wide,

abrupt, deep, furrowed, ribbed and leather cracked; cone small, slightly open, regular; carpets wide; seeds large, mostly imperfect, dark brown; flesh yellow, tender, rich, juicy, sprightly, subacid and fragrant; quality very good; use, table kitchen and market; season, October to February. Tree very thrifty, healthy, upright grower when young, making a handsome, symmetrical tree, very productive when about twelve years old, and then becomes spreading and bending to the ground with its weight of handsome yellow fruit.

The above is a good average specimen, except they are generally more oblate and compressed, dots irregular, indented, and sometimes crimson cheek, and often deeply cracked at the eye. Their fruit is worthy of cultivation not only for its size and beauty, but it fills a place in the season when we have but little ripe fruit and very few good varieties to fill its place. The fine specimens raised by Mr. Willson prove that the tree succeeds well in Iowa, at least under his cultivation. It does remarkably well here. We have seen at Mr. Mackamer's, and other places, trees loaded to the ground with fruit, and some specimens raised by Mr. Van Winkle, of Pleasant Ridge, weighing fourteen ounces.—Dr. STAYMAN, in *Pomologist*.

A SWEET QUINCE.

T. B. Jenkins, Chambersburg, Pa., sends F. R. Elliott specimens of the quince, of which the flesh is almost sweet and nearly void of astringency. It is new to me, and for the purpose of the sauce of the quince alone, must be of value, and perhaps prove superior to the Japan or Sand pears for such use. But for the purpose of flavoring the apple, for which the quince is often used, I doubt its value as compared with the orange or apple-shaped variety. Mr. Jenkins writes that "the variety was raised from seed some forty years since, and has been bearing regularly ever since. The tree is a good grower and abundant bearer." Description: Fruit of medium size, oblate, somewhat ribbed; color much like the apple-shaped, but when the bloom is rubbed off it is not as bright. The stem is set in a broad, dull brown, rough, knob-like projection, while the calyx has large, long segments, set in a deep basin; the flesh is a deep yellow, coarse grained, not very juicy, a little tough, and of a mild subacid character.—*Rural New Yorker*.

HOW TO MAKE HENS LAY.

People would better understand this matter, says the *Country Gentleman*, if they considered for a moment a hen to be, as she is, a small steam engine, with an egg-laying attachment; and thus there must be a constant supply of good feed

and pure water to keep the engine and its attachment up to its work. In addition to keeping before hens, which have complete liberty, a constant supply of pure water. Summer and Winter, I have found that during the cool and cold weather of Fall, Winter, and Spring, a dough compounded as follows, fed one day and then intermitted for two days, to produce excellent results:—To three gallons of boiling water add one half an ounce of common salt, a tea-spoonful of cayenne pepper, and four ounces of lard. Stir the mixture until the pepper has imparted considerable of its strength to the water. Meantime the salt will have been dissolved and the lard melted. Then, while yet boiling hot, stir in a meal made of oats and coan, ground together in equal proportions, until a stiff mush is formed. Set away to cool down to a milk warmth. Before feeding taste, to see that you have an overdose neither of salt nor pepper, and to prevent the hens being imposed upon with a mixture not fit to be eaten. The hen mush should not be more salt than to suit your own taste, nor so hot with pepper that you could not swallow it, were so much in your broth. Beware of too much salt, too much lard, and too much pepper; and beware, too, when the seasoning is not too high, of feeding this dough too long at a time. Let the hens be fed one day fully with it, then let it be omitted and the ordinary feed given two days and so on, and the result will be found satisfactory.

Taken notice—hens fed in this way will be a good deal less inclined to set than when fed in the ordinary manner.—*Col. Farmer*.

THE JAPAN LILIES.

These have been found on trial to endure our winters even better than our native lilies, and to flourish in a greater variety of soils. They surpass all others in beauty, and are most deliciously fragrant.

To grow these beautiful flowers in perfection the ground should be dug fully eighteen inches deep, and enriched with surface soil from the woods that has been well mixed with plenty of coarse sand and old—not less than two years old—well rotted manure. The bulbs should be set five inches below the surface, and remain for several years without being disturbed.

The white Japan Lily is pure white, without any spots, and is very healthy.

The red Japan Lily is really the most beautiful variety, marked with deep red spots, and suffused with a rich roseate hue.

There is a faintly spotted variety, known as *punctatum*, which is very delicately coloured, but the bulbs seem not to possess as healthy a constitution as the other varieties.

We believe the variety known under the name of *roseum* is nothing more nor less than the red Japan Lily, which varies in its shades of colour very considerably, and although often priced higher in the nurserymen's catalogue than the red (*rubrum*), not worth any more in reality. They are now so low in

price as to be within the reach of every one, and we hope very soon to see them in every garden in the country.—*Canada Farmer*.

EARLY TOMATOES.—A large turnip is far better than any bed for propagating early tomatoes. Cut off the top and scoop out into a shell three-quarters of an inch thick. Fill the cavity with rich mold, plant half a dozen seeds, and place the turnip in a box of loam. Keep warm, sprinkle with tepid water every day, until there is no longer any danger from frost, then return the turnip to the out-door bed, and thin out all but one plant. Should the turnip send out roots, pinch them off, and the shell will soon rot, affording a fertilizer to the tomato-plant that will send it ahead wonderfully. A dozen turnips tomatoized will afford an abundant supply of early tomatoes for an ordinary family.—*Col. mal Farmer*.

HOW TO FIT A COLLAR TO A HORSE.—

In purchasing a collar for your horse, it is important to get one that fits him, as both the animal and yourself will be saved much annoyance. The *Harness and Carriage Journal* says:—"The plan adopted in the West, which we are assured by men who have been long in the collar business, does not injure the collar in the least, is to dip it in water until it is thoroughly wet, then put it on the horse, secure the hames firmly, keeping it there until it becomes dry. It is all the better if heavy loads are to be drawn, as that causes the collar to be more evenly fitted to the neck and shoulder. If possible, the collar should be kept on from four to five hours, when it will be perfectly dry and retain the same shape ever afterwards; and as it is exactly fitted to the form of the neck, will not produce chafes nor sores on the horse's neck."

A CURIOUS PLANT.—The latest novelty in floriculture is a curious and very interesting plant, the "Flat-stemmed *Coccoloba*." The stems are flattened in the most remarkable manner, and at a casual glance the plant would be taken for some curious fern; but that the stems have regular joints, and bear proper leaves. It was discovered on Solomon's Island, Australia, and on its native soil forms a small shrub, bearing great numbers of small flowers which are succeeded by berries, at first of a scarlet hue, but finally turning to a dark purple. It is adapted to green house and parlour culture and will endure a slight frost without injury.—*Happy Hours*.

VERBENAS IN THE HOUSE.—It requires great care to be successful in cultivating verbenas in the house during the winter. Many kill their plants by kindness. Put nothing on them but pure water, and this sparingly and judiciously. Cut off the most of the old branches, and remain patient until new shoots appear. Cuttings taken off in August make better plants for keeping through the winter than old stools or layers.

SHORT HORN: DUKE OF CARDWELL.

We are now enabled to furnish the full Pedigree of this fine Bull, sold at Richmond in November last:—

No. 570, DUKE OF CARDWELL.
Red and white, calved, Jan. 13, 1869.
Bred by and the property of Mr. Arch. Frank, Cheltenham, Co. Cardwell.
Got by Duke of Bourbon [184],
Dam, Cassy, by Nelson [488],
g. dam, Helen, by Charles [119],
gr. g. dam, Corn 2nd, by Dauby, 401,
&c., &c., see Herd Book.

OUTLINES OF MODERN FARMING. By Robert Scott Burns. Vol. I. Soils, Manures, Crops. Halifax: W. Gossip.
This is one of a series of cheap Treatises on Agricultural subjects which we can cordially recommend to our readers, and especially to Agricultural Societies proposing to establish Circulating Libraries or Libraries of Reference in their districts.

ADVERTISEMENTS!**SPRING 1871.****NEW SEEDS! TRUE SEEDS!**

Warranted growth of 1870.

ALFRED SAUNDERS begs to inform his numerous patrons, Agriculturists and Horticulturists in general, that his stock of Field and Garden Seeds now on hand is extensive and complete, no expense having been spared in procuring the best Seeds, and customers may rely upon their purity and freshness.

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Ramsdell's Norway Oats,

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Hay Seed, Timothy, Alyske, Red, White and Yellow Clovers, Vetches, Seed Potatoes, &c., &c., at lowest market prices. Apply to

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March, 1871.

WESTERN HALIFAX**Agricultural Society.**

THE Members of the Western Halifax Agricultural Society are hereby requested to meet in the Agricultural Room, New Provincial Building, on TUESDAY, 21st March, at 12 o'clock, noon, when business of great importance will be brought forward.

The Society having at present merely a nominal existence, it is proposed to re-organize it as a County Society, and a Resolution to this effect will be offered to the Meeting. It is hoped that not only every member of the old Society, but also every person interested in promoting the improvement of Agriculture in the County will be present.

GEORGE LAWSON, Sec'y.
March, 1871. col chro to date.

WANTED!

By the Onslow Agricultural Society, a Thorough-Bred AYRSHIRE BULL. Any party having one or two to dispose of will please correspond with the Secretary.

WM. BLAIR,
Jan'y, 1871. Sec'y O. A. Society.

Increase of Income.

A few in every neighbourhood who may be in straightened circumstances, or who may be desirous of adding to their income, may obtain such reliable information as will enable them so to invest a small sum of money as shall, with little trouble, and no risk, secure a considerable addition to their income, and which shall with moderate care, annually increase. For circular, send one dollar by Post Office Order to

March, 1871. J. H. HODSON, Bedford.

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A MAN who has had charge of a Cheese Factory in Canada or the United States, and is thoroughly competent to undertake the sole management of a Factory for the ensuing season, will hear of a desirable engagement by applying, in the first instance to

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March, 1871.

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NEW & VALUABLE VEGETABLES, with the return of another season I am again prepared to supply the public with Vegetable and Flower Seeds of the purest quality. My annual Catalogue is now ready, and will be sent free to all. It abounds in fine engravings, many of which were taken from photographs of the vegetables themselves. It has not only novelties, but all the standard vegetables of the farm and garden, (over one hundred of which are of my own growing,) and a carefully selected list of Flower Seeds.

All my seed is so under three warrants.—1st: That all money sent shall reach me. 2nd: That all seed ordered shall reach the purchaser. 3rd: That my seed shall be fresh, and true to name. I invite all to send for catalogues, both for themselves and their friends.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY,
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Oct. 31.

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The Mill is under supervision of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and all Bones sold at the establishment are genuine.

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Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

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which have taken FIRST PRIZES at all the Fairs, both in England and America, wherever shown. For price and particulars, send stamp, and address aug 20 P. O. BOX 131, Melrose, Boston.

BOAR FOR SALE.

BY the Agricultural Society at Noel and Maitland, one White Chester BOAR, imported from Canada, and sold at Richmond, October 1867. His stock far exceed the most sanguine expectations of the members of said Society. Cause of sale is, that there are so many young sows after his breed, that he will not be as useful as heretofore. Price \$25.

ROBERT FAULKNER, Secy.

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