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THE

NOVA SCOTIAN

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

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

VOL. II. *HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1875.* *No. 112.*

Ten copies of this Journal are sent, Postage Prepaid, to the Secretary of every Agricultural Society in the Province, in payment of which a reduced charge of $4 is deducted annually from each Society's Grant. Societies requiring their Copies addressed separately to individual Members will be charged $5. Any greater number of Copies to one address may be obtained at the reduced rate of $40 per hundred. The Annual Subscription for a single Copy is Fifty Cents, payable strictly in advance. The subscription year commences with the March number.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

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J. N. MACK, Esq., M. P. P. for Queen's County.

WE are glad to make a correction. In speaking of the transfer of the Short Horn Bull Sir Roger Tichborne, we expressed an opinion to the effect that Short Horns might not be altogether so suitable for Lunenburg County as some other breeds, and indicated this as the probable reason why Sir Roger had been discarded. But it appears from the letter of Benjamin Zwicker, Esq., that we were mistaken, and that, at Mahone Bay, the Short Horn is regarded as the real Sir Roger after all

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WE learn by letter from Mr. Simon Beattie, Pickering, Ont., that he contemplates holding a public sale of Thoroughbred live stock at Toronto, in June. It will probably be held on the Toronto Fair Grounds. In addition to Horses, Cattle, Pigs, &c., now on hand, a large importation is being made from England, with a special view to this sale. Mr. Beattie's partner, Mr. Wm. H. Miller, is now in the old country making selections, and expects to return to Ontario in April or early in May. Mr. Beattie reports from Pickering an unusually severe winter, with continued hard frosts and an excessive fall of snow, just as we have had in the Lower Provinces.

WE copy the following from the *North Sydney Herald:—*

A lady friend in Nebraska sent the undersigned, in March last, a small quantity of wheat in a letter, somewhat less than a half ounce, for the letter and wheat together barely weighed the half ounce. The farmers in that far West State call it the White Spring Wheat. It is bearded, and of a bright white skin, not large in the grain. I had it planted in a dry corner of my vegetable garden on the 18th of May. It was planted exactly like peas, in drills, ten inches apart, and four inches apart in the drills. It came up well, and I watched its growth with a curious interest. It grew high and strong, and stooled out very much from 7 to 9 shoots from every grain. The ears were large and full, and not a fly touched it, nor do I think that a single grain was lost. I cut it on the 5th September, and after being shook out and cleaned, it almost filled a quart, over sixty-four times the quantity planted. Of course the same amount of care and attention could not be bestowed upon a large field. But would it not be well for some of our farmers to try the experiment of planting some patches of wheat in drills, instead of sowing broadcast. I believe that many farmers in England and in the South of Scotland drill their wheat in on a large scale, and there is scarcely a doubt but the yield would be heavier. I am also of the opinion that bearded wheat is not so liable to be destroyed by the ravages of the weevil as the bald wheat is. The beard seems to be a partial protection against the fly resting upon it to deposit its eggs.

L. ROBERTSON.

The following note explains itself:—

BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS Co.,
March 2nd, 1875.

I see by last *Journal of Agriculture*, that there has been application for good Seed Oats and Broad Beans, (which you presume are the field or Horse Bean). If so, I have a few bushels of the Horse Beans still on hand, which I could furnish parties by early application.

CHAS. B. WHITMAN.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR 1875.

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District No. 6, Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness, Victoria: John Ross, Esq., Glen Farm, Little Bras d'Or, C. B.

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES, AND STATEMENT OF DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE GRANT FOR YEAR 1874.

Counties.	Number of Members.	Subscrip'ns attested as paid.	Amount of Grant.	Subscrip'ns to Provincial Exhib.
Annapolis:				
Eastern Annapolis Ag. Society	40	$40 00	$52 98	$25 00
Bridgetown Agri. Society	46	46 00	60 93	20 00
Paradise "	85	85 00	112 58	25 00
Towns'p of Clements Ag. Soc'y.	50	50 00	66 23	20 00
Annapolis "	81	81 00	107 28	50 00
	302	$302 00	$400 00	$140 00
Antigonish:				
Morristown Agri. Society	70	94 00	151 01	25 00
St. Andrew's "	55	100 00	160 64	17 00
Arisaig "	44	55 00	88 35	20 00
	169	$249 00	$400 00	$62 00
Cape Breton:				
Boularderie Agri. Society	54	54 00	108 00	30 00
Sydney Mines and Little Bras d'Or Agri. Society	46	46 00	92 00	20 00
North Sydney Ag. Society	55	55 00	110 00	25 00
	155	$155 00	$310 00	$75 00
Colchester:				
Onslow Agricultural Society	195	196 00	174 22	80 00
Shubenacadie "	40	40 00	35 56	30 00
Lower Stewiacke "	42	42 00	37 38	20 00
Tatamagouche "	62	64 00	56 89	18 96
Stirling Ag. So. of New Annan.	51	51 00	45 33	25 00
Brookfield "	57	57 00	50 67	10 00
	447	$450 00	$400 00	$183 96
Cumberland:				
Parrsboro' Agri. Society	105	105 60	105 79	40 00
Malagash "	66	66 00	66 50	33 25
Minudue & Barronsfield Ag. So.	40	42 00	42 32	20 00
Wallace Agri. Society	41	41 00	41 31	20 00
Union Ag. Soc'y of Pugwash	53	53 00	53 40	26 70
Scotia A. S. of Fox Harbour	60	90 00	90 68	
	365	$397 00	$400 00	$139 00
Digby:				
Digby Central Ag. Society	110	118 00	148 90	30 00
Weymouth "	44	44 50	55 52	
Clare "	102	109 00	137 54	15 00
Union Agri. Soc'y of Digby, St. Mary's Bay	46	46 00	58 04	
	352	$317 00	$400 00	$45 00
Guysborough:				
Guysborough Agri. Society	48	48 00	96 00	24 90
Milford Haven "	51	51 00	102 00	25 50
Glenelg Ag. Soc'y, Cross Roads, St. Mary's	54	54 00	108 00	
	153	$153 00	$306 00	$49 50

Counties.	Number of Members.	Subscrip'ns attested as paid.	Amount of Grant.	Subscrip'ns to Provincial Exhib.
Halifax:				
Halifax County Agri. Society	114	$114 00	$182 04	$200 00
Low. Musquodoboit "	67	95 50	152 49	30 00
Upper " "	41	41 00	65 47	20 00
	302	$250 50	$400 00	$250 00
Hants:				
Windsor Agri. Society	42	84 00	70 00	50 00
Fenwick " of Noel	43	43 00	35 84	25 00
Nine Mine River and Hardwood Land Agri. Society	67	67 00	55 83	15 00
Newport "	50	50 00	41 67	30 00
Union Ag. Soc'y of Maitland	88	88 00	73 33	20 00
Upper Nine Mile River A. S.	60	60 00	50 00	20 00
Enfield Agri. Society	44	88 00	73 33	
	393	$480 00	$400 00	$160 00
Inverness:				
Mabou & Port Hood Ag. Soc'y.	40	40 00	80 00	25 00
N. E. Margaree "	40	40 00	80 00	8 00
	80	$80 00	$160 00	$33 00
Kings:				
Union A. S. of E. Cornwallis	74	74 00	66 82	60 00
Kings Co. Ag. Soc'y, L. Horton.	46	47 00	42 44	20 00
Aylesford Agri. Society	59	59 00	53 27	20 00
Central Ag. Society of Kings	84	168 00	151 69	20 00
West Cornwallis Agri. Society	80	95 00	85 78	16 00
	343	$443 00	$400 00	$136 00
Lunenburg:				
Mahone Bay Agri. Society	66	66 00	132 00	20 00
Pictou:				
Pictou Agri. Society	81	81 00	111 92	30 00
River John "	43	43 00	59 41	
Egerton "	64	75 50	104 32	10 00
Merigomish "	40	40 00	55 27	15 00
Millbrook "	50	50 00	69 08	10 00
	278	$289 50	$400 00	$65 00
Queen's:				
Mutual Benefit Agri. Society, Brookfield, Pleasant River	40	40 00	80 00	20 00
North Queen's Agri. Society	40	40 00	80 00	30 00
Kempt Ag. Soc'y, Queen's Co.	47	54 00	108 00	20 00
	127	$134 00	$268 00	$70 00
Shelburne:				
Shelburne Agri. Society	46	46 00	88 89	
Clyde River "	45	45 00	86 96	25 00
Barrington "	56	56 00	108 21	10 00
Barrington West Passage A. S.	60	60 00	115 94	20 00
	207	$207 00	$400 00	$55 00
Victoria:				
St. Ann's Agri. Society	46	46 00	92 00	20 00
Middle River "	83	83 00	166 00	40 00
	129	$129 00	$258 00	$60 00
Yarmouth:				
Yarmouth County Ag. Society	160	320 00	250 00	50 00
" Township "	73	73 00	146 10	15 00
	233	$393 00	$396 00	$65 00

Total number of Societies..... 64
" " of Members..... 3972
" amount of subscriptions actually paid by Members..... $4495 00
" amount of Grants..... 5830 00
" " contributed by Agricultural Societies to Prize Fund of Provincial Exhibition 1609 41

(This is exclusive of amounts voted by Fruit Growers' Associations and Horticulturists of Halifax).

By order of the Board of Agriculture,

George Lawson, *Secretary.*

In continuation of our remarks on the subject of the Use of Bone Manure, and in the hope of stimulating our farmers into the increased use of this and other valuable fertilisers, we now give condensed extracts from a work by Mr. Alfred Gibson, First Assistant in the Laboratory of the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, England. The book is entitled Agricultural Chemistry, and is simple and easily understood, and we would strongly recommend it to our readers as a valuable hand-book.

The author points out that farm-yard manure depends chiefly for its value on the presence of three or four essential materials, and that these are distributed through a bulk of comparatively useless substance, and that it is rendered additionally cumbrous by the large quantity of water it contains, amounting, in round numbers, to two-thirds. The question naturally occurs to us, why cannot we prepare these essential materials in a separate or concentrated form. For instance, we learn that the most valuable constituent of farm-yard manure is ammonia, but to get one pound of this substance we must take 137 lbs. of well rotted farm-yard manure. Again, phosphate of lime is a valuable constituent of dung, but 100 lbs. of dung contain only about 1 lb. of this substance. [Farm-yard manure as it is usually made in this country contains a much smaller proportion. It is only fattening cattle fed on what we would here consider very rich food that can possibly give the proportion of phosphate stated by Mr. Gibson.] Why cannot ammonia or phosphate of lime at once be taken and added to the soil? In reply to these questions it may be said that there is no reason whatever why we should not do this if we can do it economically; in fact this is exactly what we endeavour to do by making use of artificial manures. These substances may be regarded as the essential constituents of farm-yard manure in a concentrated form. At the same time it must be remembered that the less essential materials of farm-yard manure as soluble silicia, magnesia, lime, &c., although less precious than the rarer substances above named, are yet necessary for the healthy growth of plants, and it is doubtful whether any artificial substance we could prepare in imitation of barn-yard manure, would answer as well in the soil since both the peculiar organic combination of its constituents and the mechanical form of barn-yard manure would be deficient. It was, however, in seeking replies to the above very natural questions that the value of so-called artificial manuring substances was discovered. As soon as scientific men had clearly made out what materials are required by plants for their growth, and in tracing the sources of these materials, had pointed out what were the more valuable constituents of manure, the notion of adding these substances artificially, was readily conceived. The practice indeed was, to some extent, adopted before the principles on which they acted was understood. It was found in certain cases that the addition of some one substance to the land produced a better effect in certain cases than could be obtained from a farm-yard manure—a striking example of the power of a special manure, and the unconscious adoption of a scientific principle may be instanced in the pastures of certain parts of Cheshire.

As is well known, these meadows originally remarkable for their fertility and the richness of the cheese produced in this district, by continued pasturing became impaired and began to show symptoms of exhaustion, which could not be removed by the manure usually applied. It was found that the addition of bones to the soil produced the desired effect; the grass regained its accustomed sweetness and cheese-producing qualities. This restoration of the weakened pasture by the use of bones can now be easily explained, and will be adverted to in describing the composition of bone-dust.

In the same way other substances have been found in practice to benefit certain crops in a manner that could not be satisfactorily explained some years ago.

Whilst barn-yard manure contains all the fertilising elements required in the growth of plants, artificial manures on the contrary commonly contain but a few; often but one or two of these elements.

It follows, therefore, that those who have easy access to stable manure should avail themselves of it to the utmost, it is specially those to whom the cost of carriage comes heavy, or the saving of time and labour at seed time becomes specially important, that the artificial manures are of value. The two most important classes of artificial manures are respectively, the ammoniacal or nitrogenous, and the phosphatic. The first-class consists of those in which ammonia, or what is nearly the same thing, combined nitrogen, is the prevailing constituent; by means of these we can supply to plants any quantity of ammonia that seems desirable; they are chiefly used as top-dressings for urging the growth of corn crops in Spring. The second class, the phosphatic, are those in which phosphoric acid is the chief ingredient—to this class bone-dust and its product, superphosphate, belong, and to the composition of this substance we propose to devote another article.

EASTER BEEF.

On the 9th instant we weighed two pair of fine cattle—equally fat—but one larger than the other. The largest, fed by Mr. Longworth, turned the scales at 8464 lbs, and the other, by Messieurs Wm. & F. Sutherland, at 8284 lbs. The heaviest ox of the former pair weighed 1750 lbs, and of the latter 1674 lbs. The first pair have gained 624 lbs since 18th July last—284 days. On the 12th Dec.—87 days ago—they weighed 3290 lbs, the subsequent gain being 174 lbs. On the 4th Dec.—8 days previously—the second pair weighed 3060 lbs, and in the meantime have also put on 174 lbs. Both pairs have done remarkably well, and would not make bad emigration agents for Nova Scotia at Smithfield.

While writing upon this subject, we may mention that our old friend Geo. C. Phillips, Esq., either believing that Truro will be surfeited with prime meat at Easter, or that some beef is too fat for this climate, has sold his celebrated, first prize ox for the Miramichi market. When we last saw the animal, he did not look much like tripping the light fantastic toe, so we hope the lucky purchaser, to get him home, will not follow the mode a Canadian Backwoods Farmer took to get his fat ox from Riviere du Loup to Quebec—tie him to the iron rail on the back of a railway car. In order to fill the vacuum produced in our meat market consequent on the departure of so *much beef* from the place, our enterprising townsman, James A. Leaman, has purchased the celebrated MARGESON HEIFER, said to be the fattest and finest animal in Nova Scotia. She will be exhibited at his stables between the 18th and 23rd of the month. In a future number we hope to be able to give both the live and dead weight of this extraordinary creature.—*Truro Sun.*

PRIZE POTATO RAISING.

In response to numerous inquiries for data regarding the ways and means adopted by the successful competitors for the Bliss Potato Premiums, we have taken the pains to carefully extract the pith of their sworn statements as transmittted to the Committee, and kindly placed at our service in advance of publication elsewhere. The yields were, in all cases very remarkable, and as these have been already noted for readers of *The Tribune*, there seems no occasion for repeating them. The particulars mainly sought by our correspondents are of character and condition of soil, kind and quantity of fertilizers employed, time of planting, tillage given and date of harvest, all of which will appear in the condensations subjoined, and which we endeavour to present as nearly as may be in the respective writers' own words. The facts which will be seen to stand out most prominently are, (1) significant economy of seed, (2) almost uniform dependence upon barnyard manure and ashes—and the great liberality of the application of the same—and (3) the thoroughness of the cultivation.

J. I. Salter, St. Cloud, Minn., planted one pound (and that, it will be remembered was, in all cases not otherwise specified, the quantity of seed experimented with) each of the three varieties, Extra Early Vermont, Compton's Surprise, and Brownell's Beauty, cutting the tubers into 160, 158 and 167 sets respectively, many of the eyes being divided into no less than eight pieces. Planted May 14, each set in rows four feet apart and about two feet in the rows, using to each set a common handful of a mixture of three parts unleached wood ashes to one part salt. This was well mixed with the soil and the sets placed on this prepared soil, and covered slightly with unmixed soil. The land is black, sandy loam, very rich in decayed vegetable matter, and from two to four feet deep, resting on hard pan, a mixture of clay, gravel and sand; is not underdrained, and was ploughed to the depth of twelve or fourteen inches. Loosened the soil as soon as the young plants appeared, and hoed them when four or five inches high, hilling slightly and destroying all weeds. When eight or ten inches high, covered them entirely, leaving about two inches of loose soil above each plant, and making the sides of the rows correspondingly broad. This forced out from each parent stalk a number of side shoots, each bearing from one to three good-sized tubers. After this kept clear of weeds, hoeing only slightly when necessary. Dug Oct. 14–16. But Mr. Salter remarks that this mode of culture retards the ripening of the crops two to four weeks, but on his ground doubles or quadruples the yield.

A. K. Titus, Wilmington, Vt., selected a piece of land made rich with manure and leached ashes last year; soil sandy loam with clay subsoil, not drained; ploughed the ground 10 inches deep and made the hills four feet apart each way. Cut the tubers to single eyes, and planted May 20, putting two eyes in each hill, together with a shovelful of leaf mold and horse manure, taken from under cover, and covered 4 inches deep. Had 52 hills of the Vermont, 32 of Surprise, and 48 of Beauty. Hoed twice, the third of July being the last time, making very broad high hills, and scattered a handful of hardwood ashes on each hill before hoeing. On part of the ground there was a coal-pit burned out 20 years ago, and there the potatoes were the best, yielding a peck to each hill. Dug Oct. 3.

Robert Lewis, Castletou, N. Y., cut to single eyes, many of the eyes being divided into three or four pieces, and planted May 8, in drills 4 feet apart and two feet apart in the drils, using one piece in each hill, with a large handful of equal parts of double refined poudrette and ashes, and hoed it under; after this they were ploughed once, and hoed once, which is all the cultivation they received. Dug, Vermont, Aug. 20; Comptons, Sept. 8; Brownells, Sept. 19.

C. W. Walker, Washington, Kansas, planted April 6, in bottom land, a rich black mold, with a mixture of sand, subsoil black loam and sand, not underdrained. Ground thoroughly and deeply ploughed, tubers cut to single eyes and planted one eye in a hill, 3 feet apart and four inches deep, with a handful of fine, well-rotted horse manure, and the same quantity of wheat-stack ashes (grain and straw, result of prairie fire) to each hill. When the plants had branched out a little, hoed them, and covered the bottoms of the branches nearly an inch with the soil, and increased the hill around in about the same proportion. When the main stem was nearly a foot high, hoed again, covering the branches nearly 2 inches more, and increasing the hill in proportion. Dug second week in September.

A. W. Titus, Wilmington Vt., planted May 27, 4 feet apart each way, making 40 hills to each of 8 varieties on an average. Soil light loam, with gravelly clay subsoil, not drained. Plowed 10 inches deep, and manured with a compost made of leaf mold taken from a Maple grove, where sheep and cattle had lain, and mixed with droppings where cows were yarded previous Summer—to 12 bushels of each kind of the above was added one barrel of hard wood ashes, and the compost well mixed. Put a shovelful of the compost in each hill, cut potatoes to single eyes, put 2 pieces in a hill and covered 3 inches deep. Hoed when 4 inches high, covering them nearly up. July 4, hoed second and last time, making very broad hills. Aug. 1, the vines covered the ground, and were of a very dark green color. Dug Oct. 3.

S. R. DeWolfe, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, cut to single eyes and planted in hills three feet apart, one eye to a hill, May 29. Soil fine, rich, mellow loam, with a slight mixture of clay with gravelly subsoil, possessing natural drainage. Ground spaded and common barnyard manure partly rotted spread on at rate of about five tons to the acre, and turned under. At the time of planting, a fertilizer composed of ashes, soot, lime, nitre, and sulphur was put into the hills at the rate of about one pint to each. The potato shoots were very long when planted, and being put in flat, layered, largely increasing the yield. Hoed several times, kept clear of weeds and mellow, using a spading fork between the hills July 15. Dug Oct. 6.

H. C. Pearson, Pitcairn, N. Y., planted Brownell's May 16, soil, light loam, with some gravel, with sand and gravel subsoil, having good natural drainage. Land new, having produced only one crop before. Applied broadcast a two-horse load of barnyard manure three years old, plowing it under 7 inches deep; then went over the ground three times with a pulverizing harrow. Placed in each hill before planting, 2 quarts of a compost, composed of 10 bushels decayed manure, 2 bushels of ashes, 4 quarts salt, and 2 pounds sulphur. Cut the tubers to single eyes, dividing some of the stronger into 3 pieces, making in all 112 pieces, and planted them in rows 3½ feet apart and 3 feet apart in the rows, planting one set in each hill, and covering them about 3 inches deep. When tops were 2 or 3 inches high, before hoeing, put a handful of the compost about each hill. Ran the cultivator between the rows twice during the Summer, and hoed twice, making the hills broad and flat. They grew to an enormous size, 491 selected tubers weighing 500 pounds, and 37 fair sized 15 pounds were dug from one hill. Matured about Sept. 18.

Abram Loveless, White Mills, Penn., planted May 23, the Surprise in clay soil with sandy gravel subsoil, not underdrained; the Beauty in clay soil with sandy loam subsoil, not underdrained. The ground for all was very rich and prepared with great care. Cut the tubers to single eyes, rolled the sets in plaster, and planted in drills 3½ feet apart, and eyes 2 feet apart in the drill, one eye to a hill, covering 4 inches deep. At time of planting put one pint each hen manure and wood ashes in each hill, and at first hoeing, put a handful of superphosphate, and about one spoonful of salt around each hill. After that kept them clear of weeds, watering frequently during the dry season and putting plaster around each hill every week while growing. After last hoeing, put one good handful of wood ashes around each stalk, hoed twice and kept clear of weeds. Dug Oct. 21.

Henry Bullis, Canton, N. Y., planted May 29. Soil clay loam with hardpan subsoil, underdrained. Before planting, spread one inch of muck broadcast, working it well in, and at time of planting gave each hill a handful of wood ashes, and after each hoeing gave each hill a top dressing of a handful of wood ashes. Cut to single eyes and planted in hills 2½ by 3 feet apart, one eye in a hill four inches below the surface, covering with two inches of soil. Hoed twice, July 4 and 17, hilling up broad and flat. This is all the culture received, except keeping free from weeds. Dug Oct. 14.

Chas. Whiting, Jasper, N. Y., planted May 16, soil a mixture of clay and loam to a depth of about two feet, lying on a clay subsoil hardpan, not underdrained. Plowed eight inches deep, and spread broadcast about one cord of rotten barnyard manure, two years old, and about 1½ bushels of unleached ashes, which were thoroughly mixed with the soil in the hills. Made a solution of two barrels of water and 10 quarts of hen manure, and applied this to the plants when 10 inches high; used same solution twice at later periods.

Used 12 quarts gypsum on the plants, applying 3 quarts each time after hoeing. Dug Oct. 10.

P. C. Wood, Esther, Ill., planted May 13, soil deep black loam, with stiff red clay subsoil, not underdrained. Manured with about 1 cubic foot of well rotted barnyard manure to each square yard of land, and 5 bushels of wood ashes to each square rod, which were well mixed with the soil by plowing 12 inches deep three times, harrowing well each time. Cut to single eyes, dividing some of them, and planted 4½ by 3 feet, one set to a hill, covering 2½ inches. Planted each set on a small shovelful of the following mixture: 2 bushels lime, slacked with water, 3 pecks salt, 7 bushels wood ashes; on this a large scoop-shovelful of well-rotted chip manure. Kept the ground well stirred 10 to 12 inches deep until potatoes began to form, hilling up slightly after July 1. Raked over the surface after each shower, and kept clear of weeds. Dusted with plaster when 2 inches high, repeating it at intervals of a week or ten days until Sept. 1, when 179 pounds of plaster was used on the two lots. Dug Oct. 19.

D. Steck, Hughesville, Penn., (quarter acre), planted May 5. Soil light, sandy loam, overlying creek gravel, and a crop of clover had been taken from the land the previous season. Early in April spread 14 two-horse loads of cow manure over surface, then plowed about 8 inches deep; after this spread 15 loads of compost, made of decayed chip and barnyard manure, over surface, and then the ground was well harrowed and marked in rows 2 feet apart and 3 inches deep. Cut the potatoes to single eyes and planted the Vermont 7 to 8 inches apart in the rows, and the Beauty 8 to 10 inches apart. As soon as the plants appeared ran a narrow cultivator once between each row, after which the loose soil was drawn toward the plants, which operation was repeated in about 10 days. This was all the cultivation they received, as the growth was so dense he could not get through them. The season became so dry about this time that the crop was cut short nearly half. The tubers of both varieties grew of very uniform size, with but few overgrown ones and scarcely any small ones. Dug Sept. 10–24.

Mrs. M. A. Royce, Home, East Tenn., (quarter acre), planted May 22, soil deep, vegetable and leaf mold with mixture of sand, with clay subsoil, on steep hillside. It was a piece of new ground, cleared and burned over in the Spring; tried to plow it but there were so many roots used hoes, making small hills 1½ to 2 feet apart. Cut to single eyes, often dividing them still more, rolled in plaster, and put a tablespoonful of plaster and a handful of unleached ashes in each hill when planted. When about 3 inches high hoed, hilling a little. Sprinkled the tops once with plaster, and this was all the attention received. Dug Sept. 22.

Alfred Rose, Penn Yan, N. Y., (quarter acre), planted May 13–16. Soil sod of 12 years standing, sandy loam, with a subsoil of sand and gravel mixed with marl and not underdrained. Cut to single eyes and planted in rows 3 feet apart, and 1 foot in the row, 1 piece to a hill. Used as fertilizer the following mixture: a handful in each hill at the time of planting; a cask of lime slacked with water, stirring in a bushel of fine salt and then mixed with wood ashes until dry enough to handle. Cultivated only twice, with a common cultivator, hoeing with a garden hoe at the same time. Thinks that with a favorable season, would have yielded at the rate of 1,000 bushels per acre, but the season was very hot and dry. Dug Sept. 17.—*New York Tribune.*

ADULTERATED MILK PROSECUTIONS.

Before Bailie Robertson in the Dundee Police Court, on Tuesday, *William Matthew*, confectioner and milk dealer, Scouringburn, was brought up, charged with an offence against the Act 23rd and 24th Vic., cap. 84, section 1st, in so far as, on the 27th January last, within the shop occupied by him in the Scouringburn, he sold a quantity of new or sweet milk to two sanitary officers, which was adulterated, being mixed with skim milk, water, or some other ingredient. Accused pleaded not guilty.

Mr. G. D. Macdougald, chemist, deponed—I got some samples of milk from Inspector Kinnear on the 28th January last, and analysed them by the usual tests. The sample marked M is a very inferior milk, being mixed with skim milk to the extent of 31·6 per cent. The following detailed analysis of this sample was then read by Mr. Macdougald:—

Total solids	11·13
Consisting of fat	2·01
Caseine and sugar	3 58
Ash	54
Water	88·87
	160·00

cream, 5 per cent. by volume; specific gravity, 1 03174. This is a true analysis of this sample. 31·6 per cent. of skim milk has been mixed with this milk, or cream has been removed to that extent.

Mr. Matthew said in his defence, that he had only been a short time in the business, and had very little knowledge of milk. He sold it as he got it in. He told the man who brought the milk that the officers had taken some of it away, and he got it better the next day.

The Magistrate said he found the charge proven. He was sorry to say that he could give very little weight to what the accused had said. It was scarcely possible that any person selling milk could be so ignorant as not to know milk so much adulterated as this was proved to have been. As a warning to others he would fine the accused in the sum of £2 10s. or the alternative of ten days in prison.

Before Bailie Robertson in the Police Court on Wednesday, *Bernard Mc Govern*, Union Street, Maxwelltown, was charged with having, on February 2d, sold a pint of milk to two sanitary officers which was adulterated with water or mixed with skim milk. Accused pleaded not guilty.

Mr. G. D. Macdougald, chemist, Dundee, deponed—*I* got some samples of milk on 3rd inst., from Inspector Kinnear for the purpose of being analysed. Sample S is a very inferior milk, being equal to milk mixed with skim milk to the extent of 12·8 per cent.

The following is the detailed analysis:

Total solids	11·90
Consisting of fat	2 63
Caseine and sugar	8·64
Ash	0.58
Water	88·10
	100·00

cream per cent. by volume, 4.25; specific gravity, 1·03418.

The Bailie said it was clear that this milk was adulterated, but not to so great an extent as a case which was before the Court the previous day. But though this was the case he did not think it necessary to modify the penalty; it was only a question of degree. He would therefore make the fine £2 10s. or the alternative of ten days' imprisonment.

James M'Leod, cowfeeder, Cotton Road, was charged with a similar offence, he having, it was alleged, sold a pint of milk to two sanitary officers on 2d February last. He pleaded not guilty. The accused's agent asked for a continuation. He wanted the Magistrate to give him authority to have some of the duplicate sample sent to another analyst. He contended that the evidence of one man should not be sufficient to convict any one. After some discussion, the Bailie agreed to continue the case till Tuesday next, reserving his opinion till the case was before the Court, whether the milk should be sent to another analyst.

In the Police Court on Thursday—before Bailie Robertson—*Michl. M'Mullen*, greengrocer, Hawkhill, was charged with having sold adulterated milk to two sanitary officers on 4th February last, within his shop in Hawkhill. Accused pleaded not guilty.

William Paterson, sanitary officer, deponed—I went along with Henry Martin to the accused's shop for the purpose of getting a sample of milk. Information had been sent to the Sanitary Inspector's Office that bad milk was sold by McMullen. We sent in a woman to buy threepence worth of new sweet milk, and she was served by the accused. The woman was instructed to ask for new milk, and she

was assured that it was new milk she was served with. This was about seven o'clock in the evening. The woman did not think the milk was very good, and she tasted it and asked the accused if it was really sweet milk he had given her, and she was assured it was. We then entered the shop and took possession of the milk, and told McMullen who we were, and the purpose the milk was intended for. When he knew that we were officers he (accused) gave us a good deal of abuse. He said we should have come in ourselves and not sent in a woman to deceive him. The milk was then put into two clean bottles, and corked and sealed before we left the shop, and afterwards given to Inspector Kinnear.

Mr. G. D. Macdougald, deponed—On the 5th inst. I got some samples of milk from Inspector Kinnear to be analysed. Sample marked U is a very inferior milk, equal to milk mixed with skim milk to the extent of 40 per cent. The following is the result of the chemical analysis:—

Total solids.....	10·60
Consisting of fat .....1·99	
Caseine and sugar... .....8·07	
Ash 0 54	
Water.....	89 40
	100·00

Cream 3·5 per cent. by volume; specific gravity, 1·02910. Skim milk has either been mixed with this milk or cream has been taken off to the extent of 40 per cent.

By the Bench—The milk had the appearance of being bad, apart from any proof of its being adulterated. Milk of that kind always looks bad.

The accused said in defence that he got four pints of milk that morning from Alexander Scott, of Kingenny, and he just sold it as he got it in. He was sentenced to pay a fine of £2 10s. or suffer ten days' imprisonment.

Alexander Bell Lindsay, farmer, New Jersey, was next charged with having on 5th inst. sold a pint of milk to two sanitary officers from off the cart belonging to him while in Cowgate, which was sold as new milk, but was notwithstanding adulterated, being mixed with skim milk, water, or some other ingredients. Accused pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Paul appeared for the panel, and asked for a continuation of the case. As it was necessary for the defence, he likewise asked authority from the Magistrate to get part of the duplicate sample that it might be laid before another analyst.

Mr. McKay—There is no power under the act to grant such a request.

Mr. Paul thought he was asking nothing more than he was entitled to get. In cases of poisoning before the High Court of Justiciary the defence was allowed to get the articles which were alleged to have contained the poison to have them examined. Now this milk had been divided into two samples, and he thought there was no use for doing that if they would not allow the one on the table to be examined also.

Mr. McKay—This is a very different case. The Court of Justiciary has power to order what they please, but this prosecution is founded on a special Act, and the Magistrate has no power to dispose of the duplicate till the case has been before the Court.

Mr. Paul—The accused in this case is entitled to have the highest opinion in the land to support his case. If the sample before us is the same as the one reported on there need be no fear of submitting it to the test also. Mr. Macdougald, he had no doubt, would be glad to have his report checked by another competent authority. As it was, the duplicate sample of the milk seemed to be kept on the table more for ornament than use.

Bailie Robertson said a case the same as this was before the Court the previous day, and after giving the matter his most careful consideration, he came to this conclusion. As there was no evidence led he could not say what the case was. There might be nothing in the evidence when the case was heard to warrant a conviction, therefore he would reserve his opinion till the case was before the Court, whether the duplicate sample should be sent to another analyst. The case was then continued till Saturday next.

Live Stock Journal for Feb'y.—This Journal has reached our table. We find four excellent illustrations—the famous horse Smuggler, a Short-horn cow, Silver-spangled Polish fowls, a Chester-White and Berkshire. It is surprising what an amount of varied matter can be crowded into one number. The Dairy Department is full of instruction upon breeding, feeding cows, working milk into butter and cheese—condensing the proceedings of several Dairymens' Associations. There are interesting articles upon horses, cattle, sheep, swine, bees and fish, a table of all the fast horses, besides much very interesting reading for the family. Everybody will find something to interest him. $1.60 per year, postage paid. Specimen 10 cts. Buffalo, N. Y.

Correspondence.

Dear Sir,—

I see a paragraph in your last *Journal*, saying that you received a letter from Henry Lovett, Esq., saying that the Cornwallis Central Society succeeded in purchasing Sir Roger Tichborne from our Society. They did purchase him. We sold him, not because we did not appreciate him, for we never had one we appreciated so much. You must not think because we are Dutchmen that we do not appreciate a fine animal. Raising oxen is our chief pride, and none but the Durham breed will suit us. Some of our oxen will compare favourably with oxen of any county. The reason we sold him was this, we had him two years, and many of our members thought him too heavy for their cows, and did not patronize him last season, so we concluded to dispose of him and purchase a young bull.

B. Zwicker, *President.*

Mahone Bay, March 4th, 1875.

GYPSUM.

Editor of Agricultural Journal:

Among the many inquiries respecting manures, it has become a question with a number of the farmers of Colchester County, of what value is gypsum as a manure; to what crops or soils would its application be most beneficial; how prepared, and how applied? If you will please favor us with an article in an early number of the Journal that shall throw some satisfactory light upon the subject, you will no doubt do a great favor to our agricultural population.

Cloverdale.

The above communication was accompanied by the following extract from the Truro Sun:—

I like much to see communications from Colchester Farmers, and believe, like my friend Fitch, that our own agricultural men would do well to experiment more, and write more, both for their own good and the benefit of the community. I farm on a very limited scale, have but little experience, and would like to ask a few questions for information:

1st. Is the mineral known as Gypsum or Plaster of Paris a *good* fertiliser?

2nd. In what *state* should it be applied? Merely ground, without boiling or burning, or manufactured the same as for mechanical purposes?

3rd. In what *manner* should it be applied? Sown broad-cast, or dropped in the hill?

4th. In what quantity per acre should it be applied?

5th. To what kind of soil is it best adapted.

6th. Is it better applied by itself, or mixed with other substances?

If Cloverdale or some other of your well-experienced correspondents will have the kindness to answer the foregoing questions, they will much oblige,

A Small Farmer.

[Pressing work connected with the Annual Meeting of the Central Board prevents our dealing with the above questions this month, but we shall do so fully in next number of the *Journal*.—Ed. J. A.]

KEMPT, QUEEN'S COUNTY,
March 4th, 1876.

To Sec'y Central Board of Agriculture:

SIR,—*At the quarterly meeting of our* Agricultural Society on the 2nd inst., it was resolved to buy a pure bred Devon bull. Any person having such an animal for sale will oblige by giving information of the same to the undersigned, with age and price. One not older than two years preferred.

By inserting the above in your Journal you will much oblige yours,

WILLIAM E. FREEMAN,
Sec. to Kempt Agri. Soc'y, North Queen's.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

ENFIELD AGRI. SOCIETY.

ENFIELD, *March 8th*, 1875.

The Enfield Agricultural Society held their first quarterly meeting on the 6th inst, with thirty-five members in attendance, which, considering the unfavourable state of the weather, was good. The utmost good feeling prevailed, several questions were discussed to further the interests of the Society and the community in an agricultural point of view. An adjourned meeting was decided upon for the 20th ult., to take into consideration the purchase of seed, &c.

Can you give us any information as to the best sources of purchasing good seed, such as Wheat, Barley, Oats, Peas and Beans. I think the Society will number about fifty members the present year.

I remain, &c.,
T. B. DONALDSON.

[An application to Donald Fraser, Esq., Acadia Farm, Pictou, may probably bring you information regarding seed wheat, &c.—ED.]

YARMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

COURT HOUSE, YARMOUTH,
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1875.

Quarterly Meeting. President, Chas. E. Brown, in the chair. Minutes of Annual Meeting read and adopted. Number of members for 1875 to date 53; amount subscribed $172.00.

President called attention of meeting to articles published in New York *Tribune* of Jan. 1st and 12th, headed, "Potato Cropping Extraordinary," and "Prize Potato Raising."

Voted—That the 52¾ bushels of potatoes—Extra Early Vermont, Compton's Surprise, and Brownell's Beauty—in the care of Charles E. Brown, and belonging to the Society, be offered for sale, to all applicants, at the price of $5.00 per barrel, $2.50 per bushel, and 5 cents per pound. Quotation prices, wholesale American dealers, $10, $5, and ten cents.

Voted—That the officers take the necessary steps to obtain Act of Incorporation of Society at ensuing session of Local Legislature.

Voted—That the Annual Exhibition of the Society be held on Thursday, the 7th day of October next.

Petitions to Local Legislature asking for alteration of Act "of Encouragement of Agriculture," so as to "enable each County having an Agricultural Society to have one Representative at the Central Board of Agriculture; and also that any County having but one, and that a County Agricultural Society, be entitled to the whole sum granted to such County." Submitted to meeting and signed by Members present.

Meeting adjourned.

THOS. E. CORNING, *Sec'y.*

KEMPT AGRI. SOCIETY, QUEEN'S COUNTY.

We notice in the Feb. No. of the *Journal* a complaint of a lack of clearness in the returns of some Agricultural Societies. Being aware that our return is open to the same objection, we take the present opportunity of giving a little more information. Our Treasurer being away from home much of the time, we were not able to get from him such information at the time of the annual meeting as would enable us to make a clear financial statement. We now find that our accounts stand as follows:—

Cr.

Balance on hand Dec. 1st, 1873	$17 62½
Members Subscriptions	53 00
Prov. Grant after deducting Journals, $4	102 00
Seeds sold	1 88½
Bull sold	12 35
Received for Plows	8 95
	$195 81

Dr.

Paid for Bull	$60 00
" " Clover and Timothy Seed	51 12
" " 2 Plows	19 00
Sec. salary with postage and stationery	8 00
For hall	2 00
Keeping bull	11 06
	$151 18
Balance now on hand	44 63

WM. E. FREEMAN, *Sec.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TATAMAGOUCHE AGRI. SOCIETY.

TATAMAGOUCHE, *Dec. 2nd*, 1874.

The Annual Meeting was held, as required by law. The business of the last year was closed up, and the books audited.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—Wm. A. Patterson, *President;* Jas. Johnson, *Vice-President;* Joshua Slade, *Treasurer;* Robert Cunningham, *Secretary;* Thomas Roberts, Robert Joice, Alex. Boneyman, Angus McDonald, and Archibald McMillan, *Directors.*

The Ayrshire Bull was sold at auction on the first of October, for $16, and a Short Horn Durham Bull, named Grand Pre Duke, bought in November for $95, so that the Society now owns two bulls, one pure bred, and the other a grade; also five grade rams.

The Treasurer's account is as follows:

Received Provincial Grant	$34 10
" returned on lambs bought	8 00
Sixty-two members' subscriptions	64 50
Received for Ayrshire Bull	16 00
	$122 60
Paid for keep of Ayrshire bull	$30 00
" " " " Grade Bull	35 00
" " freight on lambs	5 00
" to ex-Treasurer	15 00
" for and bills	75
" " sundries	1 04
" " Durham Bull	95 00
" " " "	5 00
	$193 69
Balance due Treasurer	$71 00

JAMES CLARK, *President.*
ROBT. CUNNINGHAM, *Sec'y.*

BOULARDERIE AGRI. SOCIETY.

LITTLE BRAS D'OR.

The Officers elected at the annual meeting of Boularderie Agricultural Society on Dec. 1st, 1874, are as follows: Hugh McKinnon, *President;* Alexander Gardner, *Vice President;* Saml. Stubbert, *Secretary;* Hezekiah Stubbert, *Treasurer. Directors*, Robt. Wayson, David Fleming, Arch. McKenzie, Philip McLeod, John Edwards.

To represent District No. 6, at Board of Agriculture, John Ross.

SAMUEL STUBBERT, *Sec'y.*
March 9th, 1875.

BARRINGTON AGRI. SOCIETY, CO. SHELBURNE.

BARRINGTON, *Feb. 22nd*, 1875.

The Barrington Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on the first Tuesday of Dec., 1874, at which time the Directors made their annual report, from which we make a few extracts.

Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that this Society for the past year has sustained its usual prosperous condition. That seeds of various kinds were purchased and distributed, from which in many cases good yields have been obtained. That a full blood Durham bull has been procured, and that he has done service during the season. That the Fair held in October was a successful exhibition of the products of our County, the vegetable department surpassing the expectations of the most sanguine, and in the opinions of strangers present equal to that of any other part of this Province. That a stimulus seems to have been given to the Agricultural interest that will tend to the better cultivation of the soil in future, to deeper and more frequent ploughing and harrowing, to the drainage of wet lands, to the abundant use of fertilizers, the production of larger crops

and greater remuneration for the labor performed.

It is believed also that a greater interest is being taken in stock; the high prices now asked for good oxen and good cows shew that improvement in this respect will pay well for the care and expense incurred.

It is hoped that a larger accession to the membership of this Society may be realized, so that many desirable improvements may be effected, such as the introduction of better farm machinery, a greater variety of cultivable articles, and some of the best works on tillage whereby information on the most approved methods of farming may be disseminated.

The financial affairs of the Society are as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Balance	$91 42
Government Grant	84 00
Subscriptions	44 00
Entrance Fees, Exhibition	18 70
	$238 12

EXPENSES.

Paid for Seeds	$14 91
" " Bull	67 88
" Exhibition	62 33
" Secretary and Postages	5 42
Cash in hand	57 61
	$238 12

Respectfully submitted.
R. H. CROWELL, *Sec'y.*

BARRINGTON WEST PASSAGE AGRI. SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, 1st December. Vice-President in the Chair. Accounts for the past year submitted to the meeting and approved.

The following gentlemen were then elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—*President*, Andrew L. Crowell; *Vice-President*, Thos Robertson; *Sec'y.* and *Treasurer*, D. Sargent; *Directors*, James Crowell, Jr., Stillman Nickerson, S. W. Crowell, Thos. W. Robertson, Nathan Crowell.

Officers met immediately after Annual Meeting, and nominated Geo. S. Brown, Esq., of Yarmouth, as a person suitable for appointment to Central Board.

West Passage Agricultural Society, in account with Treasurer:

1874. Cr.	
By balance on hand	$ 78 10
Amount of Grant	118 00
Subscriptions from members	61 00
	$257 10
By balance in hand	$71 39
Stock on hand 1 Ayrshire Bull	80 00
1874. Dr.	
Paid bill of Seeds	$84 42
Sundry expenses, postages, &c.	1 74
Paid for Ayrshire Bull	80 00
" expense getting Bull from Yarmouth	5 30
Freight on Seeds	1 25
Feed for Bull	3 00
Secretary's salary	10 00
Balance on hand	71 39
	$257 10

THOS. S ROBERTSON, *Vice-Pres.*
D. SARGENT, *Secretary.*

ST. ANN'S AGRI. SOCIETY.

SOUTH GUT, *Dec. 1st*, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—The annual meeting of the St. Ann's Agricultural Society was held this day in terms of the Act.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. It was unanimously agreed to continue the same officers in office for the ensuing year. Since last Report the sum of $156.86 was expended by the Society in purchasing seeds and agricultural implements for the use of the Society. The sum of $20 was contributed to the funds for the Provincial Exhibition. But owing to a want of direct communication with Halifax, and the Exhibition being held so early in the season, the Society failed in sending anything on for exhibition.

Respecting the harvest returns, we have only to say that they would favorably compare with former years. Hay was a good average both on low and up lands. Wheat was a failure, but Oats and Barley were an average crop. Potatoes and Turnips yielded fair returns.

LUTHER MCLEOD, *President*,
JOHN MORRISON, *Secretary.*

To the Presidents of Agricultural Societies, &c.

In accordance with the strongly expressed wish of the Central Board of Agriculture, the Proprietors of the Wellington Tannery have purchased the Bone Mill formerly owned and worked by the late Mr. Stanford, and propose to manufacture both half inch and fine ground Bone, in order to supply the demand for this much needed and very valuable manure.

As the Proprietors wish to be prepared to meet all orders next Spring, and that there should be no disappointment, through failure of supply, they would be glad to learn the probable quantity that will be required by members of your Society and other Agriculturists in your neighbourhood during the coming season.

Please forward answer to Manager,
WELLINGTON TANNERY,
Oakfield, Halifax Co.

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