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CONTENTS:

PAGE.	PAGE.
Editorial Notes—Crops—Potatoes—Turnips—Hay—Seeding Down—	
Fall Exhibitions—Present Condition of Crops in the United	
States... .. 33-34	An Essay on the Hog.. 36
The New Brunswick Provincial Exhibition... .. 34	COMMUNICATIONS:
Hints for the Season—Flower Garden and Pleasure Ground—Fruit	Report on Crops in Cumberland County. By T. D. Dickson, Esq. 38
Garden—Vegetable Garden.... .. 34	Crops in Musquodoboit. By C. N. Spratt, Esq.. 38
	MISCELLANEOUS:
	Yarmouth County Agricultural Exhibition..... 39

HALIFAX, 5TH AUGUST, 1872:

The Reports on the Crops of the Province which we published last month were so ample that little has now to be added to indicate the probable results of our harvest. Communications that have been subsequently received only serve to confirm the general indications foreshadowed in our last number.

The Potato Crop, which is about a third smaller than usual in the quantity planted, has made very rapid progress. The hot weather of several weeks past has brought on a luxuriant growth; the ground has been so warm that the tubers have formed abundantly, and there is every indication of a comparatively early ripening. Should the disease keep off and the weather continue moderately dry, the quality will be unusually good.

Turnips, of which a greater breadth has been sown than for many years before, have come up well, and are making rapid growth; a better season for this crop could not have been desired.

We are now in the midst of Haying.

The Hay Crop is scarcely so heavy as was anticipated,—yet in most places it is a heavier crop than usual. There have been recently some heavy rains; but they have not been prolonged so as to cause injury to the hay, and we have reason to believe that a large portion of this, our most important crop, is already secured in excellent condition. The difficulty of obtaining labour at reasonable rates has led to a great increase in the number of Mowing Machines, and these in turn will lead to cleaner fields, to spring rolling, removal of useless fences, stones, stumps and other obstructions. In future the hay crop will be secured not only in better condition, and with less expenditure of manual labour, and less anxiety to the farmer, but also at less expense than formerly.

The system of seeding down land to grass in the Fall, instead of sowing in Spring with grain, is now strongly advocated by Mr. Eliot, the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. We have advocated this method for several

years, as admirably adapted to the circumstances of our Province. The plan is to plough the land in August or early in September, harrow, sow with Timothy, and give a top dressing of manure. The Timothy comes away at once, and will stand the severest winter; in Spring sow Red Clover or Alsike. The first season will give a heavy crop of clean Timothy, and the Clovers will come in the next season. Any land may be treated in this way, either old sod or that which has been in crop. There is a short article on this subject in the *Canada Farmer* of 15th July.

We commend to the notice of our readers the Crop Reports contained in this number from the pen of C. N. Spratt, Esq., of Musquodoboit, and of T. D. Dickson, Esq., Parrsborough; the latter contains, in addition to information respecting Crops, a number of valuable suggestive hints that are well worthy of the attention of every farmer in the Province.

It is time now to think of the Fall Exhibitions; and, in the absence of any Pro-

vincial Exhibition here, it is very desirable that those of our farmers who are not too old for the growth of new ideas, should visit some of the Agricultural Exhibitions held in the other Provinces or the United States. We give elsewhere some particulars of the New Brunswick Exhibition, which is to be held at Sussex, in the County of Westmoreland, on 8th, 9th and 10th October. There are also in our present number full details and Prize List of our Yarmouth Society's Exhibition, to be held on 3rd October or first following fine day. The Provincial Exhibition of Ontario will be held at Hamilton about the last week of September. The New York State Exhibition comes off at Elmira, in the western part of New York State, a great cattle district, from 30th September to 4th October.

From the United States Commissioner's Monthly Report issued at the end of July, and just received here, we learn the following particulars of Crops in the Republic:—

INDIAN CORN is the principal Crop in the States.—The lateness of the spring and unfavorable weather during the planting season in many sections has prevented any marked enlargement of the area in corn. The tendency is toward an increase in the South, and in the States in which wheat has been predominant. From 989 counties, including an area usually producing 600,000,000 to 700,000,000 of bushels annually, come returns indicating an increase of 3 per cent. This is equivalent to more than three-fourths of a million acres; and the total area in this great crop of the country nearly equals in extent the aggregate of all other tilled crops together.

The meteorological peculiarities of the season have received much comment in the returns. The rain-fall is sometimes tenfold greater at one station in a State, during a given month, than at another in the same State. A medium amount of rain, falling moderately in small quantities, at frequent intervals, has a more favorable effect upon the growing crops than a much larger quantity at long and irregular seasons in violent storms. In the Ohio Valley, as in Ohio and Indiana, complaints of long and almost unbroken droughts are received from many counties in different parts of those States, affecting wells and streams, and greatly retarding vegetable growth; while in many other counties seasonable and frequent rains are reported, and in some cases abundant supplies of moisture. In some cases wet districts are in close proximity to dry areas; and both wet and dry localities are sometimes found in the same county. In

different sections of the country, in which seasons of drought have occurred, sudden and violent storms have deluged low-lying lands, carried away bridges, and damaged crops. These peculiarities are noticeable during each recurring summer, but the variations in amount of rain-fall, and in the frequency and force of storms, seem greater than usual the present summer.

An improvement in the condition of **WHEAT** has occurred, since last report, in New York, Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, and to a slight degree in some of the Southern States.

The quality of the grain is uniformly superior. In the Middle States, in Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri, and wherever inferior condition is reported, the straw is short, and the heads are generally long and well filled, the kernel plump and heavy. The quality of southern wheat will probably prove as fine as any ever produced in that section. In threshing, the fullness of the heads, in proportion to quantity of straw, causes the yield to exceed the expectation, and may go far to offset the small decrease in reported condition. It is quite probable that the general excellence of the grain will make the present crop of equal value to that of last year. There has been almost entire exemption from rust, and comparatively little complaint of insects. The Hessian fly is reported in several places, more numerous in the Ohio Valley, and the chinch-bug has caused losses in many counties of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Throughout the South, the wheat crop is better in quantity and quality than for many previous years.

The condition of the **OATS CROP** is from 1 to 6 per cent. above average in all the New England and Middle States, except New Jersey and Delaware; the former being 14 per cent. and the latter 20 per cent. below average. This shows a general improvement during the month of June in all the States except New Jersey, where the condition is 4 per cent. below that of the last report. In North Carolina the crop is 3 per cent. above average, showing an improvement of 13 per cent. during June. The other Atlantic States, and all the Gulf States, except Texas, are below average, though showing a general improvement since the last report. Texas is 10 per cent., Tennessee 3 per cent., and Kentucky 4 per cent. above average. West Virginia is 5 per cent. below, an improvement of 9 per cent. during June. Ohio and Indiana are below average, and have declined during the past month. The other States north of the Ohio River and west of the Mississippi are all above average. On the Pacific coast California is 13 per cent. above average, an improvement of 15 per cent. during the previous month. Oregon is 10 per cent. below average, a decline of 7 per cent. during June.

In the New England States the acreage in **POTATOES** is very nearly average, and the condition above average, except in Rhode Island, in which it is 4 per cent. below. The Middle States are about average both in acreage and condition. The earlier planted appear to best advantage. The potato-beetle is reported in ten counties in Pennsylvania. In the other Atlantic and in the Gulf States as a whole, both acreage and condition are somewhat below average. In Louisiana and Texas both are above average, and in all the other States of the Union the acreage is above average, except Wisconsin, which is 1 per cent. below. In condition, West Virginia is 3 per cent., Ohio 7 per cent., California 2 per cent., and Oregon 7 per cent. below average. All the other States not mentioned are above average, the excess ranging from 2 to 9 per cent.

The **HAY CROP** in the United States is very poor compared with our own. The general condition of timothy is below average, except in the States immediately west of the Mississippi, which range from average to 7 per cent. above. The greatest decline is in Delaware, which is 47 per cent. below average.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

The *Sackville Post* says:—"The building will be 42x75 with 16 feet posts. It will be merely boarded and battened and very slightly ornamented. At the right and left of the main entrance will be two offices, each 12x15, one for the Secretary of the Provincial Board, and the other for the Executive Committee of the Society. The building was designed by J. W. Gray, Esq.

"There will be some 60 horse stables, each 5x14. The cattle stalls will be 12½x18 feet (each for a pair). There will be 50 of these. The grounds will be inclosed by an 8 feet close board fence.

"The Committee met last evening and purchased about 11 acres of land from Mr. Leonard Dixon, which will enable the Society to have a fair sized track. An Exhibition for the 8th, 9th and 10th of October next may now be considered a "fixed fact."

(From the *Gardener's Monthly*.)

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Every one of taste must have noticed how limited is the variety employed in garden decoration. In the majority of places, the Evergreens used are the Norway Spruce, White or Austrian Pine, the Arborvitæ and the Irish Juniper; among

trees, common Poplars or White Maples, with now and then a Horse Chestnut, Linden, or a Sugar Maple; and in the way of shrubs, seldom more than a half-dozen, and these chiefly from *Pyrus japonica*, *Spiræa Reevesii* or *prunifolia*, *Weigelia rosea*, *Deutzia gracilis*, a Lilac or a Mock Orange. Seldom more than these. Yet a friend who is about starting an arboretum of hardy things in Michigan, recently told us that he expected to get about fifteen hundred species and well marked varieties for his collection. It would not matter so much if these popular things were the best, but they are by no means so. The popularity of a plant depends on factitious circumstances.

Large dealers who have an extensive assortment seldom single out any one thing for concentrated praise; but a small dealer—one with limited capital—takes one thing, and with all his force advertises and talks it up. A recent instance is that of *Paulownia imperialis*, which has been in the American trade for twenty years. It has never been very highly esteemed, though the tree does grow fast, the leaves large, and the flowers highly fragrant. But last year a Western man took hold of it, and nothing else, and, by a skillful display of these genuine facts, pushed off thousands of dollars, which before were a drug in most nurseries at as many cents. This is the way things get popular; and there are an immense number of old but beautiful things only waiting for some one to take hold of them and enhance their value by this kind of pushing treatment. One of these is the dwarf Horse Chestnut, of which we presented to our readers last year a handsome colored plate. Another is the Josikee Lilac, which we have also illustrated. The great beauty of this, unfortunately, only becomes apparent with age. At four or five years old, it produces only a few spikes; but these accumulate with age, until at ten or twelve it produces hundreds of its large violet-purple panicles. The leaves of this species are more like the White Fringe than the common species. A large bush in an isolated spot always commands attention. The Tamarix, White Wiegelia, Persian Lilac, Sweet Mock Orange and White *Pyrus japonica* are also among the class of plants not so well known as they deserve to be.

The time is coming when transplanted trees of the past fall and spring will suffer more than during any other part of the season. If they show a vigorous growth of young wood, no danger need be apprehended, as it indicates that the roots are active, and can supply all the moisture the foliage calls for; but if no growth has been made, no roots have been formed, and the leaves are living for the most part on the sap in the wood and bark, and not drying weather will tell with injurious effect on such trees. This is generally

first shown by the peeling off of the bark on the south-western side of the tree.—the most drying aspect; and where such exhaustion appears probable, much relief may be afforded by cutting back some of the branches, syringing with water occasionally, shading the trees where practicable, or wrapping the trunk in hay bands or shading the south-west with boughs or boards.

Plants set against walls and piazzas frequently suffer from want of water at this season, when even the ground near them is quite wet. Draw away the soil from each plant so as to form a basin; fill it with a bucketful of water, allowing it time to soak gradually away, and when the surface has dried a little, draw in loosely the soil over it, and it will do without water for some weeks. This applies to all plants wanting water through the season. If water is merely poured on the surface, it is made more compact by the weight of water, and the harder the soil becomes the easier it dries; and the result is, the more water you give the more is wanted.

Keep the pruning-knife busy through the trees and shrubs, with the object of securing good form. Judgment will soon teach one which shoots would spoil the shape if not taken out. The pruning-knife will often save a tree when even the water-pot would fail.

In the most kinds of soil the keeping the surface loose by hoeing and raking in dry weather will be an excellent method of keeping the main body cool and moist—admitting the air, which is a good non-conductor. In soils, however, which are deficient in loam, and in which sand prevails to a great extent, frequent stirrings have a drying tendency, and a mulching of short grass, or decaying vegetable matter of any kind, will be found very useful around transplanted trees, shrubs and other things. It must, however, be borne in mind that loosening the surface soil is not always pulverizing. After loosening the soil, some way should be found to press it firm again. It is the pressure which pulverizes, not the loosening.

Friends, writing from the West, often say, "We wish you would find something like your box edging of the East, which is not hardy here;" but hardiness does not depend on temperature, as we have often shown. If the proper conditions are complied with, we believe the *Pax* will withstand any temperature, even to that of the North Pole. These conditions are rich soil, and shade from the sun in winter. The tree varieties of box are beautiful things for garden adornment. The Red Spider is a great enemy to them. We are not sure that the insect which goes by this name on our out-door plants is the same as our in-door one; but it is so near and so like in its destructive powers, that it makes no difference in a practical way.

A Box tree thoroughly infested is hard to clear of them. The best way is to cut off all green leaves early in the spring, then wash the plant with oily water in which sulphur has been mixed, and let it throw out a new set of leaves. Even then the plant will have to be watched for a year or two, and any straggling colonies destroyed before they increase much. These hints will apply to all evergreens which are liable to Red Spider. Its presence is easily known by the small yellow specks on the green leaves.

But these small insects may be kept down often by a garden engine. An occasional forcing of water over valuable specimens will generally clear out insects of any kind. A good portable engine should be an essential in every well-ordered garden tool-house.

We should like to call attention to a note we gave last year, that some beautiful objects for lawn decoration can be made of Wisterias, by training them as standards. A young plant is selected and trained to a stake six feet high. When the plant reaches this it is headed off. The second year the stake may be taken away, and the young plant will support itself. It will never make running branches after this, as it takes all its nutritive powers to overcome gravitation and sustain itself erect. A beautiful umbrella-like head is formed, and its hundreds of drooping flowers in spring thus show off to beautiful advantage. Another point of interest to a nurseryman in this is, that with this check to growth the reproductive powers are called into play, and the plants then usually produce seed abundantly. There is hope for numerous improved varieties as soon as these facts become generally known. This is a very good season to train plants up for this purpose.

Many of the earlier sown annuals will be seeding now, and those flowers which opened first will make the best seed to save. Where seed is not desired, it is best to cut away all as it forms. The annuals will continue to bloom much longer for this care. In getting seed of Double Hollyhock, much difficulty is often experienced. The petals prevent the pollen from falling on the pistil. It is best, therefore, to fertilize them by hand. They then produce as much seed as the single ones. Another advantage of this artificial hybridization is, that we can get any color we please from seed. If, for instance, we want to reproduce the kind perfect, fertilize with its own pollen; but if we would raise new varieties, use pollen from a plant of different color from the one we employ for seed.

Those who wish a good supply of window flowers next winter, should commence preparations. The Chinese Primrose, *Cineraria*, *Mignonette*, *Alyssum* and other desirable plants should be sown in pots, and kept in a cool frame until

they grow. Most people fail with these beautiful plants by sowing too late. The Wallflower is a nice old-fashioned window flower, and cuttings of the double kinds should be struck at once. Cuttings of Geraniums and other things for this coming winter's blooming may be put in.

FRUIT GARDEN.

In the fruit garden, if trees set out last fall or spring do not show signs of growing freely, cutting back a portion of the branches will make a great difference in their favour. It is a great point with good fruit-growers to have all the branches in a tree of uniform vigor. This can be gained by pinching off the growing points of the stouter ones, leaving the weaker ones to gain strength by the check to the others. Where the branches are likely to be too thick, some may be taken out while green, instead of waiting till winter to do it, not forgetting, however, that a loss of foliage is, in some degree, an injury to the tree and, that as little of this should be done as is consistent with necessity. Some recommend trees to be pruned in summer, because wounds heal better then. It is true the wound does heal better, but the loss of so much foliage is an injury not compensated by the healing of the wound. However, where the trees are young, and the branches to be cut away but a small fraction of the foliage, the injury is little, and the summer trimming is thus a gain. Nursery trees are best served in this way. Strawberries, Raspberries and Blackberries are "summer pruned" chiefly by thinning the suckers and runners. Strawberries are often grown in beds, and the mass of runners suffered to grow together as they will. This is the best way for parties who have little time to give to their gardens. When grown in hills, or with the runners cut off, something is necessary to be placed between the rows or the plants, in order to keep the fruit from getting gritty after rain. When they are in beds, the fruit keeps cleaner without much difficulty. But with this plan, the runners should be thinned out at this season of the year, leaving them only about three or four inches apart. Of course, we weed these Strawberry-beds; a large part of the runners should be treated as weeds and taken out at the same time. Raspberries and Blackberries should be served the same way. All the suckers not wanted to bear next year, should be taken out as they appear. If the kind be valued, the young offsets taken up may be transplanted any time through the season, by well watering and nipping out the young tender tops. About the end of the month it is often the practice to clip off the growing ends of Blackberries and Raspberries. It is said to stiffen the canes, and it renders stakes to support them in a measure unnecessary.

As to varieties, the *Gardener's Monthly*

is occasionally regarded as slow, because it does not get off a sort of 4th of July oration with every new fruit that appears. The last meeting of the American Pomological Society was a very good endorsement of our course. In Strawberries, for instance, notwithstanding the immense number of new kinds, the old Albany Seedling was universally started, and only the very new ones, not much known, received high praise. Pyrotechnic displays are very well, but when it is in regard to new fruits, we prefer our readers rather to admire than to pay dearly for them. The very few new things that are likely to be of permanent value we try to keep our readers well informed about in the body of the work.

The time when Currants and Gooseberries mildew and drop their foliage is at hand. Some have found a mulch of salt hay to be good against these troubles, but, in fact, anything that cools the surface, and thus helps to keep the atmosphere moist about the plants, is good. A heavy mulch of old corn-stalks we have found to be excellent help to success in growing these fruits.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

In many amateurs' gardens late Peas are valued. It is essential that they be planted in the coolest part of the ground. The Pea is a cool country plant, and when it has to grow in warm weather, it mildews. The Marrowfat class are usually employed for late crops. They need support. All Peas grow better and produce more when grown to stakes. Bush Beans may be also sown for late crops. A very deep rich soil is necessary to tender, crisp pods. The Lima Bean will now be growing rapidly. It is time well spent to tie them to the poles as they grow. The poles should not be too high—about eight feet is enough. They commence to bear freely only when the top of the pole is reached.

The Lettuce is another cool country plant. It can only be grown well in hot weather when in very rich and cool soil. Tomatoes trained to stakes give the sweetest fruit, and remain in bearing the longest; but many cultivators, who grow for size and quantity only, believe they have the best results when growing them on the level ground. Celery is the chief crop requiring attention. The great point is to get short thick-growing varieties, as the long kinds require so much more labour to blanch. The Boston market variety is, therefore, popular, and is really a very crisp and nutty-flavored variety. After so many trials with different ways of growing them, those who have their own gardens—amateurs, for whom we write—find that the old plan of sinking the plants in shallow pits is about the best. Trenches are dug about six inches deep, and three or four inches of manure then dug in, of which cow-manure is the

best. They can be watered better this way in dry weather, when in these trenches, and it is so much easier to fill the earth about them for blanching purposes than when growing on the level surface. Soap-suds, as well as salt in moderate doses, is usually a wonderful special fertilizer for the Celery plant.

Late Cabbage is often planted in gardens between rows of Potatoes, where it is an object to save space. Some fancy that the Cabbage is better preserved in this way from the Cabbage-fly, which, they say, prefers the Potato; but on this point we are not sure. We do not think the Cabbage does quiet as well as when it has the whole ground to itself; but of course a double crop could not be expected to be quite so fine.

AN ESSAY ON THE HOG.

PRESENTED AT THE SELMA SESSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.

(Continued.)

The above description (so far as it goes) answers well for some of the better classes which are now being cultivated in the United States, to which we add: The improved Berkshire weighs variously from 300 to 450, at from 10 to 16 months old, according to food and style of breeding, and we have known full grown boars to weigh 1,000, gross; pigs from 5 to 6 months 200 to 250. These are no doubt extreme weights, but not at all uncommon in well bred and properly managed herds. The form of the best specimens, is a short head and neck with a medium, dished face, very wide between the eyes, well shaped, moderate size jole, ears leaning slightly forward, but by no means lopped; back broad and straight from head to tail; sides deep; flesh fine and heavy; bone hard and round; legs short and tapering; hams full and round, and color as above described.

The great hardihood of the Berkshire and general freedom from cutaneous and other diseases so prevalent among many other breeds, has now become proverbial in localities where they have received reasonable care and attention. They are noted in this country for being the most prolific; and being very docile and easily tamed, renders pig-raising much less hazardous and expensive than with many other breeds.

The Berkshire has long been noted for producing the finest bacon, and we think it has yet lost none of this long and well earned reputation. The flavor of an ordinary Berkshire ham could be relished, at any time by the most fastidious epicure.

The Berkshires made their second advent into the United States about the

year 1850, and were received with much more favor than upon their first. Since then continued importations have been made, both from England and Canada, and no race has been so rapidly diffused in so short a period; in fact they have found their way into almost every part of the Union, and it is remarkable, that while they have been subjected to every grade of climate, they have lost none of the peculiarities which alone belong to the race. The hypothesis on which this may reasonably be based, is the great persistency of breeding in one direction, giving to them such a distinctiveness of character and constitution which may enable them to resist the detrimental influences of diverse climates. The great power of distinct and properly established breeds, to resist and ward off diseases, has, in many cases, been fully exemplified; and is, to a large extent, attributed to a peculiar constitution or conformation which ordinary breeds rarely ever possess. The Berkshire and Essex have long been regarded as the best breeds for improving the common stock, and have been much used for this purpose, and in many cases the result of such crossing has been so satisfactory and the improvement so great that the general reasoning among many farmers who have practised such breeding, is, that the produce of such crossing is better than either breed thus crossed. Such reasoning, however, would not be admissible in a theoretical point of view; neither do we think that any general practical results—properly considered—would justify such conclusions. Nevertheless, many remarkable improvements have been thus effected, and such crossing under general circumstances may be both profitable and advisable, especially if hogs for store and feeding purposes only are desired.

There have been many other distinct breeds cultivated besides those we have here enumerated, but owing to the great mania among American farmers for crossing and mingling of different breeds, they have become merged into the common breeds, and in this way have lost their distinctive identity and have become forever obsolete. Many of them were valuable breeds which no doubt required the skill and judgment of the wisest breeders a half lifetime to perfect and establish.

This prevalent practice of indiscriminate crossing or commingling of different breeds, without any definite aim or end in view, has had a very baneful effect, upon the progress of improvement, and rendered great and continued expenditures for foreign importations necessary, which could have—by a proper system of propagation of the distinct breeds when once obtained—been retained within our own borders.

While in time past it may have been both necessary and expedient, to make

foreign importations of proper breeds, it is not now, owing to a sufficient supply of all the best and most approved which should, by a proper system of breeding, be cultivated and improved in their purity, and lessen our dependence upon foreign countries. Such a course is rendered doubly necessary when in view of any contemplated improvements upon established breeds; for past ages of experience have taught us the necessity and great value of being able to trace ancestral lines, and to rely more implicitly upon the principles and tendencies of blood. Therefore, when improvements are proposed, it is necessary first to understand, and be well acquainted with the qualities, as well as the natural tendencies of the blood which is to be used to effect the improvement. In short, a breeder should exactly know the material with which he expects to build the structure, and be able to trace the pedigrees back to all the different branches from which they spring. With this view of the matter, success in improvements can rarely be attained by a continued addition of doubtful or unknown blood. It is true this subject has claimed the earnest consideration of some of the greatest minds, and while scarcely two opinions agree as to the origin of certain specific results, yet all agree to the one great fact, that the highest and most perfect types are preserved by a proper coalescence of pure and vigorous blood. And as there is always a natural tendency to decadence, it is necessary to understand those principles and tendencies even when we wish only to preserve the tenure of the different types when once established. For we may, in one decade, possibly sacrifice what it has required the skill of ages to establish, and by a reckless and unsystematic comingling of different strains or races, we may wreck and bring into utter confusion the most noble ancestral lineage or lines. Such has already been the fate of some most valuable breeds, sacrificed upon the altar of reckless chance.

In conclusion, let us appeal to those who are engaged in the cultivation and propagation of the hog, to observe critically every instructive fact bearing on the subject, and apply them faithfully and systematically; as well for private benefit as for public good, as it is by this course of breeding that improvements are made and perfected by systematic generalizations, critically drawn and deduced from well authenticated facts.

We have the best climate, the best facilities, and have now the best material to proceed with which ever existed on the globe, and for proper development, our country has no equal in the world.

We should let practical skill and scientific knowledge take the place of prevalent recklessness or ignorance, and im-

provement and progress will go rapidly on with the most beneficial results.

CHOLERA.

As our allotted space is already filled, and perhaps overrun, we ask an excuse for reluctantly offering some observations on this fearful and most fatal disease; a disease which continues to fill the minds of hog breeders with alarm and apprehension, and has thus far baffled the skill of many of our most eminent men. The very word "cholera" has terrible sickening associations that are alone appalling. And we may safely assume, that millions of hogs annually die from the effects of this disease. So fearful have been its ravages for several years past, that a great many farmers have abandoned the pursuit, or at least are disinclined to make investments, especially in the finer breeds.

We do not anticipate that justice can be done to a subject of such extent and importance as the one before us, in the space of a few short pages; and our views, as regards the origin, progress and termination of the disease, are so much at variance with those of many of the most scientific men who have investigated it, that it would be viewed as only absurd in us to extend our observations farther as to the main or important facts that have been revealed. However, we assume the responsibility of saying that the word "cholera," has only been employed to designate a disease of great fatality, and not that its real symptoms, or the indications accompanying its progress and termination, are at all allied to what was manifested in the disease of that name which has decimated the human race; and as all the preparations which have been made have been prepared in view of curing epidemic "cholera," we have no doubt but they have hastened the death of more hogs than have ever been relieved by their use. To favor this view, we have only to refer to the generally acknowledged fact, that while hundreds of preparations purporting to cure this disease, have emanated from the best sources and have been extensively distributed and used in all the sections where the disease has prevailed, NOT ONE has yet proved a specific, or has even effected a single cure when the disease was fairly developed. These facts seem to us to prove, that either the origin or nature of the disease has been misunderstood, or that the disease when fully developed, is incurable. We suspect both to be true, and that the causes which engender the disease, are entirely foreign to those which induce epidemic "cholera." The many *post mortem* examinations which have been made by our scientific men, upon hogs of different ages, and in all stages of disease, connected with microscopic views of all the different affected parts, plainly reveal to us the fact, that the disease is not epi-

demie, or cutaneous, spasmodic or contagious, but is a growing or accumulative disease, produced by adverso treatment at particular periods of the year, and terminating at other and indefinite periods, the progress and termination depending entirely upon the intensity of cause which produced it, and the character and condition of the animal at the time. A most fearful feature of the disease, is, that there are no external manifestations until it is near its termination; and at this period the hog generally dies suddenly, and that in defiance of all the remedies which may be used. Doubtless very many hogs have been affected with this disease, but so slightly that it was not externally manifested, and in all such cases, when sows are thus effected and pregnant, the disease is transmitted to the offspring, and although the mother may survive it, the pigs will either die or so inherit the malady that it will be again transmitted in a more malignant form. In this way it may become hereditary, and continually multiply until a whole herd may be swept off. There seems to be no want of evidence that the disease is not epidemic or contagious, for although not being able to say in what the pestilential condition of the atmosphere must consist, in order to produce epidemic disease, yet, in this disease, we can generally measure its range and fix its limits, and find the most conclusive evidence that it is not only circumscribed, but in most cases, and under most circumstances, it is stationary. If the disease was epidemic or contagious, and was produced by any morbid condition of the atmosphere, it would be impossible for it to be so circumscribed or confined to particular localities at particular periods of the year; and, too, while these localities possess no more of the natural elements calculated to induce epidemics than others which, at the same time might be free of the disease. It has lately been pronounced by some very eminent physicians as a blood disease. This, no doubt, is true, and is one grand step towards a proper solution. But while the blood in this as well as in many other diseases, is greatly involved, yet the blood as we know is the immediate agent of nutrition by which the system, in all its parts, is sustained and developed. The blood itself, with all its power of nutrition, is alone derived from the food. Hence these facts greatly aid us in tracing the disease to one of its prime sources, the food, coupled with unnatural and adverse treatment.

But as we make no pretension as a "Hog Esculapius," and not wishing further to tax the incredulity of those who differ from us, we will leave the subject, and will content ourselves by continuing our own course of breeding and management, which has, up to the present time, kept our herd free from such diseases.

Lexington, Ky. P. B. BRYANT.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture:

PARRSBOROUGH, CUMBERLAND CO., }
9th July, 1872. }

Sir,—We received here to-day the Nova Scotia Journal of Agriculture for the month of July, 1872. It contains the usual reports from most of the Counties of the Province as to the prospects of this year's crops. These reports, although in some instances brief, must be interesting to all your readers having the prosperity of the Province at heart, which depends so much on the goodness of our crops; they are the basis of a great deal of the business now done by us. For instance, without the hay and oats we raise ourselves, we could not carry on so successfully as we do our extensive ship-building and lumbering operations. Teams would be fed at a fearful cost, logging and getting out ship-timber in the winter, if we had to purchase all the hay and oats they require from adjoining Provinces. For several years past, in every country district, the price of hay has been from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per net ton of 2,000 lbs. in the autumn, often rising to \$16.00 and \$20.00 in the spring. Formerly, say forty years ago, it was sold in our country villages at \$4.00 to \$6.00 per gross ton of 2,240 lbs. It is not that it is less plentiful, (the extension of marshes and uplands, and the reclaiming of low lands and meadows, must have caused a vast increase in the quantity); but that there are more purchasers, more neat stock, and more business done requiring team work. Grain has not risen in price in the same ratio. Flour and meal imported from Ontario and the United States are so plentiful and cheap that they keep down the price of grain. It is, therefore, now a greater object than formerly for owners of land to grow hay, whether for sale or to save the purchasing of it.

There is always much anxiety about the potato crop. It has so long been damaged by the blight. This disease has caused yearly large failures of the crop since 1845, and affected the price favorable to farmers in markets at home and abroad. It is a valuable and favourite esculent; and, notwithstanding repeated failures in cultivating it, we generally try again, and always have crop enough to encourage us to do so. We never have now the old-fashioned crops of two hundred and three hundred bushels per acre.

I have the same remarks to make, as regards the weather in seed time, that appeared in the report of your correspondents. It continued to rain incessantly, and was cold for about four weeks, up to the 17th ult. Occasionally there would be a sunny day; but these sunny days did not dry the ground sufficiently

to enable us everywhere to go on with the inevitable work of ploughing, harrowing, sowing, planting, and carting out manure. In many places in Parrsborough, the farms are so dry that the owners can improve each fine day in ploughing and planting, and never fail to do so—some of them with their teams working on rainy days as well. Consequently much of the grain and potatoes were got in here soon enough, though not quite so early as usual. We all feared that the seed so planted and sown would rot in the ground, the wet weather having continued so long after it was put in. I am glad to report that this has not been the case. The potatoes everywhere on these light and gravelly soils never came up better, and the grain fields are all looking well. There may be some diminution in the quantities put in, or intended to have been put in; but, if so, it will be made up by turnips, buckwheat, and the late sowing of oats for fodder. Turnips and buckwheat do well put in late in June and early in July; and even potatoes planted on old ground here last year, so late as the 20th July, succeeded well.

The hay crop, at this date, promises to be good on the marshes and upland fields. In the Half-way River and West Brook meadows, it is said the crop will be light, having been either winter-killed or killed by too much wetness in the spring, or perhaps by both.

Since the 17th ult. the weather has been favourable with timely showers, and it has been duly improved by every family having crops to raise. Almost all the spring work is now over, and the hoeing of potatoes is going on; yet, there are eleven days that the late crops I have mentioned may be put in to advantage.

Fruit trees were gorgeous in every orchard here this spring, and we hope to have a correspondingly good crop of fruit. Strawberries are brought to market now in small quantities—a few pottles each day. I think the crop will not be large, although there was a great show of blossoms. They may have been touched on the fields inland by the usual June frost.

Although long kept in doubt and suspense from the continued cold and wet weather, we have had our seed time as promised; then, let us trust in Providence that, in due time, we shall have our harvest also as promised.

T. D. DICKSON.

June 21st, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—This has been an unusually wet and cold spring, at least a month later than last year. The oldest inhabitant has no recollection of such a late spring. Many farmers had not a seed in the ground before the 18th of June, and the potatoes cannot be planted before the first week of July. The usual quantity

of oats and potatoes will be sown and planted. Buckwheat will be sown largely, as it will do later than any other grain.

It is the opinion of most people that we will have an autumn to suit the spring, and they are acting accordingly.

We are almost sure of an abundant hay crop. No late frost, plenty of moisture, and the heat that has been for the last eight days, has secured it. By the time we get our crops in the ground, we shall have to commence hay-making.

C. N. SPORR.

Middle Musquodoboit.

[The above communication having been delayed in the Post Office, did not reach us in time to be published with the other Reports in our July number.—Ed. J. A.]

Miscellaneous.

YARMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION, 1872.

PREMIUMS OPEN TO THE PROVINCE.

Exhibition to be held on Thursday, 3rd October, or first following fine day, on Parade Ground and in Court House.

Premiums open to the Province to be awarded to competitors for articles of their own growth or production, or three months' possession in the case of stock, except animals imported for breeding purposes; Exhibitors not members of the society, paying an entrance fee of one dollar, at the time of making entries.

Articles exhibited, excepting stock, must be the growth, production or manufacture of the present year.

The age of all live stock, with breed and description as far as possible, must be given, and every article whatever must have name attached, with the number of Exhibitor.

Articles for sale may be so labelled; after the award of premiums, lists of members will be posted that the public may ascertain owners.

All entries must be made in writing, and handed in on or before Tuesday, preceding the day of Exhibition, to the Chairman of the Managing Committee, by whom, or by the Secretary, a number will be supplied to each Exhibitor.

Nothing will be received after 9 A. M. on the day of Exhibition, and no article on exhibition to be removed before 3 P. M.

Exhibitors will be expected to look after the proper arrangement of whatever they exhibit, care and safe keeping of Stock, &c., under the direction of the several Committees.

Building and grounds open only to Committees and Exhibitors until 10 o'clock, after which the public will be admitted to the grounds free, to the Court House on payment of 25 cents—children half-price.

The award of Premiums will be announced at 2 p. m., and Premiums will be paid at the next regular Quarterly Meeting—first Tuesday in November.

Manufacturers and Inventors are invited to exhibit. Special committee will be appointed for items not included in Premium List, and premiums will be awarded according to amount of funds unappropriated.

Compliance with conditions will be required without exception.

Police Constables will be in attendance to protect property, and to ensure good order.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

Class 1—Horses.

Best Stallion, 4 years old and upwards,	\$4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
Best Mare, 4 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
Best Gelding, 4 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
Best Pair Matched Horses,	5 00
2nd do. do.,	3 00
Best Draught Horse,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
Best Colt, 3 years old,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Colt, 2 years old,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Colt, 1 year old,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 25
Best Sucking Colt,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 25

Class 2—Male Neat Stock.

Best Bull, 3 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 25
Best Bull, 2 years old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best Bull Calf,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
3rd do. do.,	50
All Bulls must be ringed and securely fastened.	
Best yoke Working Oxen, 6 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best yoke Working Oxen, 5 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best yoke Working Oxen, 4 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best Fat Ox, 4 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best yoke Steers, 3 years old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best yoke Steers, 2 years old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best yoke Steers, 1 year old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best Steer Calf,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
3rd do. do.,	50

Class 3—Female Neat Stock.

Best Fat Cow,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best Cow, 5 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50

Best Cow, 5 years old and upwards,	\$4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best Cow, 4 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best Cow, 3 years old and upwards,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 50
Best Heifer in Milk, 2 years old and upwards,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best Heifer, dry, 2 years old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best Heifer, 1 year old and upwards,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best Heifer Calf,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
3rd do. do.,	50

Class 4—Sheep, Swine and Poultry.

Best Ram,	\$3 00
2nd do.,	2 00
Best Ewe,	3 00
2nd do.,	2 00
Best Fat Wether,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Ram Lamb,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best Ewe Lamb,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best Loin,	3 00
2nd do.,	2 00
Best Sow,	3 00
2nd do.,	2 00
Best Barrow, 1 year old and over,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Spring Pig,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best Pig, 4 months and under,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best litter Sucking Pigs,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best pair Turkeys,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best pair Geese,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best pair Ducks,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best Collection pure bred Fowls,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best pair Fowls,	1 25
2nd do. do.,	75
Best pair or more Spring Chickens,	1 25
2nd do. no.,	75

Class 5—Dairy Produce, &c.

Best crock or tub Butter, 40 lbs. or over,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best 5 lbs. Butter, in rolls or prints,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Cheese, not less than 20 lbs.,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best 1/4 qtl. Large Shore Dry Codfish,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best 1/4 qtl. Table do.,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00

Class 6—Grain and Seed.

Best bushel Wheat,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Barley,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Rye,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Oats,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Buckwheat,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00

Best 12 Ears Corn,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best bushel Beans,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Peas,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Timothy Seed,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best bushel Clover Seed,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best 20 lbs. Turnip Seed,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best coll. Vegetable Seeds, exhibited in boxes, open to view and correctly named,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00

Class 7—Vegetables, Roots, &c.

Best show of Vegetables, without regard to the number of varieties,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best 6 varieties Potatoes, named, 1 dozen each,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best bushel Potatoes for the Table,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best bushel Potatoes for Stock,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Turnip Blood Beets,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Long Blood Beets,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Mangold Wurtzel, long,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Carrots,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Parsnips,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 Turnips,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 Cabbage, Drumhead,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 Cabbage, Savoy,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 Cabbage, Red Dutch,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 Cauliflowers,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 Squash, Hubbard,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 2 Squash, Boston Marrow,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 2 Squash, any other variety,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 2 Pumpkins,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 12 Onions,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 12 Tomatoes,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 6 heads Celery,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best brace Cucumbers,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50

Class 8—Fruit and Flowers.

Best coll. Apples, named, 12 each,	4 00
2nd do. do.,	2 50
3rd do. do.,	1 25
Best doz. Apples, named,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best doz. Pears,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best doz. Plums,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25

Best Specimen Plants in pots, not over 4 varieties,	2 50
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best vase Bouquet Flowers,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best hand Bouquet Flowers,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best collection Dahlias,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best collection Verbenas,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best coll. Pansies,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25

Class 9—Fine Arts.

Best Oil Painting,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Painting in Water Colors,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Pencil Sketch, local or from life,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 25
3rd do. do.,	75
Best Crayon Drawing,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 25
Best collection Photographs,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best plan of School Section from Public School Pupil,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best specimen Penmanship from Public School Pupil,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50

Class 10—Bread, Preserves, &c.

Best Wheat Bread,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Rye and Indian Bread,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Corn Bread,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
All kinds of Bread not less than 2 lbs., and baked the day before the Exhibition.	
Best collection Preserves and Jellies, not over 12 varieties,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best collection Pickles, not over 6 varieties,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
3rd do. do.,	1 00
Best Honey in Comb,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best Honey strained, in Glass Jar,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 2 lbs. Wax,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50

Class 11—Domestic Manufactures, Fancy Work, &c.

Best Home-Made Carpet,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Home-Made Mat,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Patchwork Quilt,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Set Furs,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best 10 yards Homespun, grey,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best 10 yds. Homespun, white,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best 10 yards Homespun for Women's wear,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50

Best 2 lbs. Yarn, white,	2 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 2 lbs. Yarn, colored,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25
Best 6 pairs Mitts,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best 6 pairs Socks,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
Best Berlin Wool Work,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Embroidery,	1 50
2nd do. do.,	1 00
3rd do. do.,	50
Best Fancy Work, not classified,	1 00
2nd do. do.,	50
3rd do. do.,	25

Class 12—Miscellaneous.

Best Agri. Implement, home-made,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best assortment Leather,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	1 00
Best Harness Work,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best case Boots and Shoes,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best single specimen Cabinet Work,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best 3 pieces. Woodenware,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best piece Carriage Work,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Blacksmith Work,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Cook Stove for Coal,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best Brass Work,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00
Best case Edge Tools,	3 00
2nd do. do.,	2 00

Class 1.....	\$50 50
" 2.....	67 50
" 3.....	57 50
" 4.....	63 00
" 5.....	23 50
" 6.....	31 50
" 7.....	42 25
" 8.....	25 75
" 9.....	21 75
" 10.....	25 50
" 11.....	38 25
" 12.....	51 00
	\$500.00

Committees on each class and Managing Committee will be announced after the quarterly meeting in August, after which Exhibitors will address Chairman Managing Committee Yarmouth County Agricultural Exhibition.

CHARLES E. BROWN. Sec'y.

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