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CONTENTS :

	PAGE.		PAGE
FIELD AND FARM YARD:—Times are hard for Flour is high. . . . .	297	CORRESPONDENCE:—Lines, by A. Saunders, Halifax. . . . .	309
An Exemplary Cow and a heap of Squashes. . . . .	298	Horticulture, by Haligonian, Edinburgh. . . . .	309
Bulletin—the Western Farmer. . . . .	298	A few words about the Crops. By James Crosby, Hebron. . . . .	309
The Milk and Water Trade. . . . .	298	Wheat in Cape Breton. By J. Robertson, North Sydney. . . . .	301
Proposed Exhibition at North Sydney. . . . .	298	A word on behalf of the Ladies. By C. B. W. . . . .	301
Excessive cost of Drain Tiles. . . . .	298	Ploughing and Draining. By a Colchester Farmer. . . . .	301
List of Annual Grants to Societies for 1867. . . . .	298	REPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES. . . . .	301
Cultivation of Barley. . . . .	299	AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS:—American Agriculturist—Canada	
The Wallace Exhibition. . . . .	299	Farmer—Stock Journal—Colonial Farmer—Mining Gazette, &c. . . . .	302
A Good Rule for Agricultural Societies. . . . .	299	MISCELLANEOUS:—Western Wheat Culture Ruinous. . . . .	303
How to be supplied with Stock this year. . . . .	299	The Recent Dundee Floral Fete. . . . .	303
How to Fatten an Editor for an Agricultural Show. . . . .	299	Cattle from Canada. . . . .	304

*The Field and Farm Yard.*

TIMES ARE HARD FOR FLOUR IS HIGH.

Strangers are much puzzled with a remark which we have frequently heard in Nova Scotia of late years, that "the times are hard for the farmers, for flour is high." Now, the farmer is regarded in England as a constitutional grumbler.—there is always something or somebody at fault, too much drought for the turnips, too much rain for the grain, blighting cold winds for the hops, or else nasty muggy weather that brings potato disease. Is the Nova Scotian farmer a constitutional grumbler likewise, it has been asked, that he even complains because the produce markets are good? The true answer is one that strangers receive almost with incredibility: *Our farmers are buyers, not sellers, of bread-stuffs.* Now this is one of the most lamentable facts connected with our agriculture, and it cannot be too prominently kept before our people, and before the people likewise of the Atlantic States, who are in a like position with ourselves in this, that the grain produce of their fields is not more than sufficient to give them bread for two or three months in the year. It is a fact which

derives increased importance, if we reflect upon the mode in which American agriculture has been, and is likely for some time to be, pursued. The great wave of European civilization has swept away the primeval forests from the Atlantic sea board westward, and has left behind a broad expanse of unproductive land. Crop after crop has been taken, and the pioneer farmer moves westward. Western fields become barren also through a similar process. The fertile wheat lands of the prairies are already here and there receding from the farmer like the mirage hills and dales on the great pampas, for it is only the very richest lands that can continue year after year to yield their annual crop of wheat like the everlasting hay fields of the Minas marshes. In Western Canada more careful cultivation is lessening the evil to some extent, but even there it is widely felt. "Our farms do not yield wheat as they used to." The yearly increase in the prices of grain may be, and has been, referred to a dozen causes less general in their operation, but is unmistakably due in the main to the increased wants of an increasing population, and the diminished power of a rapidly deteriorating soil. We have often enough brought before us the subsidiary questions of regulating by fiscal

arrangements the movements of grain and the *lines of transit*, whether it is better for grain to come to us this way or that way, and so on; but it would be well for themselves and for the country, if our farmers would take up seriously the more general question, whether we cannot in this country do more than has yet been done in contributing to meet the grain-wants of the people. Agricola, in his famous letters, pressed this subject home to our farmers, and with excellent results. Let those of our readers who possess his work turn to the 9th letter, and read it carefully in the light of the present state of things.

In a recent article in the Edinburgh *Journal of Agriculture*, it is observed that, "considering the precariousness of the foreign supply, and the danger of its being interrupted either by war or a deficient harvest, it is to the interest of the British farmer to grow as much wheat as possible." The rapid increase by emigration of the population of the United States, has been more than met by the production of cereal food, but the increase has taken place only in the new Western States, the produce of the older States having largely decreased. According to Mr. Wells, "the same law of deterioration is observable in the richer regions of

the South and West, showing that with our present unskilful modes of farming, we are taking much more from the productive ability of our soils than we are returning to them, and that our agricultural prosperity is really and constantly on the wane. In Indiana, the river bottoms which used to produce an average crop of 60 bushels of corn to the acre, now produce only 40. In Wisconsin only half the number of bushels of wheat are now raised on the acre which were raised 12 years ago. What, then, is the conclusion of the whole matter? The soils of New England are annually growing poorer, and even the virgin lands of the Great West are rapidly becoming exhausted of their fertility." And yet the number of mouths to be fed is daily increasing.

It is time therefore, that we should be making some effort to increase the cultivation of grain, and especially of wheat, if our people are to be supplied with the staff of life at reasonable rates. How this may be done will be considered in a future article. Meanwhile we commend to the notice of our readers an article in another column of the present number, extracted from the Bi-monthly Report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, which, although rather sensational in its heading and sweeping in its statements, is well worthy of careful consideration. If "wheat culture is ruinous" in the West, certainly the want of wheat culture is ruinous in the East.

#### AN EXEMPLARY COW, AND A HEAP OF SQUASHES.

We are frequently indebted for interesting notices of Nova Scotian products to John Northup, Esq., whose zeal in agricultural improvement is well known. This month he sends us particulars of a remarkable yield of butter by a cow belonging to Edw. O'Brien, Esq., Windsor. We sometimes hear of a cow being worth her weight in gold, but this cow is much better than that; for in less than a year she has yielded nearly half the weight of an ordinary cow, in golden butter. From 17th January to 17th December—eleven months—she yielded 278½ lb. of butter, besides raising a calf and supplying a family with milk the whole time. Mr. O'Brien has likewise, during the past season, raised from one seed, ten large squashes, weighing together 513 lb.

#### BULLETIN—THE WESTERN PRINCE.

"The Western Prince," imported from Canada by the Board of Agriculture, was suffering so much from the effects of his rough sea voyage, that he could not be sold with the other importations on

1st November. There have been many enquiries respecting him since, and we have now the satisfaction to issue a final *Bulletin* to the effect that the Western Prince has quite recovered, is now in excellent condition, and promises to prove one of the best Short Horn bulls ever imported into the Province. He will be sold in the spring, and will remain till then at the Three Mile House.

#### PLDIGREL OF WESTERN PRINCE.

*Western Prince.* Roan, Calved 14th March, 1865. Purchased from M. H. Cochrane, Esq., Compton, Province of Quebec. Got by Prince of Wales, 4274.  
 Dam, Sanspareil 10th, by Windsor, 4584.  
 g d. Sanspareil 5th, by Twelfth Duke of Oxford, (17742).  
 g. g. d. Sanspareil, (imported) by Gauntlet, (10260).  
 g. g. g. d. Scramade, by Charles I. (8949).  
 g. g. g. g. d. Seraphina, by Earl of Essex, (6955).  
 g. g. g. g. g. d. Sapphire, by Strathey, (5336).  
 g. g. g. g. g. g. d. Ruby, by Fanatic, (1996).  
 g. g. g. g. g. g. g. d. Ruby, by Red Rover, (4902).  
 g. g. g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Rufus, (2576).  
 g. g. g. g. g. g. g. g. g. d. by Emperor, (1014)

#### THE MILK AND WATER TRADE.

In order to gain an insight into the real quality of London milk, the proprietors of the *British Medical Journal* obtained specimens of milk from ten first-class establishments at Notting-hill, Knightsbridge, Kensington, St. Giles, Blackfriars, the Strand, Bayswater, Paddington, Kensington, and Fulham, and submitted them to Dr. Voelker for analysis. The price at which these specimens were obtained was in every instance, save two, 4d. a quart. At Knightsbridge and Kensington the charge was 5d. a quart, the quality being in both these cases considerably worse than where milk was being sold at 4d. a quart. In every instance, save one, the milk sold as whole milk was skim milk lowered with water until its real value was less than 1d. a quart; and the more wealthy the neighbourhood and the more showy the shop in which the milk was sold, the worse proved the article supplied. In the Knightsbridge establishment, Dr. Voelker reports that the milk sold at 5d. a quart is skimmed milk, from every gallon of which, valued at 16d., eight pennyworth of cream had been abstracted, and to which an amount of water had been added which gave the dairyman an illicit profit of 14½d. on every gallon sold over and above what would have been a fair trading profit. Of the ten samples analysed, this Knightsbridge sample was the worst, save one. Only one sample stood the test of analysis triumphantly, and that was supplied by the Aylesbury Dairy Company, 23, Hereford-road, Bayswater, and proved to be pure milk, with the full amount of cream in it.

#### PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT NORTH SYDNEY.

The North Sydney Agricultural Society has made arrangements for holding an Exhibition at North Sydney during the fall of 1868. The time is not yet fixed, nor the prize list issued. If it is intended to make the Exhibition of any great extent, we hope the time will be arranged so as not to interfere with our Sydney friends coming up to the Great Provincial Exhibition during the second week of October.

#### EXCESSIVE COST OF DRAIN TILES.

At different times we have had enquiries respecting drain tiles. Persons desirous of draining have found the cost of tiles in this province out of all proportion to what it is elsewhere. No doubt one reason is the small demand for the article, which makes it not worth while for any of our manufacturers to consult sufficiently the wants of our farmers in this regard.

Tiles are dear, because there is little demand for them; and there is little demand for them because they are dear. Donald Mackay, Esq., Wallace, writes: "The cost of drain tiles in this Province precludes our farmers from bringing that article into general use. Under draining is very much wanted, especially in our clay soils."

We believe that most of the tiles that have been laid down in Nova Scotia of late years have been imported from New Brunswick. As there will be no import duty now, the cost will be somewhat less.

#### LIST OF ANNUAL GRANTS TO SOCIETIES FOR 1867.

Grants voted by the Board of Agriculture to County and District Societies for the year 1867, in proportion to subscriptions raised, in terms of the Act "for Encouragement of Agriculture."

##### ANNAPOLIS Co.

Bridgetown Agri. Society,	\$72.00
East Annapolis Ag. Society,	102.00
Paradise Ag. Society,	66.00

##### ANTIGONISH Co.

Antigonish Ag. Society of the County of Antigonish,	104.00
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##### CAPE BRETON Co.

Boularderie Ag. Society,	64.00
Sydney Ag. Society,	128.00
North Sydney Ag. Society,	48.00

##### COLCHESTER Co.

Shubenacadie Ag. Society,	34.00
Stirling Ag. Society,	38.00
Upper Londonderry Ag. Soc.	29.00
Upper Stewiacke Ag. Society,	29.00
Onslow Ag. Society,	65.00
Lower Stewiacke Ag. Society,	45.00

<b>CUMBERLAND Co.</b>	
Amherst Ag. Society,	52.00
River Philip Ag. Society,	34.50
Minudie and Barronsfield Ag. Society,	38.50
Parrsboro' Ag. Society,	72.00
Wallace Ag. Society,	43.00
<b>DIGBY Co.</b>	
Clare Ag. Society,	83.00
Digby Central Ag. Society,	74.00
Weymouth Ag. Society,	83.00
<b>GUYSBOROUGH Co.</b>	
Milford Haven Ag. Society,	80.00
[Returns of other Societies in this County are not yet complete.]	
<b>HALIFAX Co.</b>	
Upper Musquodobot Ag. Soc.	41.00
Dartmouth Ag. Society	44.00
Lower Musquodoboit Ag. Soc.	44.00
Western Halifax Ag. Society,	108.00
<b>HALFANTS Co.</b>	
Fenwick Ag. Society of Noel and Maitland,	59.00
Hardwoodland Ag. Society of Nine Mile River,	46.00
Newport Ag. Society,	45.00
Windsor Ag. Society,	90.00
<b>INVERNESS Co.</b>	
Mabou & Port Hood Ag. Soc.	61.50
North East Branch Margaree River Ag. Society,	59.50
South West Branch Margaree River Ag. Society,	59.50
Broad Cove Ag. Society,	59.50
<b>KINGS Co.</b>	
Aylesford Ag. Society,	56.00
Kings County Ag. Soc. Lower Horton,	53.00
Union Ag. Soc., E. Cornwallis,	62.00
West Cornwallis Ag. Society,	69.00
<b>LUNenburg Co.</b>	
[The returns from this County are not yet sufficiently complete to warrant a calculation of the proportion of grant that may be appropriated to any of the societies.]	
<b>PICTOU Co.</b>	
Egerton Ag. Society.	\$37.00
Maxwelton Ag. Society,	46.00
Merigomish Ag. Society,	42.00
Pictou Ag. Society,	55.00
River John Ag. Society,	60.00
<b>QUEEN'S Co.</b>	
Returns not yet received.	
<b>RICHMOND Co.</b>	
Returns not yet received.	
<b>SHELburne Co.</b>	
Barrington Ag. Society,	120.00
<b>VICTORIA Co.</b>	
Baddeck Ag. Society,	48.00
Mid. River of Victoria Ag. So.	90.00
North Shore of St. Ann's Ag. Society,	54.00
St. Ann's South Gut Ag. Soc	48.00

**YARMOUTH Co.**  
 Yarmouth Township Ag. Soc. 37.00  
 Yarmouth County Ag. Soc. 135.00  
 Pubnico Ag. Society, 48.00  
 By order of the Board of Agriculture,  
 GEORGE LAWSON, *Secretary.*  
*Halifax, 31st Dec., 1867.*

**CULTIVATION OF BARLEY.**

On a former occasion we noticed the success which attends the cultivation of barley in Nova Scotia. Barley is the best of all substitutes for wheat. In a communication from F. Sorenson, Esq., Weymouth, he makes enquiry for good seed barley, and remarks:—"Barley is very much sown here, as it is a sure crop, but a change of seed is very much needed." In Agricola's letters it is stated that "Barley is the very foster-child of Nova Scotia; and I have heard farmers profess that with them it had not failed more than once in twenty years."

**THE WALLACE EXHIBITION.**

Some arrangements had been in progress for holding an Agricultural Exhibition at Wallace, but the Society has deferred any local Exhibition for the present season, with the view of more effectually preparing for the Provincial Exhibition to be held at Halifax.

**A GOOD RULE FOR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.**

It is a good rule for Agricultural Societies to have an annual day fixed after which members names cannot be received for the year. This insures the numbers being made up in good time, so as to prevent inconvenience and disappointment in making application for the Provincial allowance. The Milford Haven Society, at a recent meeting, adopted the following change in its bye-laws:—"Each member shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of one dollar on or before the 27th day of April annually." The Hardwoodland Society has fixed the 1st of March for closing its list annually.

**HOW ARE WE TO BE SUPPLIED WITH STOCK THIS YEAR?**

It is known that the Board of Agriculture will not have the means of making any importation of pure stock this year, all its energies being directed towards the Great Provincial Exhibition, and the above question has been repeatedly asked. It is answered by a remark we find in a communication from A. Cameron, Esq., Baddeck. He states that the Society there is husbanding its funds with a view

to purchase at the Exhibition of 1868. Of course there will be plenty of animals offered for sale on that occasion by private persons and Societies that desire a change, and we recommend all who are in want of good animals to look forward to the opportunity.

**HOW TO FATTEN EDITORS FOR AN AGRICULTURAL SHOW.**

We have already given an account of the general arrangements at the great Buffalo Exhibition. One pleasing feature we have not yet referred to,—the solicitude of the western farmers in caring for Members of the Press. These latter gentlemen seem to have had what is called, in Anglo-American, "a real good time" Recollecting that the fox thought the grapes he could not taste, must be sour, the farmers, like reasonable men took care to let the literary corps taste their fat beeves and crammed turkeys, and the natural results we see in the ample reports that have been published.

**THE PRESS DEPARTMENT.**

The room set apart for the Press was provided with every convenience that could be desired, and without doubt was the best furnished apartment on the Fair grounds. This department was under the superintendence of Major Clapp, of the Buffalo *Express*, who courteously extended the hospitalities of the Society to members of the profession. It will not be out of place, perhaps, to record, in this connection, the major's acknowledgements to parties who kindly contributed to make this department more comfortable and pleasant than usual.

**THE PRESS AND THEIR FRIENDS.**

"The committee for the reception of the press at the State Fair has been reminded that the editorial profession has friends. The following donations have been generously furnished at the press headquarters on the Fair ground.

"G. C. Irish, jr., furnished the room set apart for the press, with a carpet, sofas, chairs, tables, etc., by which the place was made more than comfortable.

"Mr. H. Birge decorated the walls of the room occupied by the press with neat paper hanging, well put on.

"Messrs. Jewett, Church & Co., No. 259 Maine St., furnished the room with a refrigerator and ice cooler.

"V. L. Tiphaine furnished several packages, properly labeled, for the comfort of the editors.

"W. E. Story sent a mysterious demijohn, which seemed to be well adapted to the refrigerator and water cask. Along with the same was another demijohn with

the compliments of Wm. H. Douglas, Esq., marked 'Old Otard.'

"James Adams & Co., sent with their compliments a box of excellent cigars.

"The Platt Fruit and Oyster Co., furnished a basket of fruit.

"Messrs. D. & H. Edwards kindly presented a basket of crackers, cheese, fruit and wines.

"Messrs. W. J. Mills and Co., furnished a box of cigars.

"Messrs. Hadley & Nichols, very generously put up one of their excellent coal stoves for the warming of the room.

"The Urbana Wine Co., deposited in the press headquarters, a case of Imperial wine.

"The press room is indebted to Hoyt, Plagg & Co., Louisville, Ky., for a case of their Sunnyside Chewing Tobacco; and to some unknown person for a package of cigars.

"For all these evidences of friendship the press makes due acknowledgement, and will make proper return."

### Communications.

#### BONES.

The effects of manure depend so much upon climate—upon the consequent interval between seed time and harvest—upon the consequent tendency to succulent and leafy or to hard woody growth—upon the opportunities afforded for a more or less easy solution and distribution through the soil, that the experience of one locality is by no means necessarily an index or guide to that of another. For several years I witnessed a number of trials of various combinations of guano, superphosphate, bones, sulphate of ammonia, &c., which may be interesting to the farmers of this country. Every farmer should be aware of the value of crushed bones as a manure for the turnip, with the aid of superphosphate (bones dissolved with sulphuric acid in order to reduce them so as they may become soluble in water, which is an immediate food for plants) to give early vitality to the plant, relying on the more substantial bones for a supply of food in the later stages of growth, and for the subsequent benefit of the land. It is in connection with the use of bones that I may suggest something useful. What I recommend is, that whenever a supply of crushed bones is procured, (which lying in a heap will immediately heat and so far exhaust themselves) small charcoal in a very dry state be added to the bones in proportion—two parts charcoal and one part bones. The effect will be, the charcoal will absorb and retain all the valuable gaseous matter which bones alone will give off, their entire substance will be preserved and given out to the turnip gradually and as

wanted, and all waste of the virtue of the bones will be prevented. The charcoal will have a beneficial effect in the soil in many ways, even after the vegetation shall have extracted all the manurial value from the bones. On the same principle I would suggest that charcoal be added to the manure heap, so as to arrest and fix the smoking vapours which are often seen to ascend from it, and which are nothing less than the absolute essence of the dung heap. But it will be asked where and how are these "bones" and "charcoal" to be obtained? At the last meeting of the agricultural committee, which, through your kindness, I was invited to attend, Mr. Stanford informed us that his Bone Crushing Mill would soon be in operation, and that the farmers might depend upon an unlimited supply of bones of all sorts and sizes. As for the charcoal it is at your doors, and may be made by any labouring man at a very small cost and in a very simple manner. The loppings of trees, which are too small for any other use, are the suitable material for such charcoal, and will convert those otherwise useless materials into a most useful manure. In order to make it all that is required, is to set fire to a large heap of such refuse, and while the combustion is going on to apply water, which, if carefully used, arrests the burning of the wood at the point of charring and before ash is produced. In this way large heaps of charcoal might be made, by a little careful manipulation, from materials otherwise useless. Charcoal is light and therefore bulky, probably twice the bulk of bones; and the drier it is the better (in its use it is most important it should be dry). In a wet state it is of comparatively no value, but under cover there is no difficulty in drying it however wet it may be in making, or may have become from exposure to rain. Bones used in this way, 30 to 35 bushels per acre, will preserve their fertilizing powers on pastures from 15 to 20 years, but if constantly mown 8 to 10 years will exhaust their strength; 20 bushels per acre would be sufficient for a turnip crop. Bones on pastures should always be rolled in, and always harrowed in with other crops. Bones, after boiling and extracting the grease, are equally as good as when applied in a raw state, and in some instances answer better. Oyster shells and egg shells are composed of nearly the same qualities as bones of fish and animals. Bones and sheep dung mixed, two parts sheep's dung and one part bones, is a very valuable manure,—25 to 30 bushels per acre is sufficient for a root crop. Bones are much more durable than guano, oil or fish.

Trusting these few hints on bones and charcoal may be useful to some of your subscribers, with your permission I will give your readers my experience with a

few other artificial manures; and if by so doing I can arouse a few of the farmers to try what I am sure cannot but be remunerative to them, I shall be amply repaid. I should be wanting if I did not take this opportunity of thanking you for your many kindnesses extended towards me since my arrival in this country.

Yours, &c.,

ALFRED SAUNDERS, *Seedsman*,  
168 Argyle Street, Halifax.

P. S.—I shall be glad to supply the Agricultural Societies with seeds at London catalogue prices, (with addition of freight and expenses) for all orders received before and on the 1st February, 1868.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.  
HORTICULTURE.

Edinburgh, Dec., 1867.

MR. EDITOR.—I was much pleased, in looking over the schedule for the intended Provincial Exhibition, to see that such ample provision had been made for the Horticultural Department. And I hope the lovers of horticulture will unite, and make a display that will be a credit to the province, so that it may be the means of inducing all classes to take an interest in such matters. For I am certain that if some of our wealthy and influential citizens would take the matter in hand, an annual horticultural show would become a fixed fact. The perfection to which horticulture is carried on this side of the Atlantic is in a great measure owing to the countenance and support given by all to such exhibitions; and thus the cultivator is stimulated to make greater exertions to bring forward some new or improved varieties of flowers, fruit or vegetables. Therefore we ought to have such shows frequently, as it would tend to advance the art of horticulture; for although much has been done by the horticultural and other societies we are still far behind. I hope these societies and all interested will use all the means at their disposal to make an annual horticultural exhibition a permanent institution.

Yours, &c.,  
HALIGONIAN.

#### A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE CROPS.

Hebron, Yarmouth, 11th Dec., 1867.

The past season has been most unfavorable for the maturing and harvesting of most kinds of crops. Hay was a large crop, but owing to heavy rains and protracted fogs, a large portion of it was much damaged in the making. Wheat but little sown. Oats and Barley much damaged by wet and the severe gale of August, consequently a short crop. Potatoes may be said to be an entire failure

except in a few favoured localities. (The blight having taken them as early as the 1st of July.) the smallest crop perhaps ever raised in the County. Other root crops, as Turnips, Mangolds and Carrots, were a fair return. Apples (where raised) gave promise of an abundant yield, but the heavy August gale almost completely stripped the trees of fruit, foliage, and in many cases, limbs.

Yours, &c., JAMES CROSBY.

P. S.—In reply to the circular requesting the nomination of a member of the Board of Agriculture, a successor to G. L. Brown, Esq. this Society has nominated as their choice Mr. Frank Killam of Yarmouth.

JAS. CROSBY, Sec'y.

WHEAT IN CAPE BRETON.

Most of our farmers have given up the raising of wheat, for the simple reason that it was a partial failure for some years past. But it turned out very good in 1866, and the present year, and certain it is that half an ordinary return would pay our farmers better, considering the high price of flour, than any other kind of grain they can raise. Many others seem desirous to try it again, and I am glad that they agreed to send for some of the wheat imported by the Board at our annual meeting on the 1st December. Dr. Jeans was elected President, in place of Mr. Bown, and I am satisfied that the Doctor will take a lively interest in the affairs of the Society.

S. ROBERTSON, Secy.

WORD ON BEHALF OF THE LADIES.

I notice in a late number of the *Journal* that there are no prizes offered for home manufactured Woolfens, Linens, &c., and must think that this is yet to appear, as the General Committee cannot so far have forgotten the Ladies as to exclude them from helping along this laudable undertaking.

C. B. W.

Antigonish, Jan'y, 1868.

PLOUGHING AND DRAINING.

BY A COLCHESTER FARMER.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Agriculture* :—

SIR,—Having to travel much over our Province, I could not but look into the farming and stock, and see what a great difference between now and forty years ago. Then there were fine crops and fine horses, and other stock about equal to what they are now; but such farming no one ever saw. Now, in former times good teams were kept for ploughing, &c., but now many own but one pair of steers and a small horse,—which is said all for economy. Now I state that God and

nature has given us one of the finest countries for almost, if not altogether for, anything that man wishes to turn his mind to for a living; but we do not embrace it as we should;—just summer enough for a farmer to do his work, and a winter to brace up his nerves, and give him time for thought and gather information. But, Sir, let us turn our attention to agriculture. First, and in looking around, what do we find? The farmer often complaining, when the fault is his own; he will not assist nature in carrying off the rains when much has fallen, by drainage, nor yet in ploughing deeper and making his soil more porous to absorb the water until it rises again. Now what is generally the case? The farmer keeps a light team,—say there or four old steers and a light pair of horses, and not such as were formerly kept forty years ago,—and having that weak team, he ploughs four or five inches deep, and that on lands with much of an incline, and a poor crop generally follows. All depends upon Providence, by giving just such a season as would suit, with neither too much rain nor yet too dry; but if the season is one or both, which in all probability it will be, then a poor crop must follow, because the farmer has not assisted by drains in carrying off the water, nor yet by ploughing deeper to give the water more room. Now, take a piece of green sward and plough it four inches deep in the fall, and by spring, with the washing and decrease of earth in moving—as earth loses about one-fifth when it is moved,—and by the time it has raised grain and roots, and laid down again, a very large part is gone of what was first ploughed, therefore cannot be expected to produce much, because the rain washes it, and the water on it can go no depth down, and the heat burns it up because it has no depth of moisture. Look to the highways, and what do we find? with half an inch of dust, a shower of rain will wash it all away, and by a little heat the road is dry again. Further, a good rain falls about two inches, and is it to be saturated in four inches of ploughing? Having rained previous, it must and will carry off much of the fine particles of the soil, as well as the manure which should be retained to produce vegetation.

Now, Sir, it is said that our country will not produce as it used to do some thirty or forty years ago; but let us look at the fact. The new land from the wilderness produces grain or hay much as it used, but the ploughed land is not so. The fault is in the people; there is something wrong about their farming, and it is time that they should see otherwise when we have such remunerative prices as at present. We are now far too much beholden to Prince Edward Island for our oats and barley, and to Canada for our bread. Now this is too bad, with such a

country as I said we have. Therefore, I would say, let the farmer have open and under drains as far as possible to assist nature in carrying off the rains, and plough his land deeper, say six or ten inches. If land were so ploughed, and a rain of two inches comes, it will hardly be felt; but if it was ploughed four or five it would be floating away, and much of the best gone off, just in the same way that the highway does that I spoke of.

Many farmers will be disappointed next year, because the lands being much ploughed shallow, as I stated, and a wet season as it has been, it has taken much of the manure by soaking and washing, with the finer particles that should have been retained, and would, provided it had been ploughed deeper and open, or under drained. It may be said that lands ploughed deep require more manure. True, but a very small part more; and then you have something for your labour. It may be said, how shall a farmer know that his lands require draining? This he should know, that no land should allow the rains to run on the top except there is frost in it. And to get this draining done, it is hard we have no tiling being made, as in St. John and the old country; but parties are about starting. They can be got in Shubenacadie just now, which will be a great thing for farmers, provided the price is reasonable.

I am, &c.,

A COLCHESTER FARMER.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

SHUBENACADIE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

AUDITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows:—

Treasurer received from 40 members the sum of.....	£11 10 0
Paid to managing committee.....	11 10 0
	£23 0 0
Society owed the managing committee at commencement of year.....	£33 7 2
Balance of account to James Nelson....	2 5 0
Amount paid for the keeping of two bulls for one year.....	28 1 3
Amount paid for the keeping of sheep for one year.....	10 11 9
	£74 5 2
Provincial Grant for 1866.....	£15 15 0
Received from the Treasurer..	11 10 0
"    Ran service....	8 16 3
"    Bull service....	7 2 6
	43 3 9
Due the committee at date.....	£31 1 5

There have been 46 paying members in the Society for the present year.

The committee has sold two of their Leicester rams; we likewise find that one of the Leicester ewes has died. The committee has bought one Shropshire ram, which makes, belonging to the Society, one Leicester and two Shropshire

rams, one Leicester ewe, and two bulls, the one Durham and the other a Devon.

Hay has been a very good crop this season. Potatoes and all kinds of grain have been somewhat inferior.

DAVID MOORE,  
DUNCAN McLEAN.

You will find below a few resolutions passed by our Society, which you will please lay before the Central Board of Agriculture.

1st. When this Society was made acquainted that the managers had consented to give five pounds out of the Provincial Grant of next year, for the benefit of our Provincial Exhibition, it was moved, and passed by the Society, that £7 10s. be given in place of £5. So you can count on the £7 10s.

2nd. Moved and passed, that Colonel Lawrie be recommended as a suitable person to fill the vacancy in the Central Board.

3rd. Moved by Colonel Lawrie, and passed.—Whereas the method pursued by those empowered to provide the meat for the Army and Navy is by tender and contract, and on account of competition, it is generally taken very low, and to prevent the contractor from sustaining a loss, he buys an inferior quality of beef, which causes the consumer to live on a poor article; and has likewise the effect of ruling the market for all other kinds of meat, and consequently there is no encouragement for the farmer to provide a first class quality.

Resolved—Therefore that the Secretary of the Central Board of Agriculture be requested to bring before the Board the propriety of advising the authorities that provide or arrange for the supply of the beef for the Army and Navy, that they would follow the English system of providing said article.

#### YARMOUTH TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Hebron, Yarmouth, Dec. 11, 1867.

DEAR SIR,—I herewith forward report of the Annual Meeting of the Yarmouth Agricultural Society, together with a statement of the financial condition of the Society, &c.

The Society met in annual meeting on the 3rd inst., at 10 o'clock, A.M. Josiah Raymond, Esq., Pres., in the chair.—Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Treasurer's account submitted, showing balance on hand of \$196.82½ Provincial Grant for 1867 yet unknown; account passed. Voted that Society continue for another year.

The following officers were then elected. Pres., Henry Saunders; Vice-Pres. and Treas., Charles Caham; Secretary James Crosby; Directors, Alexander

Crosby, Isaiah Crosby, William Durke, Charles Butler, Samuel Crosby.

The Society has held no Exhibition this year, it being thought preferable to omit it for one year, and appropriate the funds to purchase of stock. Society now wishes to purchase two Bulls, one Devon and one Alderney, and one or more Alderney Heifers to the extent of the funds. The only expenditures of the Society for the year is the sum of \$8.84c for rent, fuel, postage, advertizing &c.

I remain yours truly  
JAMES CROSBY, Sec'y.

#### AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS.

We have frequent enquiries from Secretaries of Societies, respecting the periodicals best adapted to farmers in the Province; and it may therefore be well, notwithstanding our limited space, to endeavour to indicate briefly the contents of the various Journals received during the past month.

The *American Agriculturist*, (Orange Judd & Co., 245 Broadway, New York—\$1.50 per annum,) opens with one of Landseer's dog pictures, and a very pretty picture it is for a dog club if not for a sheep farmer. There is a very interesting letter from Mr. Judd, who has been on a pleasure trip in Europe, who tells how he crossed Garibaldi's path near Rome, and what he saw on the sides of Vesuvius and in the partly exhumed streets of the ancient city of Pompeii. But the Journal is an agricultural one, and the principal articles are on agricultural subjects. There is a paper of great value on the crossing of our Domestic Cattle with the Buffalo of the Western prairies; both half breeds and quarter breeds are figured, the flesh is said to be superior, the animals of great weight; and we trust some of our Red River friends who have the means so conveniently at command, will show us that something good can come out of the Great West of which we hear so much. We have scarcely room to enumerate the titles of the most interesting papers: Road-making, Draining, House Plants, Bees, Our Sugar Supply, Fences, Peruvian Guano, and the Chincha Islands with drawings, the American Mistletoe with woodcut, an Apple Portrait, the Mount Vernon Pear, Horseradish, Tomatoes, Mignonette, Domestic Hints,—these are but a tithe of the useful articles to be found in this most valuable of the American Agricultural Journals. There are likewise the advertisements of the various nurserymen and seedsmen, which to our farmers are quite as valuable as the editorial matter.

The *Canada Farmer* has articles on the Structure and Office of Leaves, How to Exterminate the Thistle, Notes on Tree Plantations, the Winter Management of

Stock, (the remarks on which should be carefully read by all our farmers), an improved Check and Driving Rein, which will, no doubt, work well enough when the horse is quiet; a classification of Native Hogs, Influenza in Horses, various Dairy articles; others on Etymology, Social and Industrial Condition, Poultry, Fish, &c. The *Canada Farmer* ought to circulate widely in all our Agricultural Societies, most of the articles being well adapted to our latitude. The Editor devotes an article to the Reaping Machine, in which he remarks that the Rev. Patk. Bell of Carmyle, Perthshire, "claims" to be the inventor of the machine. Now, Mr. Bell does not "claim" anything of the kind, in the American sense of the term; but all those who know the history of the machine, know that Mr. Bell was the inventor.—And the Farmers of Britain are now raising by subscription a testimonial of their gratitude and esteem.

The *American Stock Journal* is replete with information respecting the various breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, and even smaller fry. If any one wants to know more than he already knows of the varieties of domestic animals, or if he wants to know the best ways and means of attending to their wants and comforts, and how to fatten up the finest animals at the least expense, let him turn over the pages of Messrs. Boyer & Co's. *Stock Journal*, of Gum Tree, Chester County, Pa., price \$1 per annum. The January number commences a new volume. It contains the usual amount of valuable articles, among which we notice, "Health of Dairy Stock in Winter." "The Most Profitable Breeds of Sheep." "Ayrshire Cattle." "Winter Diseases of Horses." "Jersey Cows." "Founder in Horses." "Hints on Care of Stock for January." "Improved Manger—Feeding Horses." "Rural Economy." "Ventilate your Stables." "Keep only the Best Stock." "Short-Horns as Milkers." "China or Hong Kong Geese." "Goiter in Lambs." "Winter Work in the Barn and Stock Yard." "Hamburg Fowls," &c. Every farmer should subscribe for it.

The *Colonial Farmer* of Fredericton, New Brunswick, gives an interesting record of the doings of the farming community in that part of the Dominion. It is as much a newspaper as an agricultural journal, but the selections are very judicious.

The *Gardeners' Monthly*, Philadelphia, \$2 per annum, is an excellent gardening journal, which reaches us occasionally. Our fruit growing friends would do well to look into the pages of the Monthly, in which judgments that are apparently candid, but sometimes rather unmerciful, are given respecting new varieties of fruit. We regret to observe a notice of the death of Dr. Dewey, of Rochester, a well

known Carigraphist. The Tomato War goes on, and the result seems to be that there is really as yet no good *Early* Tomato that we northerners can faithfully depend upon. Since the editor of *Gardeners' Monthly* has effectively shown all the reputed Early Tomatoes to be late ones, he cannot do better now than begin to show us which of the late ones is the earliest,—so that we may give it a fair trial. It does not matter so much at Philadelphia whether Tomatoes are early or late, but with us it is either early or none.

The *Mining Gazette* is a new monthly periodical issued by Mr. Heatherington, Somerset House, Halifax, at \$1.70 per annum. It contains a judicious selection of articles on mining matters, and notices of the various mining "operations," scientific and commercial, that are likely to interest those engaged in the development of our Mines. We hope the *Mining Journal* will meet with support, as it will do good service in attracting attention to our mineral resources, and thereby aid in their development.

### Miscellaneous.

#### WESTERN WHEAT CULTURE RUINOUS.

(From the *Washington Report*.)

In a tour to the northwest, undertaken for the purpose of increasing and improving facilities for the collection of agricultural statistics, and for conference with professional and other intelligent agriculturists relative to department co-operation in aid of the interests and supply of the wants of that great section, the Editor of this report was struck particularly with the ruinous tendency of the current system (or want of system) of wheat culture. A few suggestions on this point will be hazarded.

In what respect ruinous? In impoverishment of the soil, in deterioration of seed, in overrunning the country with weeds, in promoting a false and wasting system of political economy. These are serious charges, but they are made in good faith, can be easily substantiated, and will be acknowledged just by thousands of western wheat growers.

The prevalent mode of operating involves first a partial breaking of the soil, rendering sowing irregular in position and depth, and drilling difficult and imperfect, giving weeds quite as good a chance as the wheat. The next year a superficial, hasty ploughing partially covers the stubble, and very slightly the tangle of weeds, and wheat is again put in. Year after year wheat follows wheat and weeds increase, while the yield of grain diminishes, partially from loss of certain elements of the soil and partly because weeds have

usurped a large area of the fields. In the mean time, as if to increase the loss from the wheat necessarily carried away, the straw by millions of tons, worth almost as much per ton for feeding as the marsh or prairie hay of the country, is burned nightly in harvest time till the sky is bright with a continued holocaust of greenbacks in straw; and the excuse for thus dissipating in thin air, not only elements of nutrition, but valuable elements of fertilization, is that the way may be clear for the plough to scratch over again the maltreated soil. This picture may not be verified in every wheat field of the west, but who will deny its striking likeness in most cases?

Is proof of impoverishment wanted? One witness only is needed—the soil itself. First, thirty bushels per acre is the boast of the farmer; then the yield drops to twenty-five, to twenty, to fifteen, and finally to ten and eight. Minnesota claimed twenty-two bushels average a few years ago, (some of her enthusiastic friends made it twenty-seven,) but she will scarcely average this year twelve, and will never again make twenty-two under her present mode of farming. To be sure, there are excuses. The seasons do not suit as formerly, blight or rust comes, or the fly invades, but all these things are evidences of exhaustion, and prey upon the soil in proportion to its deterioration. Yet in comparatively new soils the depreciation is caused by excess of weeds through careless culture more than by actual loss of fertility.

The same causes that deplete the soil produce degeneracy in the seed, which perpetuates weakness and imperfection, reducing the yield so rapidly that new seed must be obtained at once or all profit must be foregone. A careful selection of seed should every year be practiced and new seed used after successful test. It is as easy to improve seed by special care as it is to injure it by this special neglect, and he who will undertake such improvement wisely as a business, will make a fortune and prove a public benefactor.

The weed nuisance is stupendous, destroying annually tens of millions of bushels of wheat. They have obtained a strong foothold. The evil is a radical one, and can only be cured by being torn up by the roots, which can never be done without a more thorough and careful system of culture. The average yield of wheat in England is stated at twenty-eight bushels per acre, never less than twenty-six, unless in a year of unusually bad harvests. The average in this country is less than half of the lowest of these figures. Why is it? Certainly not because our soil is poorer than theirs, neither because our climate is so much worse for wheat culture. It is mainly for want of a suitable rotation of crops, of a more care-

ful husbandry of resources of fertilization, of a more thorough and careful culture.

A fourth aspect of the case presents a no less ruinous feature. A false system of political economy is fostered. In the northwest wheat culture is a parody upon the cotton culture of years past. It is running one production into excess, and ignoring all others. Northwestern cultivators are scarcely farmers, they are wheat growers. Cattle are high in price, horses very high, milk is scarce and butter sometimes unknown, while straw stacks are burning and the wheat at the mercy of speculators and the railroads, and bringing high prices only under the curse of God upon foreign wheat fields, and when foreign nations are in danger of famine, and even then but a moiety of the supply comes from this country. Exchanged for a thousand other needed things at exorbitant prices, the wheat brings little, so improvements are ignored and wheat fields extended, until by and by, the soil exhausted or given up to weeds, they will share the fate of cotton fields, leaving the land poor, the owner poorer, and a pioneer in some more distant west.

A dependence on grain growing for exportation has ever been a fallacy in this country and ever will be; it has ever proved and ever will a curse to our agriculture. We want more grain and we want it all eaten in this country; we want the wheat-eaters among the wheat-growers; we want cloth-makers among wool-growers; we want in the west ten-fold greater variety in agricultural, manufacturing and mechanical industry; then twenty-five bushels per acre will bring two dollars per bushel, and the railroads will be employed in more profitable business than carrying wheat for shipment to Europe.

A more blind, senseless, and suicidal system of agriculture was never invented than that pictured above, and we ask wheat growers if they do not recognize the picture as altogether too real to pass as a caricature.

#### THE RECENT DUNDEE FLORAL FETE.

At a time when monster exhibitions of the above description are becoming the rage, it may interest many of our readers to have a peep behind the scenes, as far as the experience gained on the above occasion will afford such. The Managing Committee of the Society distributed 2000 circulars soliciting competition subjects, and 2000 prize schedules. They provided 4000 square yards of tent-room, 6500 square feet of tabling, 1000 feet of gas-pipe, and 1000 gas-jets. There were 1064 plants exhibited in pots, 3664 cut flowers, 290 dishes of fruit, 8 collections of fruit, 8 collections of Grapes, 335



baskets or dishes of vegetables, besides which there were bouquets of flowers, examples of table decoration, and fourteen examples of what is called floral device, consisting of St. George and the Dragon, and kindred quaint subjects illustrated in flowers.

The admission the first day of the show was 2s. 6d. during the day, and 1s. 6d. in the evening, coming gradually down till the seventh day, when it was 6d. and 3d. The members of the British Association were admitted free, they having paid £100 to the Society. 60,000 individuals visited the Show. The cash drawn for admissions was £446, 12s. 3d.; from other sources, including subscriptions of members, donations, and the £100 from the British Association, £350, 6s. 1½d., making a total of £805, 18s. 1½d. The expenditure was £593 8s. 3½d., leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £212 10s. 1d.—a very successful result, considering that the hire and fitting up of the tents, including gas and tables, cost over £150, and one for which Mr. McKelvey and the Acting Committee of Directors deserve the best thanks of the horticultural public.—*The Gardener.*

**CATTLE FROM CANADA.**

The Secretary of the American Treasury has addressed a circular to collectors of customs on the Northern, Northeastern and Northwestern frontiers as follows:—

It being represented to the department that a difference in practice exists at some of the frontier ports bordering on Canada, in relation to the assessment and collection of or exemption from duty, on the importation of cattle, and other live animals from Canada, which had previously been exported from the United States thereto, for the purpose of grazing or fattening with the intention of returning the same to the United States, the following instructions are hereby issued on the subject, and will be carefully carried out by the collector:—Such cattle or other animals, on being brought back to the United States, can only be admitted to entry free of duty when they are returned in the same condition as when exported, and when the proofs of domestic origin, of exportation from a port of the United States, and the other proofs required for the free entry of goods, wares and merchandize of domestic origin and production, are duly produced to the collector at the port of importation. The collector of customs, therefore, on the exportation of cattle, or other animals, should take and file among the records of the custom house a careful description of the same, so that they can be readily identified in case of their being returned to the United States. When it is found, on the importation of such cattle, that their condition

is changed by fattening, or other causes, duty will be assessed and collected thereon in the manner prescribed for original importations.

A book is being published in England, on the "Rolling Stock of the Farm,"—comprising a description of farm implements.

We have received the Catalogue of R. M. Stark Esq., the enterprising nurseryman of Edinburgh, who visited Canada two years ago, and carried home with him a large number of our native plants, which are now offered for sale.

THE EXHIBITION OF 1868.—James McCrindle Esq., Ellershouse, Hants, has written to the Secretary of the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, requesting his name to be put upon the list of subscribers for \$10. We hope that many others who may not be applied to by the Committee will exhibit the same kind of spontaneous liberality.

**ADVERTISEMENTS!**

**ALFRED SAUNDERS,**  
SEEDSMAN, &c.  
Importer of Seeds and Agricultural Requisites,  
168 ARGYLE STREET, HALIFAX.

Orders from the Country punctually attended to.

**Churning made Easy & Butter Good.**

**TOMLINSON & CO.'S BUTTER POWDER.**

BY the use of this inexpensive Powder the churning of butters is reduced to minutes, and is applicable to the making of Butter at all seasons of the year; a small quantity added to the Milk or Cream at the time of churning will produce Butter in much less time, in larger quantity, and of a superior quality, flavour, and consistency, so much so that it increases its value from 1d. to 2d. per lb. In winter it removes the unpleasant flavour caused by the cows feeding on turnips, cabbages, mangolds, weeds, &c.; and in summer the rancidity peculiar to some Butter, also makes it firmer and sweeter even in the hottest weather. Butter made with this Powder invariably takes the prizes at the Agricultural Shows throughout the Kingdom.

Sold by the principal Druggists and Storekeepers throughout the Colonies, in boxes at 3d. 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 7s. 6d. each; and wholesale of the Manufacturers,

TOMLINSON & HAYWARD,  
Chemists, Lincoln, England.  
AVERY, BROWN & CO.,  
Halifax, N. S.

**SHORT HORN BULL FOR SALE.**

THE Celebrated Short Horn Bull "LONO LAD," imported last year from Canada, and purchased by the Western Halifax Agricultural Society.

Will either be sold or exchanged for a first-class Ayrshire.  
Apply to Joseph Northrup, Esq., Alex. Anderson, Esq., or the Secretary.

**GREAT Provincial Agricultural & Industrial EXHIBITION OF 1868.**

**LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
*By County & District Agricultural Societies, towards the Provincial Exhibition of 1868.*

Western Halifax Agricultural Soc'y, half of grants for two years	\$100 00
Antigonish Agricultural Society	100 00
Wind-or Agricultural Society	100 00
Egerton Agricultural Soc'y, E. R., Pictou, the Society's annual grant for '68, about	60 00
Dartmouth Agricultural Society	50 00
North Sydney Agricultural Society	40 00
Pictou Agricultural Society	40 00
Parsonsborough Agricultural Society	40 00
Union Society of East Cornwallis	40 00
Sydney Agricultural Society	40 00
Newport Agricultural Society	40 00
Lower Musquodoboit Agricultural Society	30 00
Upper Musquodoboit Agricultural Society	30 00
Baldeck Agricultural Society	30 00
Middle River of Victoria Agri. Society	30 00
Boularderie Agricultural Society	30 00
Mahou and Port Hood Agri. Society	30 00
Shubenacadie Agricultural Society	30 00
West Cornwallis Agricultural Society	24 00
St. Ann's Agricultural Society, South Gut	20 00
Mmudie Agricultural Society	20 00
Broad Cove Agricultural Society	20 00
Fenwick Agricultural Society of Noel and Maitland	20 00
Bridgewater Agricultural Society	20 00
Bridgetown Agricultural Society	20 00
Mahone Bay Agricultural Society	20 00
Weymouth Agricultural Society	20 00
Paradise Agricultural Society	20 00
Upper Stewiacke Agricultural Society	20 00
Merigomish Agricultural Society	20 00
Hardwoodland Agricultural Society, Nine Mile River	20 00
Chester Agricultural Society	20 00
Maxwellton Agri. Soc'y, Co. of Pictou	20 00
King's County Agricultural Soc'y, Horton	16 00
Digby Agricultural Society	15 00
Red Islands Agricultural Society	12 00
North East Margaree Agricultural Society	8 00
North Shore St. Ann's Agricultural Soc'y	6 00
South West Margaree Agricultural Soc'y	4 00
Stirling Agricultural Society	
Upper Londonderry Agricultural Society	
Onslow Agricultural Society	
Amherst Agricultural Society	
Wallace Agricultural Society	
Clare Agricultural Society	
Eastern Annapolis Agricultural Society	
Lower Stewiacke Agricultural Society	
River Philip Agricultural Society	
Glenc Agricultural Society, Guysboro	
Millford Haven Agricultural Society, Co. Guysborough	
Aylesford Agricultural Society	
Lunenburg Agricultural Society	
River John Agricultural Society	
Caledonia and Kempt Agricultural Soc'y, Co. Queens	
Barrington Agri. Society, Co. Shelburne	
Yarmouth Township Agri. Society	
Yarmouth County Agri. Society	
Publico Agri. Society, Co. Yarmouth	

\$1225.00

Intimations of additional Subscriptions by Societies should be sent to PROP. LAWSON, the Secretary, without delay.

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