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JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

VOL. I.

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NOTICE TO THE FARMERS OF THE COUNTIES OF PICTOU, KINGS, ANNAPOLIS AND LUNENBURG.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture, Dr. Lawson, the Secretary of the Board, will visit the counties of Pictou, Kings, Annapolis and Lunenburg, this season, for the purpose of explaining the provisions of the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture, advising with the officers and members of Agricultural Societies, inspecting their books, and where necessary, assisting in the formation of new societies.

Dr. Lawson will visit Pictou county during the first week of September, and thereafter will proceed successively to Kings, Annapolis, and Lunenburg.

Gentlemen in these counties desirous of arranging meetings will please address the Secretary without delay. "Dr. Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax."

The Field and Farm Yard.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CROPS.

Halifax, 27th August, 1865.

THE HAY CROP—PASTURES.

Haying was pretty well finished on uplands in Halifax county by the first week of August, and immediately thereafter we had a heavy fall of rain accompanied by wind. The rain so thoroughly soaked the ground that mushrooms ap-

peared in the pastures on the ninth of August, and the supply has since been continuous, although the middle of the month was dry and warm. As to the quality and quantity of the HAY CROP, we have little to add to what was said in a previous Report. In YARMOUTH, Mr. CROSBY reports the crop a very heavy one, at least one quarter above an average for the county.

In WESTERN CORNWALLIS, Hay is a fair average crop and has been mostly secured in good order. (*E. Calkins, Esq.*)

In UPPER STEWIAKRE, Hay is nearly an average. The frosts in June injured some parts of the low land very much.—(*James S. Tupper, Esq.*)

In ANTIGONISH COUNTY, the Hon. JOHN MCKINSON, M. L. C., reports that the Hay Crop will prove to be an average crop, better in general than was expected before making it.

In BARRINGTON, R. H. CROWELL, Esq., reports that the hay crop is good and has been secured in fine order.

JOHN A. KIRK, ESQ., writes from Glenelg in reference to Guysboro' Co.: The crops generally have not looked better for many years than they do now. Hay, which is now being stored, proves an abundant crop, although the season is not very favorable for making it.

In CAPE BRETON, H. DAVENPORT, Esq., writes from Sydney under date 18th August. The hay harvest commenced fully three weeks ago, and is still going on; weather very bad for making.—intense heat and rain storms alternate—

much got in injured. Crop heavy in some places, in others very light. I presume it will scarcely be an average.

THE CEREAL GRAINS.—WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY AND RYE.

In CAPE BRETON, (H. DAVENPORT Esq.,) grains generally look well, and are in full ear (18th August.)

In WEST CORNWALLIS, Oats, barley, and winter rye are reported by Mr. CALKINS as a good crop. Wheat, very little sown, and considerably hurt by the fly or midge so-called. Other crops are looking well except fruit.

In UPPER STEWIAKRE, there is not much wheat this season, but part of what was sown is very much injured by the weevil, although some people have good crops. Oats are generally light on the ground, owing to the wet in the spring, and then the drought being very severe in summer. Buckwheat and barley look well.—(*James S. Tupper, Esq.*)

In ANTIGONISH COUNTY, (Hon J. MCKINSON,) the early sown wheat is in most localities a complete failure, destroyed by the weevil. The late sown wheat looks well so far. The oats promise to give a large crop in straw and grain.—The barley crop is excellent. Of Indian corn little is raised; buckwheat—hear nothing about it.

In GUYSBORO, on the other hand, Mr. KIRK reports that it is generally thought that wheat will be a better crop than for many years, especially the early sown, the weevil not being so very destructive.

Oats, barley and buckwheat which are largely sown about Glenelg, promise an average crop.

GREEN CROPS.—POTATOES.

Green Crops have had an excellent season, a sufficiency of moisture, accompanied by the warmth and occasional cloudy weather so conducive to rapid growth. Turnips, both soft and Swedish, are showing a much better appearance than usual at this time of year. Potatoes have grown well and are bringing in an abundant return, quality generally good.

THE POTATO BLIGHT.

We are sorry, however, to observe that THE POTATO BLIGHT is ravaging the fields. It made its first appearance at an unusually early date this season, being brought on in Halifax county by the heavy rains at the beginning of August. Both haulm and tubers of some varieties, showed unmistakable signs of attack on 7th August. But owing to the genial weather that succeeded, the disease did not progress so rapidly as it has done in some seasons, otherwise whole fields would have already been rendered useless.

In YARMOUTH (according to a communication from Mr. JAMES CROSBY) the blight appeared so early as the last week of July; and as owing to the extreme wetness of the spring, planting was very late, there would seem to be a poor prospect of a potato crop in that county.

In UPPER STEWIACKE, Mr. TUPPER says that potatoes promise well, but are very late.

In ANTIGONISH county, the potatoes look remarkably well, little or no blight is to be seen among them as yet. (Hon. J. MCKINNON.)

In BARRINGTON, potatoes will be an average yield, very little rot heard of as yet. (R. H. CROWELL, Esq.)

In GUYSBORO', JOHN A. KIRK, Esq., writes under date 21st August: Potatoes, up to a few days ago, looked well, but the blight has set in, and in some localities is proving very destructive,—on the whole not so much so as he has seen it, and the present prospects are that potatoes will be a fair crop.

In CAPE BRETON the potato crop is blighting, the blight coming in full blast; it is reported to me from three different sections as very bad, and I have long since felt certain the fate of this crop was sealed. H. DAVENPORT, Esq.

TURNIPS, CARROTS, MANGELS, PARSNIPS, CABBAGES, PEAS, BEANS.

In CAPE BRETON, H. DAVENPORT, Esq., reports thus of green crops: Turnips, Swedes, looking magnificent. Whites and Aberdeens attacked with black can-

ker from the wet, and must, I think, go.

Carrots luxuriant, never better. Beets, parsnips and cabbages the same. Peas are running very much into straw, and turning yellow.

In BARRINGTON, peas and beans are very good; beets, carrots, &c., middling; turnips are progressing very favorably. (R. H. CROWELL, Esq.)

In GUYSBORO' (JOHN A. KIRK, Esq.) turnips, mangel wurtzel, carrots and beets are not very extensively raised, but where they have been attended to this year they look well.

CULINARY VEGETABLES.

The season has been a very favorable one for garden vegetables. In some places, early sown kidney beans were cut off by the spring frosts; but the general crops of these, of indian corn, peas, salads, early cabbages, cauliflowers, &c., have been good. Cucumbers that had an early start did very well; the short cold term in the beginning of August hurt them, but they soon recovered, and there has been a plentiful supply in the market. The cucumber seems to be as favorite a vegetable in Halifax as indian corn is in Canada, or potatoes in Ireland. This has been an unusually favorable season for tomatoes, and for ground cherries, which are still more delicious, but very little known as yet in Nova Scotia.

THE ORCHARDS—FRUIT CROPS.

We regret very much to have to report that the fears of a scanty supply of fall fruit, which were expressed in previous numbers of the *Journal*, are likely to be more than realized. Communications on this subject will be found in another column.

In CORNWALLIS (E. CALKINS, Esq.) late frosts injured the blossoms, and the crop of fruit promises to be small.

In GUYSBORO' county, orchards have been almost entirely neglected; therefore nothing can be said on the prospects of fruit, though some farmers are beginning to cultivate young orchards with apparently good success. (JOHN A. KIRK, Esq.)

Throughout Halifax county, the crop of apples is very small, and will consist largely of unsound fruit.

Throughout the American States and Canada, so far as we have authentic information, the apple and pear crops are very poor.

SMALL WILD FRUITS.

Blueberries have been abundant in some places, and blackberries more plentiful than usual, still these will but very imperfectly make up for the scanty supplies we had of currants, gooseberries and strawberries. There is good promise of cranberries.

AGRICULTURAL MATTERS IN AN-
NAPOLIS COUNTY—THE PURE
COTSWOLD RAM, "GREAT
GUELPH," BROUGHT TO NOVA
SCOTIA.—FAILURE OF THE OR-
CHARDS.—FIRES.

Victoria, An. Co., 15th Aug., 1865.

You may be led to suppose from not having received any communication from the "Eastern Annapolis Agricultural Society," that we are not doing anything. Such is not the case, we have only waited endeavoring to obtain something in stock or produce to write about.

Every exertion has been made to purchase a pure Durham bull, but without success, in Nova Scotia—he was not to be had—neither in New Brunswick.—The directors' attention therefore turned to sheep, and, communicating with the Hon. Judge Ritchie, and the Hon. C. Perley at Woodstock, and other gentlemen, we obtained information that a ram of pure Cotswold blood might be purchased from Mr. J. H. Reed of Fredericton. We therefore entered into a correspondence with that gentleman, and ultimately purchased "Great Guelph," for \$125, (one hundred and 25 dollars.) He was purchased by Mr. Reed from F. W. Stone, Esq., in Canada West, who certifies—"That the ram is pure bred Cotswold, three shear in 1864, was awarded the first prize at the Provincial Exhibition in Loudon, C. W., and also two county prizes. His sire, also a Provincial ram, was bred by himself,—got by an imported ram bred by E. Buck, Gloucestershire, England, a winner of many prizes also—he now weighs (Sep. 12, 1864.) 320 lbs."

Mr. Reed adds,—"I will now show him against any other ram in size, style, and substance, fineness of bone and weight of fleece,—he sheared 18 1-2 lbs. of wool, clean, but unwashed. His equal is not in America, nor his superior in England."

"Great Guelph" arrived here on 29th June, and answers the character given him by Mr. Reed in every respect. He then weighed 325 lbs. The fleece sent with him weighed 16 1-2 lbs. Mr. Reed accounts for this 2 lbs., viz.: by saying that "it had been taken as samples by the curious." The wool is from 12 to 15 inches long. I send you a lock that you may judge of its quality. [The sample is one of great beauty.—ED.]

It is not the opinion of some of the members of the society that the directors have acted judiciously in giving so large a price for a ram. Five or six dollars (\$5 or \$6) is the general price of the de-generated breed at present when in existence; but I feel well assured that when in a year or two sheep increase in size and fineness of bone, as also wool, all will rejoice that such an animal as

"Great Guelph" has been imported into the Province.

I see by the last *Journal* that Mr. Longley thinks the crops generally promise a fair yield. He is quite right so far as relates to the grain and hay, but the fruit crop will be very small. [Mr. Longley pointed this out, see page 54, third column.—ED.] Many of the orchards in this county from which a hundred barrels are generally gathered, will not this year yield twenty: and in my own garden some of the plum trees are as bare of leaves as at Christmas, and bushels of the finest fruit are lying on the ground, I can ascribe it only to the dryness of the summer. Seldom is one blessing withheld by the God of Providence that he does not make it up as it were, by another, as in this case the fruit is withheld; but the greatest essential to the farmer, is truly food for cattle, is given more abundantly.

Fires are beginning to prevail about this county. GEO. INCE.

Nictaux, Aug. 21st.

I did not receive your note of the 14th until after my son had written to you, giving you some account of our imported ram "Great Guelph," &c.

I can add little if anything to what he then wrote, excepting perhaps that the Potato crop promises to be good, and that no disease has as yet appeared. We have had no rain near us to speak of since the month of May: a heavy shower fell yesterday which has refreshed the soil, but it has not penetrated more than two or three inches, consequently, our fruit suffers much, particularly on the high lands and in light soils. Our grain crops generally are abundant, and the hay, oats, and barley, mostly harvested. Apples will be a very short crop.

H. INCE.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT HALIFAX.—It is intended to hold an exhibition of culinary vegetables, fruits, and other garden produce, in the Horticultural Gardens this fall. We hope to see a great many creditable productions from Windsor, and other gardening localities. The time is not yet fixed. It is a pity that a year's notice is not given of all such exhibitions, (as in England) so that intending exhibitors might have an opportunity of making some preparation and effort, instead of merely sending what happens to be ready in their gardens at the time.

THE ST. JOHN'S MARKETS.—The St. John's slaughter houses and markets are spoken of in the papers as in a filthy state. The vegetable and fruit market in St. John's is a great convenience, and we should like to see Halifax able to compare passably with St. John in that regard.

BEAUTIES OF BERWICK.—The beautiful village of Berwick is now in all its splendor. The trees have on their richest foliage, and the fruit-trees are showing what may shortly be gathered from them. Many of the apple-trees between Wolfville and Berwick indicate pretty fair crops, but there will be a very much diminished quantity from that of several past years. There will also be a small crop of plums. The grain is looking well and promises good returns.—*C. Messenger.*

PICOU.—The hay crop is secured, and is less than an average. Early grain is fair; potatoes look well and no appearance of rot.—*Colonist, Aug. 24.*

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN YARMOUTH.—Mr. Crosby, Secretary of the Yarmouth Agricultural Society, writes to us that the society intends to hold an exhibition in the autumn, at which premiums will be awarded for stock, fruit, manufactures, &c. *Pres't., Josiah Raymond, Esq.*

WHO HAS LOST A BAY HORSE?—A bay horse was put off the cars at Rocky Lake the other day, and is waiting in Mr. McLeod's stable for an owner.

WINDSOR ROAD.—It is a great relief to drivers along the Windsor Road that the old rickety telegraph posts and wires have been removed. The telegraph now runs along the railway line, the wires having been laid on substantial cedar posts. There is no telegram station at Bedford, although there will be thousands of business people there daily during the present month.

ANNUAL FAIR AT FREDERICTON, N. B.—The Annual Show of the York County Agricultural Society is advertised to come off at Fredericton, N. B., on Thursday, 5th October. The prizes are open to competitors from all parts of the Province of New Brunswick, and hay and straw are supplied to stock exhibited.

The York Driving Park Track is to be open for Racing and Trotting, on 6th October, the day following the show. Horses may come "from any place," and will be furnished with hay, straw, and boxes on the ground free. There will be three Races and two Trots. Not having seen the prize list we cannot give further particulars.

THE HOP CROP IN THE STATES.—The vines have grown well, but are badly infected with vermin. In some sections, likewise, the leaves have been observed to turn red and shrivel, resembling what is called "the fire-blast" in England. Dealers are beginning to manifest a good deal of anxiety about the condition of the growing crop, and good hops, of which there are very few of last years growth, are held with much firmness.

"WILFUL WASTE MAKES WOFUL WANT."

We read in the *Colonist* that:—

"The new City Slaughter House is to be built on the shore of the Basin, between Africville and the Target Practice Ground, and WILL BE SO CONSTRUCTED, THAT THE OFFAL WILL BE CARRIED OFF BY THE TIDE."

In a country like Nova Scotia where there is a universal cry among the farmers for more manure, it is to be regretted that the favorite mode of disposing of fertilizing matters, in the city as well as in the smaller towns, is to allow them to be "carried off by the tide." It has been clearly shown by Liebig and others that in every country where this practice prevails, the fertility of the land must decrease year by year, and the people must live more and more upon imported food. All mechanical and scientific applications to the culture of the soil must necessarily fail if so essential a source of fertility be neglected. The wonderful fertility of China is kept up not by scientific knowledge, much less by the application of the inductive method to agriculture, but by a strong instinct among the people, which leads to the saving of every particle of waste matter.

Within the last few years most praiseworthy and successful efforts have been made by members of the Civic Corporation and other leading citizens to improve the city and increase the comforts and enjoyments of the citizens. We have good reason to hope, therefore, that the subject of economising more fully the city manure, and placing it within the convenient reach of farmers, will in time be taken into serious consideration, and will meet with that earnest attention which it unquestionably deserves.

We believe that the present Commissioner of Railways, who takes a warm interest in agricultural progress, is disposed to give facilities for the transmission of manurial substances over the line, as fully as is consistent with the interests of the department, and were the valuable manure offered by the city brought together near the Railway Depot, so as to be sold to farmers, there would no doubt be ample demand for it.

The more general use of guano, plaster, bone-dust, superphosphate, nitrate, and other artificial and special manures, must in this, as in all other countries, grow out of a freer use of common dung. Whilst that is running to waste it will seem to men of common sense to be a manifest act of folly to spend large sums of money in buying up expensive manufactured products.

BREEDS OF HORSES AND CATTLE
BEST SUITED TO NOVA SCOTIASUGGESTIONS OF A FARMER FROM
ENGLAND.

Last month we indicated what was proposed to be done in regard to the importation of stock. Several communications have appeared in the *Colonist*, from various correspondents, as to what breeds ought to be imported, what ought to be eschewed, and as to the best means of obtaining desirable animals. It will of course be impossible to meet the conflicting wishes and recommendations of all, even were that desirable, but it serves a good purpose to ventilate the subject fully at the present time. We therefore transfer to our columns a few selections from a letter recently published in the *Colonist* from a gentleman signing himself "*A farmer from England*." We ought to premise that whilst his suggestions are upon the whole valuable, they do not accord in every respect with the experience of others. Nothing is said of the Scotch farm horses, which are the best ploughers in the world; short horns we should not choose as milkers, but as beef cattle, in fertile pastures. As regards sheep, it is to be kept in view that *lamb* is the principal form in which the flesh is used with us, not mutton, as in England, and Leicester lambs do not have the coarse flavor of the old sheep. The Chinese breed of pigs, will, we fear, require too much care and shelter, to form the common herd of this country:—

HORSES.

"I do not believe in the same horse being good either for slow or fast work. If you want really good and useful horses, there should be a breed for slow work and plough, and another for the saddle and driving. For the first purpose, looking at the light character of your breed of horses, the large English dray horse. I have no hesitation in saying, would be the best kind of a horse to use as a cross. Such an animal should stand from fifteen to sixteen hands in height, with a girth of about eight feet in circumference. To rectify the bad points of your horses generally, he should have, in excess of, and in addition to the other necessary points of a good horse, a small, well formed head, rather thick and well arched neck, oblique shoulders, well ribbed up; tail well upon the rump, and his hind legs set well apart. For riding or driving, a well-bred horse, of not less than sixteen hands; and here increased attention should be paid to a well-formed head, the neck moderately arched, but not so thick as in the before mentioned animal, the oblique position of the shoulders still more prominent, the wither also should rise higher, with due consideration as to

all other good points: but it should be always borne in mind, that a thoroughly perfect animal in all respects is not attainable. The heavy cart horses for the London market are principally bred in Lincolnshire and the midland counties. The lighter breed is distributed all over England, but the London dealers purchase largely in Yorkshire and at Horn-castle Fair, in Lincolnshire."

HORNED CATTLE.

"So far as I have seen, your cattle of this description are too light in the hind-quarters, or, as we say in England, deficient in roasting beef; they are also coarse in bone. To obviate this defect, a cross with the North Devon breed, I consider, would be the most desirable. The North Devons are hardy, possessed of a good constitution, their loins wide, long, and full of flesh, hips round and of moderate width, legs small and straight, with feet in proportion, rich and mellow in touch, and handsome in their appearance; added to which they have a greater proportion of weight in the most valuable joints, and less in the coarse than in any other breed, and also consume less food in its production. As working oxen, they excel all English breeds, being perfectly docile and good walkers; their milk is rich, but not so abundant as short horns; and this brings me to the only other English breed which I think could, with advantage, be introduced into your Province. The improved Short Horn are now established in the old country as one of if not the most profitable breeds in England. They arrive earlier at maturity and fatten to a greater weight. The quality of the meat is only surpassed by the Scotch and Devon; are good milkers, and I always found them as hardy in constitution as any other breed; but with all these strong recommendations, I believe a cross with the North Devon breed would have a better effect in improving the symmetry and value of the stock of Nova Scotia as a grazing animal, than any other sort,—the short horn being coarser in the bone, and their hind-quarters not nearly so fully developed, neither are they equal to the Devon as a working animal. At the same time I think both breeds should be introduced; but if only one, I should prefer the Devon."

SHEEP.

"As to Sheep, there is not a more beautiful sheep in existence for its size, than the South Down; but I should prefer, for the purpose required, the Hampshire Down, being a larger and a hardier animal. I have bred from both the South and Hampshire Downs, with a Welsh Ewe, (a similar sheep to yours,) and found the Hampshire produce the best lambs. The Leicester I do not consider suited to your country; they are

far from hardy, and the mutton is coarse in the grain, and they make too much fat to produce a first class meat. It is true that many breeds have been much indebted, indeed, owe their improvement entirely, to crossing with the Leicester; but the success much depends on the position and climate of the locality where the experiment is made; they have decidedly failed as a cross with the Cheviots. A farmer in the *Lammermuirs*, speaking of his own experience, says: "Our coarse and lean pastures were unequal to the task of supporting such heavy-bodied sheep, and they gradually dwindled away to less and less bulk; each generation was, if possible, inferior to the preceding one, and when the spring was severe, seldom more than two-thirds of the lambs survived the ravages of the storm."

With the English farmer, as an animal of the long-wooled breed for crossing, the Leicesters are fast giving place to the Cotswold,—themselves an improved breed by crossing with the Leicesters. Possessing all the good qualities of the Leicester, with the greater hardness of the original breed, a cross between the Cotswold and the sheep of this Province, may prove successful in some of the most highly favored counties of your Province; but the Hampshire Down would certainly stand the general climate best."

PIGS.

"Twelve or fourteen years ago, I should have fully agreed with your correspondent as to the superiority of the Berkshire over every other as a pure breed of pigs; but subsequent experience has led me to give a decided preference to the Sussex breed; but as a cross with the pigs I have seen in this country, I should prefer the Chinese. Your pigs are coarse, large boned animals, and, as I should judge from appearances, producing coarse-grained meat. Both these defects would be wonderfully improved by the cross I mention: indeed all our improved breeds in England have been the result of judicious crossing of the Chinese breeds.—I prefer the black. Should, however, size be preferred to quality, then I would recommend the Sussex, as I have found by experience they make a greater weight in less time and on less food, than the Berkshire, the meat being quite equal, if not superior, and they are rather finer in the bone."

NEW RIFLE RANGE.—During the past month workmen have been busy clearing and burning the Lister Flat, at Bedford, for the new rifle range, which has been surveyed by J. B. Young, Esq., Civil Engineer. His Excellency the Governor, has paid several visits to the grounds, and the improvements are now nearly completed.

GREAT CATTLE PLAGUE IN ENGLAND.

The English Agricultural Journals of the past month (August) are filled with discussions, reports and details of the great cattle plague. In one month the London Dairymen alone have lost £30,000 sterling. The London cow-keepers held a great meeting to adopt remedial measures. The National Association for the Prevention of Cattle Diseases has been meeting daily at 48 Pall Mall. The disease is chiefly confined to London and the Essex Marshes, but is spreading, and has already reached Dublin. It is said that it is arising in some places without contact with diseased animals, caused by over-crowding in cow-houses and stables, bad ventilation, &c. Lime wash and chlorine are used to purify the atmosphere of cow-houses, and are said to be very beneficial.

The government is doing all it can possibly do at the outset.

An order in Council has been issued which, reciting the Act of Parliament under which it is issued, directs that all persons who keep cattle and find any of their stock affected with this disease, shall immediately give notice of the same to the clerk of the Council at Whitehall, when an inspector will be sent to report upon the case and the circumstances attending the disease. Neglect to comply with this regulation will subject to a penalty of £20. The Commissioners of Customs have also transmitted to the collectors at the various outposts special instructions to exercise the greatest care in the examination of all cattle which may be brought into the country, and, in the event of any disease being discovered, to adopt all necessary measures to prevent its introduction and diffusion.

In its chief features the present outbreak resembles the Russian "peste," and Prof. Gamgee seems to regard it as identical with that disease. He described it as a "catarrhal affection, producing in the blood an impurity which had a tendency to work itself outward in every direction, and any exhalation, even through the pores of the skin, of an animal affected with the plague was, he said, highly infectious. This disease was in the vast majority of cases, incurable. An animal attacked by it might succumb in two or three days, or might last a week or more; but he was generally doomed from the outset. The origin of the plague was infected foreign cattle brought to Islington Cattle Market.—Sound cattle coming in contact with them, there caught the malady, and in their turn transmitted it to others, so that it was spreading in a rapidly widening

circle. It had been but just a month in this country, yet even in that short time he calculated that nearly 2000 cattle must have suffered. It was much to be regretted that prompt measures for its eradication were not taken on its first appearance. He showed how, though we had antidotes for mineral, we had none for animal poisons of the blood, and therefore it was rather to prevention than to cure that attention should be directed in cases like that under discussion. All beasts that were evidently affected should be killed, or at least, at once and effectually separated from all healthy animals. He went on to show that although the cattle plague was not contagious to human beings, yet that indirectly it might produce typhus and other fevers and diseases, because, after a lengthened period of bad or insufficient food in any country, the people of that country were sure to suffer in health. There was no cattle disease better known than this. So far from being new, it had existed for centuries. In 1747 thousands of cattle perished or were destroyed, the Government compensating their owners. This, however had to be discontinued on account of the numerous frauds committed. Mr. Gamgee alluded next to the sheep small pox in North Wiltshire in 1862. He showed how, as long as farmers concealed the illness of their sheep, the disease spread with great rapidity; but when they subscribed to pay for the destruction of all that were diseased, and thus encouraged each other to speak the truth, the sheep small pox was put an end to in three weeks. It would be more difficult to bring the cattle plague to a termination, but the same course was the proper one to pursue. The cow owners should put their shoulders to the wheel at once, form a provisional committee, and take steps to carry out the most advisable measures."

We have observed in the newspapers notices of the outbreak of disease among cattle in the United States and Canada.

Horses have been suffering from something of the same kind in Prince Edward Island.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW YORK STATE.

The numbers for March, May and June, of the New York State Agricultural Society's Journal, came to us addressed: *Halifax, New Brunswick.*

We thought our own Journal of minimum size, but find the New York one to be just half as big. However, it displays much literary taste and typographical beauty, and there are some items of intelligence that cannot fail to interest our readers.

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR FOR 1865.

The annual fair is to be held this year at Utica, on 12th to 15th September.—The subjects for discussion are: "On cutting grass and preparing hay," "On cultivating and curing tobacco," and on the following question, on which some of our readers might give us their views: "Ought pastures for the dairy to be kept permanently in grass, or to be renewed by ploughing and re-seeding?" The premiums in the several classes of the Utica exhibition are on a liberal scale. Among other articles, the Utica Herald sees no reason why a thousand cheeses from their factories and best private dairies may not be exhibited, and the various apparatus for cheese manufacture tested by making up the curds and shewing the uninitiated how good cheese is manufactured.

BENEFITS OF BEING RECOGNISED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

The Schoharie society complains of being unable to pay its debts, as the balance of its funds (\$179.79) has been wholly required as taxes to pay bounties to volunteers in the service of the States. We commend this fact to the attention of those few of our own societies who think they do not receive sufficient aid from the legislature.

ABORTION OF COWS.

In Herkimer and adjoining counties, great trouble is experienced from abortion in cows. Dr. Copeman has been investigating the matter. He does not recommend fumigating the stables, but directs ventilation and the removal of everything infectious. He did not think it was caused by anything the animals ate or did not eat. That the bad habit is due to ergotized grasses he thinks absurd; but we cannot help thinking that the experiments he details are not sufficient to counter-balance the well-known physiological action of ergot. It may be that the disease in Herkimer is due to another cause, and certainly it seems to be infectious; but ergot will, nevertheless, cause abortion likewise.

So prevalent is this habit in cows, that the president of the Farmer's Club, Little Falls, says: "What is to be the result, if it continues, is no matter of doubtful speculation. The farmers of Herkimer must, in that event, abandon the business of dairying, or conduct it at a loss." The Herkimer county herds are spoken of as very fine, and greatly superior to those of New England.

DR. MACGOWAN IN EASTERN ASIA.

Dr. Macgowan, already well known for his labours in China, being about to visit Eastern Asia to pursue his explorations in behalf of the industrial and agricultural interests of the United States, the New

York State society is co-operating with the American Geographical and Statistical society, to forward the object.

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN EXHIBITIONS.

Delegates were appointed to attend the International Exhibition at Bergen, Norway, August 1st to Sept. 16th, the International Exhibition at Cologne, and the Agricultural Exhibition, Stettin, Prussia.

BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Breeders' Association of thorough bred cattle is to meet at Albany, on the second Wednesday of February, 1866.

FAIR OF THE SHEEP BREEDERS' AND WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

This fair was held on the 9th and 10th May. The sheep were divided into five classes:—1. American Merinos; 2. Fine Merinos; 3. Delaine Merinos; 4. Long Woolled Sheep; 5. Middle Woolled Sheep. A special prize of \$50 was given for the fleece shorn on the grounds, of a year's growth, which, on being cleansed by the manufacturer, yielded the greatest weight of wool in proportion to the live weight of the sheep.

MAINE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The legislature of Maine has passed a bill for an agricultural college, by a large majority, and officers have been appointed.

SIEMPRE VIVA.

The plant so graphically described as covering with its mossy verdure the rocks on the mountain slopes of Mexico, and which has the peculiar property of curling up into a brown ball, and reviving again in all its freshness on the application of moisture, is no doubt the *Lycopodium squamatum* of botanists, called also *Selaginella convoluta*.

JESSIE WILLIAMS, INVENTOR OF CHEESE FACTORIES.

Jessie Williams, of Rome, Oneida county, was the originator of the cheese dairy system, which has well nigh become a mania in some parts of the United States and Canada. The mania will do good; there will be some disappointments; but cheese manufacture will be established on a satisfactory footing. Williams was born in 1798, and died in December last. It was in 1850 that he first conceived the idea of a cheese factory, to which farmers would bring their milk.

Communications.

BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF COTSWOLD AND LEICESTER SHEEP.

BY HENRY E. DECIE, ESQ.

Cotswold and Leicester being the best breeds of long wool sheep, and South Down and Cheviot of short wool, I will begin my remarks by pointing out the principal characteristics of each and the reasons which should guide the purchaser in selecting either one or the other.

The Long Wool breed are remarkable for their weight of mutton and of fleece. There are many flocks in England which average at three years old 40 lbs. per quarter, and shear ten pounds of wool; but to obtain such results, they require high keep; in this country 6 lbs wool and 25 lbs. mutton per quarter would be a good average, and can easily be attained in the best farming districts in the Province.

South Downs are much smaller in size and yield a much lighter fleece; 4 lbs. of wool and 16 lbs. of mutton per quarter, would be a good average for them, but South Down will fatten upon rough and poor pasture that would be quite inadequate to sustain either Cotswolds or Leicesters, and they are excellent walkers travelling long distances to market, without losing condition, whereas the others fall away rapidly on a journey.

Agricultural Societies in making their selection should be guided by their locality; if their pastures are good and the markets near at hand, the Long Wools are the most profitable; but if their country is hilly and their pastures poor with a long way to walk to market, they should choose the South Downs.

No Long Wool Rams should be used till they are two shear, as before that they are not fully matured, and should never be put to more than sixty ewes, as using a ram before he is full grown or giving him too many ewes will prevent his stock from being as good as he is.

Agricultural Societies when they purchase lambs and shearling rams should feed them well until they are two shear. they will then serve 60 ewes each year for 8 years, and will add one dollar at least to the value of each lamb.

Ewes reaching maturity earlier may be put to the ram as shearling, but should be kept separate from the older ewes and receive extra keep during the winter.

Lambs that are born between the 15th March and the 15th April should be weaned by the 15th of August, and put on the best after grass; those intended for rams should get a little grain twice a day, increasing as the pasture falls off until the turnips or other green crops are

fit for use, of which they should receive as much as they can eat with hay during the winter.

Shearling and ram lambs can be wintered together, and shearling and ewe lambs, the whole being well and liberally fed upon turnips and hay; with such treatment they will grow faster during the winter than the summer, and the wool will more than pay for their keep.

The breeding ewes after weaning, should be put for a few days on short pasture, to allow their milk to dry off, and then put on good grass to allow them to get in good condition before putting them to the ram, prior to which all inferior sheep, and any not equal to the average of the flock, and those over 7 years should be separated, and the best shearlings put in their places, those weeded out can be fattened for the butcher; the ewes should be separated from the ram after being with him one month, and all ewes not in lamb then should be fattened the following summer. The advantage of leaving the ram only one month with the ewes is that the lambs at weaning time will be all the same size, and an even lot of lambs will look better and bring a higher price than an uneven lot, although the uneven lot may be a good deal heavier on the whole. As soon as the ram is taken away the whole flock should be dipped in a mixture for killing ticks. (I use 2 lbs. arsenic, 2 lbs. potash, and a pail of soft soap, put in hog-head of water, to every 50 sheep, and immerse every part except their head.) It will be dangerous to put it off later than the middle of November, for pregnant ewes should be handled as little as possible; the old ewes should then be put on moderate keep until after lambing, just sufficient to keep them in healthy condition, and not check the growth of wool.

For this country, from the middle of October to the middle of November I think is the best time for putting ewes to the ram, they will then lamb during March and April when they are round the barn, and there is plenty of time to look after them, and by feeding the ewes on turnips the lambs will grow as fast as at any time of the year; the ewe after lambing should be confined for a few days until the lamb gains strength, after that they can be allowed to go in and out whenever they please, and will not mind the cold in the least, and when put on pasture in May will be beyond the reach of foxes or ravens.

The whole flock should be sheared from the middle to the end of May, first washing them clean in running water, and shearing a few days after when the wool is dry.

Agricultural Societies wishing to improve their sheep can do it by purchasing 2 two shear rams, not akin to each other,

place them in different parts of their district, allow 60 ewes to go to each, taking care that no lambs or unhealthy sheep are put to them; in two years they can change them about, allowing the shearing ewes of one run to be served by the other, at the end of four years they could be sold and others bought, and the same course pursued; the first cross will make a marked difference, and the fourth will be but little inferior to the pure breed. Such a course persevered in would be attended with the best results; but the importation of a few animals now and then is of no good whatever, it must be continued regularly until the breed is stamped upon the sheep of the district, by that time the farmers will find the advantage and the profit of them, and should the society then discontinue the importation the demand will have been created, and plenty will be found to supply it.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

As an old member of various agricultural societies in this province, and as a member of the society in this town, constituted under the recent act, I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the first five numbers of your Journal.

This morning in calling at the office of one of the respected members of parliament for this county, I found him engaged in writing you a letter on the condition and prospects of agriculture in this neighbourhood.

Commending his object and his industry, my conscience suggested the question, "What have I done myself to aid the noble cause?"

I frankly confessed to my friend that his conduct was worthy of imitation; so at his request I came home, resolved to give you my best thoughts on the subject.

And the first is this: that I highly approve of the energetic action of the government in their efforts to stimulate the mind of the province, and bring it to bear on the amount and quality of our agricultural productions.

The second is, that I also highly approve of the establishment among ourselves of a Journal of Agriculture, in which may be preserved, the thoughts, the reflections, and the practical experiments made in our province by our practical farmers, our amateurs, and our housewives.

The third thought is, that I entirely disapprove of the efforts made by some portions of our provincial press to crush this nascent Hercules in his cradle. They seem to think that because our journal is not equal to the older periodicals, we ought to be satisfied with the latter, and abandon our design. But in a world like this, sir, literature in all its departments, and in all latitudes, must pass through its

stages of infancy and youth before it arrives at manhood. Your oak was once an acorn.

My last reflection for the present is, that those croaking gentlemen had better devote their powers to the improvement of native production, homespun, though it be, than to think nothing good which is not of foreign manufacture. For my own part, I read with great interest the reports of our own societies, the remarks of our own farmers, and the suggestions of our own fruit culturists and gardeners; and whilst I would by no means depreciate the value of older and more elaborate papers emanating from other quarters, I trust that the sons and daughters of our soil will have self-interest enough to give a spirited support to a journal specially charged with the advancement of our homesteads, and of our own fertile valleys and hills.

In this, as in every other good cause, the head and the hand must work together; and I have lived long enough to see that an ignorant farmer is like a dull axe or a lame horse. The metaphor needs no explanation.

Lunenburg, July, 1865.

LECTOR.

[We regret that the publication of our respected correspondent's communication has been necessarily delayed so long. Ed.]

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

ON MANURE.

NO. V.

Such an amazing number of books and other disquisitions have been written concerning manure, that it is almost impossible to say anything new about it, all that is left for its zealous advocates to do, is to lecture on it, in season and out of season, and to show up its importance in every way they possibly can. It is nevertheless an almost inexhaustible subject, and although every one (in the country at the least) is aware of the importance of it, in all farming operations, how very few there are, who by their mode of saving, or making it, appear to understand or appreciate the importance of this simple item, either to their own individual prosperity or to the general prosperity of the country, and fewer still there are who know that the sources from whence manures, or fertilizers can be obtained are quite as inexhaustible as the subject.

All cities act as mighty and exhaustive drains of the lands strength—the vast amount of food consumed by their inhabitants, being just so much abstracted from the productive power of the soil, and with but very little prospect of its ever going back to it. This makes it all the more necessary, not only to save it,

and make more, but also to procure all the auxiliary help possible.

The artificial manures and guano have been the chief means of giving an extra impulse to agriculture in the old countries, and in many worn out sections of even our new countries on this side the Atlantic.

When a farmer has done all he possibly can to save and increase his domestic manure, he very naturally looks abroad for more, but as a general rule he should not send his capital away, for after his labor has done all it can cleverly find time to do, there will no doubt be many ways still left, by which any spare money he may have could be profitably employed in making his means of saving more efficient. It is very seldom that we see all done that may be done—let him look to his hog-manure, his hen ditto, and back house stuff, his slops, his ashes, bones, &c. Why, there is almost an endless variety of manures on a farm, and a liberal and judicious outlay of capital is often better employed in composting and improving these than in buying other auxiliaries or artificial manures.

A man may nevertheless be so circumstanced that he cannot possibly do all that he really wishes to do, he may for instance find something to occupy his spare time with, which may turn in more money than may cover all his manure heap may suffer from partially neglecting it; and thus may counterbalance this loss by purchasing with a portion of the money so gained, as much artificial manure as will make up for it, or after making, and using all he can upon his land near home, he may desire to improve his pastures, and outgoing fields with some top-dressing not quite so bulky as barn-yard manure or compost. In such cases it certainly would be commendable for him to purchase the most reliable auxiliary he can get, say either guano, bone-dust, or superphosphate of lime. A few hundred-weights of these will spread over a considerable piece of ground; and as a general rule (if good) will make the land yield a much better crop. Pure guano is the strongest, but least certain of these; bone dust (in sufficient quantity) lasts the longest, and is always certain and reliable, and good superphosphate of lime while it is equally as certain as bone-dust, is a quicker manure, but does not last so long in the soil. I believe they are all three to be had in Halifax; but I cannot say from experience whether they are of a reliable quality or not. However, it is not very expensive trying them and I would decidedly recommend all who are in the right position to afford it, to try a sprinkling of the superphosphate on their worn out pastures, for as a general rule our pastures are universally poor and cattle do not thrive upon them as they ought.

BEDFORD.

Vegetable & Flower Garden.

THE SCOTCH HEATHER A TRUE NATIVE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

We have something to communicate to Scotchmen and especially to Nova Scotians.

The earliest notice of the Scotch Heath as an inhabitant of America is that of Sir William Hooker in Index to the "Flora Boreali-Americana," where it is stated: "This should have been inserted at p. 39 as an inhabitant of Newfoundland, on the authority of De la Pylaie." It was supposed, however, that Pylaie had made a mistake, and it was a generally received axiom among botanists that heaths were limited to the Old World. In the year 1861 Prof. Gray of Harvard, announced the unexpected discovery by Mr. Jackson Dawson of heath in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. It was supposed by some that the heath had been planted there, and there is an elaborate paper by Mr. Sprague in the Boston N. H. Society's Proceedings, in which it is strongly argued that no native heath had ever been found in Newfoundland or on the American continent. In November 1863, at the sale of the Linnean society's collections, in London, Mr. Watson bought a parcel of plants in which were found two flowerless branches of *Calluna vulgaris* identical with the heath of the British Moors, and labelled "Head of St. Mary's Bay—Trepassey Bay, also, very abundant. S. E. of Newfoundland, considerable tracts of it." Evidence thus seemed to accumulate, but was still imperfect. In the city of Halifax there is a common, but mistaken belief that there is plenty of heather at Point Pleasant and the North-West Arm, but all the specimens that have been collected have proved on examination by botanists to belong to other plants and not to the heath family. However, in September 1864 Dr. Lawson obtained specimens of the genuine heather in swampy ground on Ulston Farm, St. Ann's, Cape Breton, where it has been known by the proprietor Mr. Robertson, for about ten years. The plant is quite wild, and native. Soon afterwards it was announced that Mr. Richardson, who was making a geological survey of Newfoundland, had found heather there. And lastly, during the present summer, a young lady brought to Dr. Lawson's botanical class, a specimen of *Calluna vulgaris*, (agreeing in every respect with the Scotch and Cape Breton plant,) which had been collected on the Dartmouth hills in 1850. There is now, therefore, ample evidence that Scotch heather grows, as an indigenous plant, in Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland; but is extremely local in its distribution, and in fact one of our rarest plants. Wherever a patch of heather grows, the proprietor should fence it in, and preserve it carefully, otherwise we are apt to lose the plant, and with it one of the claims of our Province to its cherished name of Nova Scotia. English and American botanists will hear with much interest of the Dartmouth habitat, as it serves in some measure to connect the Massachusetts one with those of Cape Breton and Newfoundland, which latter, on the other hand connects (distantly) through Greenland, Iceland and the Azores with the great heath centre of Northern Europe. We have a patch of the heather from Cape Breton, and find that it grows well in the flower border.

ADUMIA CIRRHOSA.—Visiting the exquisite garden of His Honor Chief Justice Young the other day, we observed the beautiful creeper, *Adumia cirrhosa*. This is one of the finest plants we know for a city or a suburban garden, its slender wiry stems being clothed with finely divided "filigree" leaves of a glaucous tinge, and graceful rose-coloured flowers. It is a native American plant; we have seen it in the Canadian woods, where it in some places covers hundreds of acres, climbing through the dense thickets of the primeval woods. The flowers resemble those of the Chinese *Dielytra*, to which the plant is botanically allied. Its cultivation is very simple, and we hope to see it introduced to every garden in the city, where there is a rock-work to be adorned or a fence to be screened.

Mr. HUTTON, the Superintendent of the Horticultural Gardens, has sailed for Britain, where he intends to visit the principal public and private gardens. A judicious and well informed man like Mr. Hutton, will derive much advantage from such a trip. The new plants and new styles of gardening adopted in England during the last few years will come freshly before him, and he may be expected to return to his duties here with renewed ardor, and much useful information. In short, as a result of this visit, the Horticultural Gardens will take a fresh start, will keep abreast of the rapidly advancing Art of Horticulture, and may be expected to meet, even more fully than hitherto, the wants of the garden-loving citizens of Halifax.

PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK.—It is gratifying to know that the scheme of forming a public park at the North-West Arm, commensurate with the growing importance of the city, is likely to be successfully carried out. W. Cunard, Esq., is taking an active interest in the movement.

ONION SAUCE.—Take six moderate sized onions and boil them till quite soft, changing the water once or twice while they are boiling. Mash them with a spoon, add half a pint of milk, an ounce of butter, a teacup full of bread crumbs, a little salt, a grate or two of nutmeg.—boil it two minutes. A tablespoonful of flour may be used instead of the bread crumbs, if preferred.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several scientific articles, literary notices, and a paper on the Diseases of Farm Plants are necessarily deferred to make room for matter of present interest.

We return our best thanks to those correspondents who, during the past two months, have so kindly sent us valuable information as to the state and prospects of the crops in different parts of the Province. We shall feel much obliged by a continuation of such communications.

H. D.—The proceedings and minutes of business meetings of the Agricultural Board, so far as they are expected to be of interest to the members of Agriculture

or Societies or the public, are published in this journal.

Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay, Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

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