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VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., AUGUST, 1873.

No. 92.

HALIFAX, 21st AUGUST, 1873.

Our readers will have observed, from an official notice published in the newspapers, that it has been definitely arranged to hold a Provincial Agricultural Exhibition in October, 1874. The Exhibition is to be held at Halifax, and is to be strictly of an agricultural character, the prizes being limited to Horses, Cattle and other live stock, Poultry, Farm Products, Fruits, Vegetables and Agricultural Appliances. The amount of Government Grant is not to exceed four thousand dollars. The Rules, Regulations and Prize List are to be drawn up by the Central Board of Agriculture, and submitted to the Government for approval. Some time must necessarily elapse before the Prize List can be printed and circulated. In order that the work may be proceeded with, the Board will probably be called together at as early a day as possible in October, the month named in the Act for the regular half yearly meeting. And we hope that the whole of the preparation arrangements, including Regulations, Prize List, Programme, &c., will be completed and circulated in a printed form before the Societies hold their Annual Meetings in December.

In the meantime we trust that no time will be lost by our farmers in preparing for their friendly contest with each other. A Prize List in hand is certainly a stimulus to exertion; but the farmer need not wait for it before going into

training, or rather putting into training his land and his cattle. The man who begins now will have a great advantage over his neighbour who is waiting to see whether it will be worth while, after all, to go to the trouble of winning prizes.

As the present Board of Agriculture is a very full one, almost every County in the Province being represented, there is reason to hope that a Prize List may be prepared satisfactory to the farmers of all parts of the Province.

LAST month we gave a very full report of the condition and prospects of field crops throughout the various counties of the Province. That report was, with some exceptions, of a highly favourable and encouraging character. Since then we have later information, showing that the Hay crop has been generally secured in good condition. Potatoes, which were more extensively planted this season than for many previous years, remain quite sound, and prove of excellent quality. Where planted early, so that the potatoes were pretty well matured before the rain came on, the crop will be light; but late planted fields are still growing, and promise a large yield. Turnips look remarkably well. We hear that grain is, in light soils, ripening too rapidly to make a good, plump sample and heavy yield. A Windsor correspondent reports that the appearance of crops in his locality does not bear out or correspond with the

favourable reports from other localities, which, he thinks, may, in some cases, be premature. All we can say is, that there was remarkable unanimity in the numerous reports received from independent and thoroughly competent observers in all parts of the Province, and that our own personal observations serve to confirm their accuracy.

We have selected, from the July report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, such information respecting crops throughout the American Union as is likely to interest our readers. A comparison of these reports with those relating to our own Province in last number, is very instructive, and serves to show that all the sunshine is not confined to the American side of the boundary line.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to a new Machine. True's Potato Planter, which does the "entire business" (as it is expressed) of Cutting and Planting at one operation. It makes the furrow, cuts the potatoes, drops and covers them: and, in addition will drop a fertilizer with the seed. A few have already been sold in Nova Scotia. Mr. T. F. Proctor, of Newport, N. S., is Agent for this Province, and is now visiting the Counties of Kings and Annapolis, seeking orders. The following is from the *Maine Farmer* :—

"This is the first practical machine for cutting and planting potatoes, ever brought

into use; and its introduction marks a new era in the branch of business for which it is designed; effecting as it does such an immense saving of time and labor, and at a season when they are of such value as to establish itself at once as one of the most valuable and effective labor-saving machines ever offered to the farming community." * *

"The success of this machine is complete. From every part of the country there comes united testimony in regard to its perfectly satisfactory performance in every possible kind of work. Its use the past three years has fully demonstrated the perfection of principle upon which it is built."

"We call attention to this important invention, because we wish to encourage its general use, and we believe that one of the machines should be owned in every neighborhood at least, so that every farmer, who raises potatoes, may avail himself of its use."

The Programme of the great Annual Exhibition of Ontario will be found on another page. The Exhibition is to be held this year in London, during the latter part of September. We hope to be able to find room next month for the Rules and Regulations under which these Canadian Exhibitions are held, so that hints may be obtained for the arrangements connected with our own Provincial Exhibition, to be held next year.

The Act remodelling the Central Board of Agriculture is not likely to come into force for some time.

CONDITION OF CROPS THROUGH- OUT THE UNITED STATES UP TO THE MONTH OF JULY.

(Condensed from the Monthly Report of
Department of Agriculture, Washing-
ton.)

During the month of June, conditions of vegetable growth were remarkably diversified in different parts of the country. In the New England and Middle States, and as far south as the Chesapeake Bay, the general character of the season was one of drought; in many counties disastrous to vegetation. The opposite class of hygrometrical conditions prevailed in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, where the rain-fall was enormous in some localities, and excessive in its general average. Cases are reported in which nearly every day of June was rainy. The ground became thoroughly saturated, and the grass gained such headway that many fields of corn and cotton were abandoned. This abundance of moisture, however, was unfavourable to the development of insect life, and consequently the depredations upon the cotton crop were much less than the previous reports had given ground to fear. In the inland Southern States—Arkansas,

Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky—the rain-fall was abundant, and in many places excessive, but not to so injurious an extent as in the States further south. South of the Ohio River, the rains were generally moderate, and in many places the weather was reported very fine. Westward an increase of atmospheric disturbances is noticeable; heavy storms of wind, rain, hail, with thunder and lightning, were frequently destructive of growing crops. West of the Mississippi, accounts are somewhat variant, the majority, however, showing an abundant rain-fall, while in no case is the drought severe. Heavy hail storms are reported in this quarter also. In California, the general character of June was cool and dry, with exceptions, especially in the northern part of the State. In Oregon, the rain was more general and heavy; in some cases enabling farmers to dispense with irrigation entirely. In Linn County, the rain-fall was greater than for twenty years.

WHEAT.

A large proportion of the winter-wheat, in several of the States, was reported in June as winter-killed. As the season advanced, however, it was discovered that in many cases the crop was only thinned out, and that its increased size and weight of heads and plumpness and beauty of berry promised a very considerable compensation for the losses of winter. An improvement in quality was also quite generally noted in several of the largest wheat-growing districts. In a large number of counties, however, wet weather during harvest not only delayed the gathering of the crop, but also threatened to injure it in the shock.

It was observed that the early-sown fields of winter-wheat were far more promising than those later sown. The advantage of early-ripening varieties was also indicated by the fact that these escaped the ravages of insect enemies, which entirely swept some of the later crops. Of these early ripening varieties, the Fultz and Tappahannock from the Department, especially the Fultz, receive very frequent and honorable mention.

Of counties growing spring-wheat, the number above average declined during June from 103 to 87, and counties average from 115 to 108, while the counties below average have increased from 68 to 142. The general condition of spring-wheat was enhanced in Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, California and Oregon. It declined in all the New England and Middle States, and in all the Northwestern States, except those just mentioned. There is but casual mention of spring-wheat in the South. In New England, the dry weather interfered with the growth of the crop, while in the North-

west, in many localities, a variety of insect enemies—the Hessian fly, the grass-hopper, the chinch-bug, &c.—very seriously injured the crops. The deterioration of spring-wheat appears to have been greater in proportion than the improvement of winter-wheat, yet the larger amount of the latter grown in the country will probably restore the equilibrium. Upon a careful consideration of all points in the problem, the prospective wheat-yield of 1873, judging from its condition on the 1st of July, appears about the same as at the 1st of June, or about 220,000,000 bushels.

INDIAN CORN.

The low price of corn in the Northwestern states, the backward, wet, frosty spring, and the extraordinary amount of rain in all except the New England and Middle States during the planting season, are among the causes which have checked an increase, and to some extent occasioned a decrease in acreage; in all the Gulf States there is an increase. This result, due mainly to a healthy tendency in the cotton States toward producing their own supplies, has, perhaps, been perceptibly increased by the amount of cotton-fields plowed up and planted in corn. The largest absolute falling off, by far, is in the great corn-growing State of Illinois, in which there is also a still larger falling off, 15 per cent., in condition.

Condition.—Owing to the peculiarities of the spring weather, the planting of corn was almost universally late. Throughout the Northern, Middle, and Northwestern States, the seed, to an unheard-of extent, failed to germinate. This is generally accounted for on the supposition that the seed-corn, not being sufficiently dried in the autumn, was injured by the extraordinary freezing of last winter. This failure, together with the extensively prevailing wet, cold weather, during the season of its germination, and the consequent depredations of worms, has occasioned an unprecedented amount of replanting, often the second, and in not a few cases the third, and even the fourth time. In the New England and Middle States, also in Ohio, Michigan, and sections of adjacent States, and in California, an early drought checked its growth, while South and West protracted wet weather, has greatly hindered cultivation, and multiplied weeds and grass. These causes combined left the crop, July 1, generally quite backward and in an unfavourable condition. But as the stand is nearly, if not quite, average, as the too dry weather at the North, and the too wet at the South and West, have already changed for the better, and as July and August are the months in which corn is made, (except in the cotton States), there is yet a chance for great improvement, and a much larger crop than the

condition at the date of reporting seemed to indicate.

"Cut-worms" have been quite generally troublesome, and especially so in Maryland; grasshoppers, which destroyed much of the first planting in Texas, but left in season for a second planting, are injuring the crop in some sections in California, and chinch-bugs are threatening extensive injury to it in Missouri and Kansas.

COTTON.

The total area in cotton in 1872, as estimated by the Department from the most accurate information attainable, was 8,500,000 acres. The returns for this year indicated an increase of about 12 per cent. The breadth planted was quite enough to tax to the utmost all available labor under the most favorable circumstances. But throughout the cotton States, for a period varying from twenty-five to thirty-five days, according to locality, and ending between the 20th and 30th of June, the weather was wet beyond precedent. Furthermore, for reasons reported in June, the crop was generally from two to four weeks late. The large area planted, the lateness of the crop, and the almost incessant rains, for weeks preventing work and stimulating the growth of grass and weeds, have combined to produce a demand for labor which it is impossible to meet. A few reporters complain of the unreliability or laziness of the freedmen, but the majority of those who refer to the subject give them credit for doing better this season than heretofore, and place the difficulty on the ground of a demand for work which the laborers in this section, even with their best efforts, are too few to meet. In consequence of this excess of rain and lack of labor, weeds and grass have been overshadowing the cotton-plant in every State and in almost every county reported. The area that, for this reason, has been either abandoned outright or plowed up and planted in corn, will probably nearly equal the excess over last year's acreage. The reports, with few exceptions, are despondent in tone and picture a somewhat gloomy prospect. But they doubtless are not fully exempt from the common tendency to exaggerate the bad effects upon crops of unpropitious weather prevailing in the present, and to underrate the future chances of recuperation from those effects.

OATS.

The prospective yield of oats during June declined in all the New England and Middle States, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The condition of the crop was enhanced in all the other States, especially in the South. That is, the prospects have declined in those States,

which produced 227,994,000 bushels of the estimated total yield of 1872, which was 271,747,000. The drought prevailing in the Eastern States is sufficient to account for the great decline in that quarter. Insect enemies and stormy weather are alleged as causes of some decline in the Northwestern States.

POTATOES.

An increased acreage in potatoes is noted in Vermont, Connecticut, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oregon. The acreage remains the same as last year in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, North Carolina, Mississippi, Indiana, and Minnesota. The remaining States showed a decreased acreage. The maximum acreage is found in Nebraska, 121; and the minimum in Delaware, 85. The potato-bug extended its ravages in the Eastern States, while in many points in the West its injuries were quite severe. Fear of this insect in many cases induced the cultivation of smaller crops. A condition above average is reported in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. In Wisconsin the condition was full average, and in all the other States below. The maximum, 111, is found in Georgia; the minimum, 36, in Delaware.

SWEET-POTATOES.

An increased acreage in sweet-potatoes is reported in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, and Kansas; in South Carolina the acreage remains the same as last year, and there is a decrease in all the other States, no crops being reported in New England, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The condition of the crop was full average or above in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee; it was below average in all the other States. The maximum, 108, was in Florida; the minimum, 76, was in New Jersey.

SUGAR-CANE.

An increased acreage was planted in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, and a decreased acreage in Texas and Louisiana. The increase in Alabama amounted to 15 per cent. The crop was above average in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and below average in the other States. The growth of sugar-cane is reported in 75 counties, of which 1 was in South Carolina, 19 in Georgia, 10 in Alabama, 7 in Mississippi, 10 in Louisiana, and 16 in Texas.

BARLEY.

Winter-barley during June improved in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, and California; it

declined in Texas, Ohio, and Kansas. Spring-barley improved in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin; it declined in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, California, and Oregon.

RYE.

Winter-rye improved during June in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. It remained stationary in Georgia, and declined in all the other States reported. Spring-rye is average or above in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oregon. In all the other States it is below average; the minimum, 70, is in California, and the maximum, 110, is in Nebraska.

GRASS AND PASTURES.

Owing to the drought, which prevailed in June throughout the New England and Middle States, and in portions of Ohio, Michigan, and California, pastures and clover are below average in all those States; and timothy in all, except Vermont, 101; Connecticut, 102; and Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, 100. In all the other States pastures are above average, and clover is average or above in all except Mississippi, 95; Illinois, 92; Wisconsin, 83; and Minnesota, 88. Florida, Louisiana, and Texas do not report clover, and these States, together with South Carolina and Mississippi, do not report timothy, which is above average in all the remaining States.

SORGHUM.

The cultivation of this crop is on the decline. The only exception noticed is in Texas, where, in De Witt County, "the sorghum-crop is increasing and is really a profitable crop."

BEANS.

In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, Mississippi, and Michigan, the acreage in beans is reported the same as last year. The States in which it is increased are Maine, New York, Maryland, Alabama, West Virginia, and Ohio, 102; Connecticut and Texas, 101; Georgia, 103; Florida, 113; Arkansas and Oregon, 105; Minnesota, 107; Kansas, 111; Nebraska, 109. In the remaining States the range is between 90 in Vermont and 99 in South Carolina and Wisconsin. In condition, Rhode Island and Michigan are average; South Carolina, 102; Georgia, 105; Florida, 118; Alabama, 107; Mississippi, Tennessee, and Oregon, 106; Arkansas, 103. The condition in the remaining States ranges between 80 in Delaware and 99 in North Carolina and Wisconsin.

TOBACCO.

An increased acreage was planted in Virginia, Texas, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. Arkansas and Tennessee return the same acreage as last year, while a decrease is reported in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Ohio, and Illinois. The crop was full average or above in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. In all the other States reported it was below average. The maximum, 102, was in Alabama; the minimum, 76, in Massachusetts.

WOOL.

The wool-clip was full average or above in Maine, Vermont, New Jersey, Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, California, and Oregon; it was below average in all the other States. The maximum, 127, was found in Oregon, the minimum, 92, in Tennessee.

FRUITS.

In the northern sections of the country, the intense cold of last winter, and in the southern, late severe frosts and freezes in the spring, did immense injury to the fruit-trees and grape-vines, and, only in a less degree, to the strawberry-vines. Vast numbers of peach-trees and apple-trees were killed outright, and very many more were seriously injured. The injury to apple-trees was more serious and extensive than was apparent when the report for May and June was made up. Many trees that leaved out and bloomed profusely have since died; and where apples appeared to be well set the complaint is general that they wither and drop off. Insects are doing more or less injury to the portions of the crop which are otherwise in fair condition. In Kansas "an apple-tree blight" prevails somewhat extensively. It is described as closely resembling the "pear-tree blight."

Apples are below average in condition in every State except Oregon, (where but few are produced,) which is 101. The States in which the condition is lowest are Tennessee, 36; North Carolina and Illinois, 50; Delaware, 53; Connecticut, 55; Kentucky, 56; Massachusetts, 58; South Carolina, 60; Rhode Island and Wisconsin, 66; Indiana, 69; New Jersey and Texas, 70; Pennsylvania, 71; Iowa and Missouri, 73; Maine, Maryland, Georgia, and Minnesota, 75; New York and Ohio, 76; New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Kansas, 77.

Peaches are below average in condition in all the States producing them; the lowest is in Ohio, 26; Tennessee, 33; Pennsylvania, 35; Kansas, 36; Illinois,

42; South Carolina, 44; Michigan, 45; Connecticut and Missouri, 48; North Carolina, 54; West Virginia and Kentucky, 56; New Jersey and Maryland, 58; Massachusetts and Nebraska, 61; Indiana, 63; Texas, 66. The highest condition is in Rhode Island, 98; and the next in Oregon, 95.

Pears, the condition of which is not reported by figures, promise relatively better than apples and peaches.

Grapes.—The average condition of grapes in Nebraska is represented by 106; Delaware, 103; West Virginia, 100; in all the other States it is below 100. North Carolina, 60; Pennsylvania and Ohio, 62; Illinois, 63; California, 70; Indiana, 72. The remainder range between 77, (Tennessee,) and 98, (Oregon.)

Strawberries.—The average condition of strawberries was, in Nebraska, 127; Delaware 125; Oregon, 113; Kansas, 106; Maryland and Alabama, 104; Mississippi, 101; Arkansas and Minnesota, 100. In the remaining States the range was from 61 in New Jersey to 96 in California.

THE ONTARIO EXHIBITION.

The Twenty-Eighth Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural and Arts Association, will be held in the City of London, Ontario, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1873.

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK.

1. MONDAY, September 22nd, will be devoted to the final receiving of articles for exhibition, and their proper arrangement. Officers and members of the Association, judges, exhibitors, delegates, members of the press, and necessary attendants, will be admitted on presenting the proper credentials, badge, or ticket of admission. Other persons will be admitted on payment of 25 cents each time. The rules for admission will be the same throughout the exhibition.

2. TUESDAY, 23rd.—The judges in all the classes will meet in their respective Committee Rooms at 10 a. m., and will make arrangements to commence their duties. On receiving the class books, they will be also furnished with the blank prize tickets, which they shall fill up and affix in each section so soon as they shall have finally determined their awards. The First Prize Tickets will be Red; the Second, Blue; the Third, Yellow; the Fourth, White; Extras, Green; the "Highly commended" and "Commended" Tickets, White. On completing the class, the judges will report to the Secretary. The main exhibition building will be closed all this day, for the purpose of affording the judges an opportunity for discharging their duties properly. Non-

members admitted to the grounds on payment of 25 cents each time. The Annual Meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association will take place at the Court House, at 7 p. m.

3. WEDNESDAY, 24th.—The judges of the various classes will complete their awards as early in the day as possible. All the buildings and grounds will be open to visitors. Admission the same as on Monday and Tuesday. The Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute Association will take place at the Court House this evening at 7 o'clock.

4. THURSDAY, 25th.—Admission, 25 cents. The Prize Animals will be exhibited in the ring at 2 p. m. The Annual Meeting of the Directors of the Provincial Agricultural Association, for the purpose of electing auditors, deciding upon the place of holding the next exhibition, and other business, will take place at 7 p. m., at the Court House, on Ridout Street, between King and Dundas Streets, London.

The President will deliver his address at the Annual Meeting.

5. FRIDAY, 26th.—Admission the same as on previous days, till 2 p. m. At 2 p. m., the Exhibition will be considered officially closed, after which no one will be admitted into the Crystal Palace, and exhibitors may commence to take away their property.

6. SATURDAY, 30th.—The Treasurer will commence paying the premiums at 9 a. m. Exhibitors will remove all their property from the grounds and buildings. The gates will be kept closed as long as necessary, and none will be admitted except those who can show that they have business to attend to.

A Catalogue of all the Entries of Animals and Implements, giving the names of Exhibitors, the names and short pedigrees of the Animals, &c., will be prepared and will be on sale at the Grounds. Price Ten Cents.

PLOWING MATCHES.

For the purpose of holding Ploughing Matches the Province of Ontario is divided into Four Sections, each such Section consisting of three Agricultural Districts, for electing members of the Council of the Association, viz: Section No. 1, of Agricultural Districts Nos. 1, 2, and 3; No. 2, of Districts Nos. 4, 5, and 6; No. 3, of Districts Nos. 7, 8, and 9; No. 4, of Districts Nos. 10, 11 and 12.

A Ploughing Match will be held in each of the above named Sections, under the auspices of the Association, as follows, viz: For Section No. 1, in the neighbourhood of Ottawa; No. 2, in the neighbourhood of Port Hope; No. 3, in the neighbourhood of Paris; No. 4, in the neighbourhood of Chatham.

The members of the Council residing in each of the Ploughing Match Sections

will be Sub-Committees to conduct the Matches in connection with the Electoral Division Societies. The Societies are invited to co-operate, and on any such Society contributing \$25 towards the funds the President shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee.

The Council will appropriate a sum not exceeding \$300 towards carrying out the Ploughing Match in each of the above Sections. The following gentlemen are Chairmen of the Committees of Management in each Section, viz: No. 1, Andrew Wilson, Maitland; No. 2, J. B. Aylsworth, Newburgh; No. 3, Hon. D. Christie, Paris; No. 4, Stephen White, Chatham.

The Chairman of each Section will receive proposals up to not later than 15th August.

No less than three Electoral Division Societies will be required to co-operate in each Section, otherwise the match will not be carried out by the Committee of the Association.

HUGH C. THOMSON,
Sec'y Agricultural and Arts Association.
TORONTO, June 11, 1873.

HINTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

(From the Gardener's Monthly.)

FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

We know *Coleus Blumei* of old, and that he was nothing particular to brag of; and when we heard that he had branched out into myriads of gay colors, and had become a great favorite with England's aristocracy, we shook our heads, and declared our belief that they were making a great fuss over an additional sport or so. But it proved more. We democrats of America, as well as European aristocracy, had to bow down to the merits of our humble old friend, and to-day the improved *Coleus* stands as high as any favored flower with us.

Then there came a time when we were told that the English had taken the Beet into their floral affection, and that it had risen to the front rank in floral decoration. "Impossible," said we. "What, the old garden Beet, whose leaves we had thousands of times twisted off in the truck patch, and which was never known to be of any use but to ignobly serve in the cook's department!" But our surprise again had to give way. The old garden Beet had really become a prince in the flower garden, even putting some of its companions—rich in flowers—to considerable shame.

Now all this, good reader, is preliminary to introducing to your attention another old acquaintance, which has marked virtues which fits it for a much higher position than that which it now occupies. We refer

to the common garden *Chamomile*. You know we here in the East had a terribly dry time this season. Grass dried up; white clover was nowhere, and it was very hard indeed to find any low creeping thing that was right green. But a row of *chamomile*, under the writer's observation, kept its beautiful verdure bright through to the day of the fresh rain, as pure as on its first advent in spring. Then it lies so flat on the ground, and makes no attempt to throw up anything until after mid-summer, when the flower stems could be easily cut away, and thus keep it green, that we really do not see why we could not make excellent use of it in a decorative way. There are many old fashioned things that we could thus make use of, and we would suggest here to our friends to look through their old borders at this time of the year, and see what can be done in this way.

We have learned to protect ourselves from cold wintry winds, but the art of making a place cool in summer is yet in its infancy. There is nothing accomplishes this better than plenty of grass, and the neat deciduous tree foliage. The making of flower beds with box edgings and gravel walks suits Dutch and French gardening, but it is too hot for us.

The beds should be cut in grass. The walks round about a place should also be in grass as much as possible; only those likely to be frequently used should be gravel walks. Even these, where tan can be obtained, are much cooler when this material can be used, than when gravelled. In the planting of roads, art, as we read it in the books, plants only in corners, and makes its most striking effects to be seen from the drives; but American art as it should be, plants all the chief drives with deciduous shade trees, and yet allows you to look through beneath them to the beauties beyond.

The best kinds of deciduous trees for this purpose are the Silver, Sugar, Sycamore and Norway Maples; American, (and where the borer is not troublesome) the English Linden; American and European Ash, Horse Chestnut, *Magnolia tripetala* and *acuminata*, with their first cousin the Tulip tree; the sweet Gums, Elms, Kentucky Coffee, and Oaks of all kinds. For farm roads the Cherry, Black, English and White Walnuts, Chestnuts, and even the Pear, may be employed. Besides these, in the South there are the Mimosa, the *Molia Zederack*, *Magnolia grandiflora*, which, though an evergreen, has the lightness of a deciduous tree; besides Live Oaks, &c.

But besides the selection of trees for drives, weeping trees should be liberally introduced, some of which, like Weeping ashes, make cool and shady arbors preferable to any the carpenter's hand could make. Of these are the large varieties of Weeping Willow, Weeping Sophora, Weep-

ing Birch, Lindens, Elms, &c., though none equal the Ash for arbor purposes.

Then again very much may be done by planting two or three trees together so that as they grow up, they will form natural seat backs. For this purpose there is nothing like the Oak tribe.

Sometimes we cannot get the coveted shade because we have planted slow growing trees—generally the prettiest and best worth waiting for—this may be effected by planting liberally of Alders, Poplars and similar ephemeral trees, to be cut away as they gradually interfere with the permanent kinds.

The planting season will soon come round, and now is the time to look about and select the desirable kinds, and to decide on the proper places to set them.

The latter end of August is one of the best seasons of the year to transplant evergreens. The young growth of the past season has got pretty well hardened, so as to permit of but very little evaporation—and the earth being warm, new roots push with great rapidity, and the tree becomes established in the ground before cool autumn winds begin. The chief difficulty is that the soil is usually very dry, which prevents much speed with the operation; and the weather being usually very warm, the trees have to be set again in the ground almost as fast as they are taken up; so that it is not safe to bring them from a distance. It is as well, therefore, to make all ready in anticipation of a rain, when no time may be lost in having the work pushed through. Should a spell of dry weather ensue, which in September and October is very likely, one good watering should be given, sufficient to soak well through the soil and well about the roots. A basin should be made to keep the water from running away from the spot, and to assist its soaking in. After being well watered, the loose soil should be drawn in lightly over the watered soil, which will then aid in preventing the water from drying out soon again.

As soon in the fall as bulbs can be obtained, they should be planted—though this will not generally be the case till October; but it is as well to bear in mind that the earlier they are planted, the finer they will flower.

Towards the end of the month, and in September, evergreen hedges should receive their last pruning till the next summer. Last spring, and in the summer, when a strong growth required it, the hedge has been severely pruned towards the apex of the cone-like form in which it has been trained, and the base has been suffered to grow any way it pleases. Now that, in turn, has come under the shears, so far as to get it into regular shape and form. It will not be forgotten that, to be very successful with evergreen hedges, they ought to have a growth at the base of at least four feet in diameter.

FRUIT GARDEN.

August and September are favorite months to plant out Strawberries, with those who desire a crop of fruit the next season. In making a strawberry-bed a warm, dry spot of ground should be chosen, with, if possible, a good loamy or clayey subsoil. A moist wet situation is very unfavorable. It is best to subsoil at least eighteen inches deep, and if the soil is poor, let it be moderately enriched with well decayed stable manure. In setting out, take care that the plants do not become dry from the time they are taken up till they are replanted, and see that they do not wither afterwards. Many persons cut off the leaves, if they are afraid of their wilting under hot suns, but a much better plan is to shade. Inverted 4-inch flower-pots are excellent for this purpose; they may be taken off at night. The dews will so invigorate them, that the shade will only be required for a few days. Sometimes in September they may need a good watering; but this should never be attempted unless a thorough saturation of the bed be given; and in a few days after, the hoe and rake should be employed to loosen and level the surface, which the heavy watering will, in all probability, have caused to bake and become very crusty.

Strawberries are best grown in beds about four feet wide for the convenience of gathering fruit, and giving them the best of cultivation. About three rows in a bed, and the plants twelve inches apart in the row, will be a good arrangement.

Many kinds of fruit trees that have arrived at a bearing age, may perhaps be growing very vigorously and producing very little or no fruit. Those who have read our remarks in past numbers, will understand that whatever checks the wood producing principle, tends to throw the plant into a bearing state. For this purpose, summer pruning is often employed, which, by checking the most vigorous shoots, weakens the whole plant, and throws it into a fruitful condition. The same result is obtained by root pruning, with this difference, that by the last operation the whole of the branches are proportionately checked, while by pinching only the strong growing shoots, the weak ones gain at the expense of the stronger ones. Presuming that the branches have been brought into a satisfactory condition in this respect, root pruning may now be this month resorted to. We cannot say exactly how far from the trunk the roots may be operated on, so much depends on the age and vigor of the tree. In a luxuriant, healthy tree, one-fourth may be safely dispensed with. In a four year old standard pear tree, for instance, the roots will, perhaps, have reached four feet from the trunk on every side. A circle six feet in diameter may then be cut around the

stem, extending two feet beneath the surface. It is not necessary to dig out the soil to accomplish the result; a strong post spade, or strong spade of any kind, may be driven down vigorously describing the circle, and doing the work very effectually. Of all trees, the peach is as much benefitted by root pruning as any.

The Grape vine at this season will require attention, to see that the leaves are all retained healthy till thoroughly ripened. It is not a sign of healthiness for a vine to grow late; on the contrary, such late growth generally gets killed in the winter—but the leaves should all stay on, to insure the greatest health of the vine, until the frost comes, when they should all be so mature as to fall together. Frequent heavy syringing is one of the best ways to keep off insects from out-door grapes, and so protect the foliage from their ravages.

A little trimming is useful to most trees at this season. The Blackberry and Raspberry may have their tops shortened so as to leave the canes about four feet. Some do this earlier in the season, but the buds are apt to burst if done too soon. In like manner, pear and apple trees that grow well, but produce no fruit, are benefitted by having, say half of some of the young growth cut back. The buds then left are very likely to form flower buds, in place of growth buds for next season. Many take out the old shoots of raspberry and blackberry after they have done bearing, and we have in times past recommended it ourselves; but on further observation, we see very little good, if not positive injury. The partial shade the old stems make seems rather beneficial than otherwise under our hot suns. Frequently the sun shining on the hot ground seems particularly favorable to fungoid development. The lower leaves then fall before the wood is ripe, when it dies in the winter, and is not hardy.

CAULIFLOWERS.

Judging by the size and quality of the cauliflowers that have been sold in our markets during the past few years, one would naturally come to the conclusion that good vegetables of that class cannot be raised in the neighborhood of Halifax. Yesterday we visited a small garden at the south end of the city, belonging to a friend who professes to understand but little of gardening, and we were surprised at the size and beauty of his cauliflowers; many of them measured ten inches in diameter. On inquiring into the method of cultivation, we were told that the bed, which was in size 22 by 7 feet, was manured, about the middle of May, with bone-dust in the proportion of 1 lb. per square yard. On the 1st of June, fifty-two plants of the early London variety

were set out, and shaded from the sun until they had firmly taken root. From the day they were planted, they have been completely drenched with water every evening. The result of this treatment is four dozen cauliflowers, of a size just about three times that of the cauliflowers usually offered for sale in the Halifax market. A few plants of the same variety in the same garden, that were manured with old stable-manure, did not succeed; most of them are club-rooted.

HORTICULTURE AND LANDS—
CAPE GARDENING IN
ENGLAND.

The following Address, read by P. T. Quinn before the Rural Club of N. Y., is extracted from the *New York Horticulturist*:—

The first view of the British Islands, as seen from the deck of a steamship in the English channel, is strikingly beautiful and picturesque. The distant and green-clad hills of the county Wicklow, Ireland, and the bold, abrupt, and in places precipitous landscape of Wales, divisioned off into fields by the neatly trimmed hedges, is a pleasant and enjoyable picture, coming suddenly upon one, after a ten days' voyage, during which time little or nothing is seen, but sea and sky, with an occasional spout of the ever-welcome *rhale* to break into the monotony and lazy habits one falls into in crossing the Atlantic. But on approaching Liverpool through the Mersey, there follows a sad feeling of disappointment, with this muddy, sluggish, stream, flowing lazily along; as if without purpose, and confined on either side with tame and uninviting banks. One wonders that in a country with a world-wide fame for its cultivated tastes in embellishing its landscape, where gardening was taught and fostered, as one of the fine arts, as early as the sixteenth century, that so little has been done to adorn and beautify the banks of the river leading to the great shipping port of the world. But this disappointment soon vanishes when leaving the outskirts of this, the centre of the shipping interest, for, travel whichever direction you may, the general appearance of the country is that of a well-kept and highly cultivated garden, when compared with our own country, where fertile land is too plenty and too cheap for the same kind of close cropping. The total absence of the unsightly post and rail fences, and in their stead the thorn hedges, gives tone to the landscape, and adds much to the general appearance of the face of the country, that grows on one the more they see of it.

Another feature, common in England, Ireland and Scotland, and one well

worthy of imitation in our own country, is the tasteful manner in which the railroad companies keep the enclosed spaces on either side of the tracks. The spare ground is laid down to grass, which is mowed twice a year, leaving a fine turf for hundreds of miles on a stretch. This, in connection with depots built of stone, from handsome designs, and the walls of such buildings not unfrequently hidden from sight by the luxuriant growth of ivy, and other climbing vines, with a tastefully laid out flower garden near by—and often I have seen the name of the station, from the car window, in growing flowers of brilliant colors.

The natural advantages of the mild and moist English climate, make it comparatively easy work for the English gardener to produce and keep up a succession of fine effects. Among the most noticeable in all well kept gardens, parks and pleasure grounds, is the exquisitely fine character of the turf, looking in midsummer a fresh, green, closely shaved, soft, velvety and elastic to the foot. One who has not seen a well tended English lawn, cannot conceive how much it adds to the finish of a country home. In all country places having any pretensions, the "ribbon" style of arranging flowers is quite common; and where the plants have been set with a view to the harmony of colors, this style proves a great success. Then follows the plan of massing colors. Beds cut out in graceful and artistic shapes, planted with a single variety of flowers, or a bed of ornamental-leaved plants. The geranium, golden feather (*Pyrethrum*), dwarf nasturtium, mignonette, lobelia and coleus are often used for this purpose. While in some of the best kept places, long beds of dark blood-leaved beets were grown for ornamental purposes, and contiguous to other plants, one could hardly imagine they would harmonize and give such richness to the whole.

WINDOW GARDENING.

There is no doubt that the mass of the English people enjoy and cultivate flowers more generally than the Americans. This fact is demonstrated in the extent that "Window Gardening" is practiced in and about every village, town and city; among the poor, as well as the rich, are to be seen structures on the window sills, kept constantly filled with flowering and ornamental leaved plants through the whole season. In the more wealthy neighborhoods, these window structures are elegant in the make and finish, and in places the whole front of a house would seem ablaze with bright colors and climbing vines. Through the mechanic and laborers' quarters, there would be a less gorgeous display; but even in the most wretched hovels, where the poor are compelled to live, it was

quite common to see, in a back alley, on the sill of a window, four or five stories up, a single plant of geranium, or a pot of mignonette, that had been carefully tended by its owner. The demand is so large for this class of plants, that they are propagated by the million, and sold at very low rates, when compared with our prices for the same kind and quality of plants. Fuchsias, strong, stocky plants, for twelve cents apiece; geranium, balsams, calceolaries, etc., etc., at from four to six cents, or one-sixth of what they would cost here. In London, propagators from the suburbs send thousands of these flowering plants, every morning, to Covent Garden market; from here they are distributed, by men, women and boys, to all parts of the city, each of whom has his own customers, and keeps them supplied with whatever kinds they want, not only for window decoration, but also for garden culture.

Where there was such a demand for annuals, there must be some place where the seeds were grown in great quantity. A visit to the flower farm of Dunnett & Beale, at Dedham, Essex county, soon solved this inquiry. Here I saw more than two hundred acres exclusively devoted to raising flower seeds; and at the time of my visit, the bulk of the past season's crop was in full blossom, presenting a display well worth a trip across the Atlantic to see. This, however, is a mere skeleton of one branch of the commercial florist's business on the other side of the Atlantic.

FINE PLANTS.

On a visit to the mammoth establishments of James Veitch & Son, Wm. Bull, E. G. Henderson & Co., Wm. Rolleston & Sons, R. A. Prance, George Jackman & Co., Wm. Paul, Thomas Rivers, and hundreds of others in the suburbs of London, one can see a choicer and very much more expensive class of plants, where the price of single specimens will range from \$5 to \$60 apiece, and plenty of demand for this class of stock. I saw in one of these establishments a dozen of large Azaleas sold for \$60 apiece, to go to St. Petersburg, for embellishing a banquet hall next season. In another, I saw fifty pot grape vines, in fruit, at \$12 apiece, for a dinner party of a wealthy Londoner. Nor were these rare cases, for one familiar with plants need only examine the stock to judge of its value. The horticultural societies are far-sighted enough to offer large money premiums for fine plants, and the exhibitions that I attended seemed to warrant this course. At the exhibition of the Royal Botanical Gardens, I saw more and choicer plants shown by a single exhibitor, than I ever saw by one Society, including all exhibitors in this country. Just imagine Fuchsias six feet high, and four or five in diameter,

completely covered with flowers; Erica Candolleana, six feet in diameter and three in height; Allamanda grandiflora, a mass of flowers; Pelargoniums, more than seven feet in diameter; also, John Waterer & Sons' collection of Azaleas and Rhododendrons, the finest in the United Kingdom; in fact, these would make an attractive exhibition without further accession.

ROSES.

In England the Rose seems to have attained perfection, and the demand is very large. In walking over the grounds with one nurseryman in the suburbs of London, he showed me his stock of forty acres of standard roses, and he assured me he was not one of the largest growers. At the rose show at Sydenham Palace, the cut roses were arranged in shallow boxes filled with moss, each box holding forty roses. These boxes were placed in a line, and this line extended just half a mile, and the large size of the roses was quite as surprising to me as that of the whole exhibition. Another and very interesting feature of this show, and one that I hope to see some day adopted by our own Societies, was that of offering liberal premiums for dressing breakfast, lunch and dinner tables with flowers. Here the tables in each class were set, ready for a meal, with the plants arranged by the competitors, which in this instance were about forty in number. For this purpose the different varieties of the Fern were arranged with graceful and pleasing effect. In fact, this part of the exhibition was more attractive to me than that of the roses.

The London Horticultural Society's exhibition was smaller than I had reason to suppose, from its standing and antiquity; still, the collection of Jackman's Clematis, in size, variety and brilliancy of colors, more than paid me for my visit. This, with the hospitable reception from the active members of this representative Society, will always be remembered by me with pleasure.

GARDENING.

In what may be termed ornamental gardening, the English are far in advance of us, but in the more practical part we take the lead by at least twenty years. During my stay in England, I visited many of the largest and best-managed vegetable farms in the vicinity of London, and I was surprised to witness their primitive methods, both in their cropping and tedious way of doing the work. It is quite within bounds to say, that a man familiar with trucking in New Jersey will do a third more work in a given time than a man in the same position in an English garden. The ordinary implements used by the latter are clumsy and unnecessarily heavy, and this weight has

to be carried around at a considerable waste of strength both of men and animals. For instance, a common digging spade or fork will weigh at least twice as much as one of ours, intended for the same class of work. There is more weight of wood in an English garden cart than would make two or three of ours, and this seeming unnecessary weight will be found to run through the whole list of English farm implements.

SMALL FRUITS.

Small fruits are grown on a large scale in the outskirts of London. At the fruit farm of Mr. F. Dancer, one of the most successful growers in the neighborhood of London, I had an excellent chance to study their methods. With raspberries, blackberries, currants and strawberries, our method of cultivating and yield would equal that of the best English growers. But with gooseberries, the English are so much larger and so much more prolific, that I would not even think of drawing a comparison. I saw growing at Mr. F.'s farm, fifteen acres of gooseberries, without apparently a diseased leaf or berry. The heavy spring rains and late frosts destroyed the crop of apples and pears in England, so that I had no opportunity of seeing orchards in full bearing, and had to be content with drawing conclusions from the growth and foliage of the trees. But in Belgium and France, I examined many noted collections of these fruits, and I returned home with the firm and proud belief that with apples, pears and peaches we can beat, in size, quality and production.

UPPER NINE MILE RIVER SOCIETY, HANTS COUNTY.

At a meeting held at Upper Nile Mile River, for the purpose of organizing an Agricultural Society, the following officers were unanimously elected:—

President, Samuel Blois; *Vice-Pres.*, Donald McPhee; *Secretary*, Geo. P. Thompson; *Asst. Secretary*, Jas. A. Thompson; *Treasurer*, Robert C. Roulston; *Directors*, Donald Thompson, David McDonald, Roderick McKenzie, Donald Grant, John A. McPhee.

The officers elect having taken their places the following motions passed unanimously:—

1st. That the Secretary receive the sum of five dollars annually.

2nd. That the President and Secretary shall purchase suitable books for said society.

3rd. That the Constitution and Bye Laws as read be adopted (a copy of which is here inclosed.)

4th. That the subscribing members pay their subscriptions on or before the 10th July.

5th. That this society shall be called the Upper Nine Mile River Society.

GEO. P. THOMPSON, *Secretary*.

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.

This Society shall be known as the Upper Nine Mile River Agricultural Society.

OFFICERS.

The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and five Directors, to be chosen at each annual meeting.

PRESIDENT.

The President shall have power to call meetings of the society when he shall deem it necessary, and he shall do so at any time upon requisition in writing of three members of the board of Directors. He shall have the casting vote when the votes of those present are equally divided, and decide all questions of order, and shall perform such other duties as usually appertain to the office of President, and in case he is unable to act the Vice President shall act as President.

SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall post notices of the meetings of the society in five of the most public places within the boundaries of the society one week before the days appointed for such meetings upon the order of the President, and shall attend all meetings of the society, and keep minutes of the same, sign all money orders, and render in the reports of the society to the Central Board of Agriculture as required by law, and perform such other duties proper to his office as may be required of him by the President or ordered by any meeting of the society; for which service he shall receive annually the sum of five dollars.

Assistant Secretary to act in absence of Secretary.

TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall give bonds for double the amount likely to pass through his hands during the year, to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors. He shall receive all monies and pay the same only by the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary, and shall report quarterly to the society the state of the funds.

DIRECTORS.

The Directors shall have the general management of the affairs of the society. Subject to and to be governed by the known wishes of the majority of any such meetings of the society, three of whom shall form a quorum.

The boundaries of the society shall be subdivided into five Directors Divisions as follows, viz.:

No. 1 shall include Back River and Nine Mile River as far northerly as Donald Fitzpatrick's North line.

No. 2 shall include from said Donald Fitzpatrick's North line northerly to James Thompson's, Junior, North line on the Ess Road and to the School House in Upper Nine Mile River Section.

No. 3 shall include from Upper Nine Mile River School House to John Cochran's and Dougald McDonald's, South lines, and shall include Archd. Fraser's.

No. 4 shall include from said John Cochran's and Dougald McDonald's South line to the junction of Roads near Wm. Murdoch's including the East Gore and Mountain Settlement.

No. 5 shall include the Indian Road and Barr Settlements.

Each of the said divisions shall be allowed one Director resident in each of said divisions.

MEETINGS.

The annual meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday in December in each year as prescribed by law, and quarterly thereafter at the time and place as the President may direct, with or without a written requisition of three of the Directors; five members of the society shall form a quorum.

MEMBERSHIP.

The annual fee for membership shall be one dollar, and no member shall be allowed to vote at any meeting of the society nor in any way participate in the benefits of the society whose subscriptions is not paid up agreeably to the rules of the society.

ALTERATIONS.

The constitution of the society shall not be altered except at an annual meeting and by a vote of two-thirds of the members then present.

RULES.

1. Each member shall pay his annual subscription to the Treasurer at such time as required by the annual meeting.

2. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any one question at any meeting, nor more than five minutes each time without leave of the President to briefly answer any question, or by vote of the meeting; nor to use any language or conduct unbecoming a gentleman.

3. No member shall be eligible to vote under the age of sixteen years.

Any members breaking any of the foregoing Rules of the society shall forfeit his membership.

NEW PLAN FOR DOUBLE WORKING PEAR GRAFTS.—Mr. P. H. Parker of Bastrop, La., writes to the *Southern Farm and Home* that he is successfully practicing a new mode for double working such varieties of pears as are difficult to graft on the quince. He takes the reluctant variety, whatever it may be, grafts it on some other pear—the Bartlett for instance—then cuts the latter from its parent tree and grafts that upon the quince. (Growth in both cions follows at once, he claims, and he gains at least a year's time by it. He says also that this method improves the habits of some straggling varieties—the Rostiezer for instance—and that the Seckel, double worked on the Bartlett, will grow much faster than when grafted directly on the quince. He has practiced this for twelve years, he says, and now first makes it public.—*Horticulturist*.)

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

The Government have authorized the Central Board of Agriculture to announce that a Provincial Agricultural Exhibition will be held at Halifax, during the first week in October, 1874, of which notice is hereby given in terms of the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture. The Rules, Regulations and Prize List will be prepared for circulation without unnecessary delay.

By order of the Board of Agriculture.

GEORGE LAWSON,
Secretary.

Halifax, 19th August, 1873.