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CONTENTS :

	PAGE		PAGE
Editorial.....	489	Salted Mutton.....	493
The New York State Fair, 1869.....	490	Onslow Agricultural Society.....	493
Hemp Culture.....	491	Report of the Boularderie Agricultural Society.....	494
Ground Bones and their Uses.....	492	Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science	494
The "Canada Farmer".....	492	Publications Received.....	495
Questions and Answers.....	493	Advertisements.....	495

Halifax, 21st January, 1870.

THE SEASON has been hitherto a very remarkable one. Instead of hard frost and severe snow storms, we have had mild changeable weather, with an occasional frost sufficient only to skim the surface of the lakes for the skaters, for a few days at a time. Between Christmas and New Year times the grass was green in the fields, farmers were ploughing in some parts of the Province, and animals were pasturing. Up to the 31st Dec., sheep had not tasted a bit of hay in Halifax county. During the second week of January, cold weather threatened to set in; on the morning of 15th the thermometer went down several degrees below zero even in the most sheltered parts of the city, it reached—13° at Bedford and—20° at Truro, and—15° at Wallace; but the temperature gradually rose during the day, and was above freezing at sunset. Such weather is very unfavorable for lumbering operations in the woods; it still continues mild and clear without a particle of snow.

The subject of HEMP CULTURE continues to receive attention, and we furnish this month the first instalment of a valuable paper on the Kentucky method of

management. The Hon. Mr. McHefhey informs us that he recollects of Hemp being successfully grown fifty years ago on one of the McHefhey farms at Windsor. It grew very luxuriantly, but required rich soil and liberal treatment; the only drawback in that district was the difficulty of obtaining soft water for rotting, which necessitated dew-rotting, and this does not give so fine a sample. Among the communications received on this subject is one from William Grove, Esq., Beaver Bank, who points out the advantage of this crop to farming districts, where at present many more hands are required for the summer work than for winter, and where the preparation of hemp for market would give employment to many hands now employed half their time. The two great difficulties, Mr. Grove points out, are want of proper machinery, and want of knowledge and experience. If Mills were established in different parts of the Province, where farmers could sell the rotted hemp and get their money, no doubt they would, after a time, get plenty of business.

Mr. Grove calls attention to the importance of introducing NUT-BEARING TREES into our woods, such as filberts,

chestnuts, oaks, &c., many species of which are adapted to our climate, and would afford food for animals as well as to man, besides increasing the beauty of the woods. In the United States, millions of the American sweet chestnut are being planted out every year with this view.

It is a great misfortune that in the city of Halifax so few EVERGREEN TREES are planted. At this season of the year the finest gardens in the city look wretched for want of a few cheerful evergreens, and most of the country roads on the Peninsula are as bleak as an Alaska desert, where the ground is frozen 30 feet below the surface at midsummer. If we could only restore the beautiful evergreens with which the Peninsula was covered a hundred years ago, how marvellous would be the change! There is no more delightful walk in winter than the road leading round Point Pleasant by way of the Penitentiary, where the evergreen trees have been spared. Let any one go out to the back of the citadel, and feel how refreshing it is to look upon the close rows of robust spruces at the southern end of the common, adjoining the Horticultural Gardens and the Cemetery, and then turn his eye upon the desolate country around, and he will become

sensible of the importance of planting evergreens for beauty and shelter in a climate like ours, where usually the grass is brown and the deciduous trees are leafless for six months in the year. The deciduous trees that were planted around the common a few years ago look healthy and thriving, and are rapidly conferring a park-like beauty upon what was before a bare howling wilderness. The addition of some spruces or firs or Scotch pines judiciously placed would greatly increase the adornment in the winter season. A row or two of neat formal spruces inside the railings of the old Province Building would lighten up the city with a Christmas garniture that would gladden many an eye in the dull time of year.

THE ANNUAL GRANTS TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES are usually paid about this time. The Board have for several years been striving to make the distribution earlier in the season, to meet the convenience of societies; but it has been found impracticable to do so. Whilst one half of the societies are urging the Secretary to send them their warrants, to enable them to draw their allowance, the other half have not completely complied with the requirements of the Act, and thus it is impossible to calculate the rateable proportion to which each is entitled. Many Secretaries seem to think that they have merely to mail their Return to the Secretary of the Board, and wait for their warrant by return mail. The Committee appointed by the Board to adjust the grants for the year, have nearly completed their work, and in course of a few days we hope to forward warrants to all societies entitled to receive them. A list of grants to societies for 1870 will appear in our next number.

With the beginning of a new year, changes take place in PERIODICAL LITERATURE. The old and respectable *Gardeners Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette* of England, comes out in a new and improved type, but the selection of general news, which used to be so useful to Colonial readers, is dropped. The French journal *L'Illustration Horticole*, which has so long and so well illustrated the garden Botany of Europe, is now to be edited by M. E. Andre, who is said to be more of a gardener than a scholar, and the periodical will therefore probably change its character. The *Canadian Naturalist* will be published quarterly. Most of the Halifax newspapers are now dailies.

We observe that there is a little teapot tempest about CHLOROPHYLL, the green colouring matter of plants, arising out of a spectral lucubration which was supposed to settle the character of that substance. Those who suppose that the

endochrome of diatoms is so simple in its chemical character as to be identifiable with chlorophyll will probably find they are mistaken. A great deal of work has to be done in reference to chlorophyll besides peeping at its spectrum, before we can establish even approximately its true chemical character.

WE would direct the special attention of our readers to the detail of experiments with CRUSHED BONES given in another column by H. E. Decie, Esq. It will be seen that the results justify every word that has been written in our columns in reference to bone manure. Mr. Stanford manfully runs the Mill, notwithstanding the low demand made upon it by our farmers; crushed bones, fine and coarse, are always to be had at a reasonable price, either at the Mill, Four Mile House, or at his store near the Police Office, and we hope that Agricultural societies will interest themselves in sustaining the Mill, and enable their members to profit by it. It was established through the efforts of the Agricultural Board, and it is now for the local societies and the farmers to sustain it.

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR FOR 1869.

Continued from last No.

MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.

The exhibition in this department was under the circumstances a good one, although owing to delays on the railroads many articles did not reach the Fair at all. The show of mowing and reaping machines was as usual, very fine, as was also the case with ploughs, horse-rakes and drills. The display of stoves was unprecedentedly large and interesting. The exhibition of machinery in motion was far below former years.

GRAIN AND VEGETABLES.

The new regulation of the Society requiring all entries to be made three weeks prior to the opening of the exhibition, operated no more disadvantageously in any department than in that of farm products.

The past season has been unusually backward, and the weather, in many portions of the State, unfavorable to the early growth and ripening of the products of the soil; consequently, many would-be exhibitors in Nos. 22 and 23, were not prepared in the middle of August to decide upon the propriety of becoming exhibitors.

Of this, abundant evidence was had in the innumerable regrets made us by tillers of the soil, that they had not completed their entries, as previously contemplated.

Tardiness of the season precluded entirely the idea of any considerable or

even fair exhibition of Indian corn. So of Buckwheat and Potatoes; and in many portions of the State, farmers were at the time of the Fair still engaged in harvesting their oats and flax.

DAIRY—SUGGESTIONS ON MAKING AND MARKETING OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The exhibition of butter and cheese was not large, but most of the specimens were of good quality. As the Fair was located in a section of the State where the dairy interests have not been much developed, probably we could not expect an extensive show of dairy products. One fact, however, was manifest, that soils and counties not hitherto known for the production of butter and cheese, can be made to yield a superior article, Saratoga county having taken the prize for two successive years; and that the entire State of New York is peculiarly adapted to this purpose. Success is not so much a question of soil, as climate. Some of the butter exhibited, put up in large crocks and tubs, was partially spoiled, which leads me to suggest to the butter makers of the State more care in skimming milk and packing. Too much sour milk is often mixed with the cream, which causes rancidness. This, with the sudden changes and extreme temperature to which butter is subjected, is, no doubt, the fruitful cause of so much poor butter and therefore of great losses to farmers. Fully two-thirds of all the butter going to market is affected, and sells at a depreciated price. It is generally the case that the bottom of tubs of butter is the poorest, giving rise to the suspicion of fraud, when the fact is that, in packing the successive layers are more exposed to the atmosphere than the top of the firkin, which is carefully covered with salt when filled. The system of preparing and marketing butter in warm weather, in this State, can be improved. The butter is injured in packing, and being sent forward in ice cars, is subjected to a low temperature, and then unloaded and carried to the market probably in a broiling sun, which sudden and violent change is enough of itself to ruin the best article. Families in hot weather buy a few pounds at a time, which in turn is again exposed together with that remaining in the firkin. No wonder nearly all butter is in a spoiling state when it reaches the table of the consumer. In Pennsylvania a better practice prevails. The butter is made into pound rolls, nicely stamped and packed in tin pails with a reservoir in the bottom and on the top, filled with ice the whole then packed in a wooden tub with a close fitting cover. In this way the butter can be kept at nearly an even temperature, and retailed to the consumer in a fresh and excellent condition, netting the producer from at least forty to fifty per cent more than by the system of whole firkins and ice cars as we have

stated. A considerable quantity of butter contains the elements of decay or decomposition which are infused into the milk by the cow eating weeds and drinking impure water—hence too much care cannot be taken to purify the pastures. The same remark will apply to milk designed for the manufacture of cheese, as bad cheese. But little cheese is consumed in this country as compared with Great Britain. In the latter it is made an important article of food. Here it is used as a relish or as an appetizer; our own people generally having a taste for rank or strong cheese, a little of which goes a great way. The Englishman prefers a mild cheese, a considerable quantity of which can be eaten without detriment to the stomach, as is not the case with strong. The former can be preserved much longer and being healthier, it is apparent our tastes should be changed, on our own account and for the benefit of the dairymen. Makers should strive for a more equal standard in the manufacture of cheese, and to help obtain the desirable end, I would recommend to the Society to establish a scale of points, requiring uniformity, and establishing a degree in colour, size, condition and taste, upon which to award the premiums. Until this plan prevails and our dairy maids give up over-doing the cheese vats with so much rennet to hurry up the curd, and get the cheese out of the way, we must expect a large per cent of inferior cheese, and loss to the makers. Smaller cheeses are required for home use, so that the last end may be used up before it spoils. An important improvement can be made in cheese houses. They should be lined on the inside to keep out the heat, and to enable the dairymen to graduate the temperature, so that it may be kept if possible at a uniform degree. With greater care in the manufacture, and a standard of uniformity, we shall increase the number of consumers, and place the making of cheese upon a more perfect and permanent basis.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

Several causes combined to make this department somewhat less attractive than it was last year. In the floral department however the display was much better than could reasonably have been expected. The large tent was artistically arranged under the immediate superintendence of Col. E. C. Frost, of Watkins.

[We suspect the principal cause is that flowers don't pay; out of New York, Boston, or Philadelphia there is no chance for a Horticultural exhibition.]

HEMP CULTURE.

BY L. J. BRADFORD, AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY.

The culture of hemp is an interest of great and growing importance in the

West, its production heretofore being mainly confined to Kentucky and Missouri; but there can be no reasonable doubt in the minds of those who have given the subject any attention, that in the production of hemp, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin have vast advantages over the above named States.

Many writers have advanced the idea that hemp, like cotton, could not be grown by free white labor, and that its production would, for some time at least, be confined to the slave States. Nothing can be farther from the truth; the climate the very best adapted to hemp growing is found far north of the home of the negro, and where he would absolutely suffer from its effects. Hot, short, quick forcing seasons of growth are best adapted to the plant.

Growth of this great staple in a climate such as the region referred to actually possesses, makes the day not far distant when these will be as noted hemp-producing States as Kentucky and Missouri ever were. It is to be regretted that in our census returns hemp and flax have been confounded; it may, however, be safely assumed that its growth and preparation are so far below the actual consumption of the country as to assure the agriculturist of a continued good demand and paying prices for many years to come; and the experience of Kentucky and Missouri has fully proved that the production even of an inferior staple has been and is yet remunerative. The reader must bear in mind the fact that American hemp is almost exclusively what is technically called "dew-rotted"—that is, spread upon the surface of the earth and there rotted by the slow process of the elements. France grows more hemp than flax for the linen manufacture and the finer grades of cordage and twines, the fibre being greatly superior to American, from the fact that her climate is of a lower temperature than that portion of this country that grows hemp, and the additional fact that she has abundant supplies of pure soft water for steeping in the rotting process; and the same is true of the Russian production.

The soil of Kentucky is as well adapted to the growth of this plant as any in Europe or America, but there her adaptation ends; her general temperature is too high, and she is entirely destitute of water of the proper quality for the steeping process; hence all attempts to furnish our navy from this State have been failures, notwithstanding that department has offered great inducements to her growers to water rot.

Iowa has, with a climate much colder than Kentucky, and pure soft water in her small lakes and streams, a soil certainly equal in fertility to any on the globe; why may not, then, her enterprising people reach forth their hands and lay hold of

of this prize, so well adapted to her soil, climate, and situation?

In the process of dew-rotting, the fibre, especially in warm climates, is materially deteriorated, and in some cases so far injured as to produce a very poor grade of lint, unfit for anything but the coarsest and lowest kinds of bagging. This is especially the case when exposed to the dew process in open, wet winters in Kentucky, thus proving that the true hemp latitude is north of this State.—Cold, snowy winters, on the contrary, universally produce an improved quality of lint, always brighter and stronger.

CULTURE OF SEED.

The first step in hemp culture is the production of good, sound plump seed. Land intended for seed must be in good tilth and well prepared by early corn planting; it should be laid off in straight rows, four feet apart each way, and planted in hills seven or eight seeds to the hill; the same rules observed for cultivating corn will apply in the after culture of hemp seed; when the plants reach the height of six or eight inches, they should be thinned to from three to four plants. Hemp plants are divided into male and female, the former producing the pollen or impregnating powder, the latter bearing the seed. A very little observation will enable the grower to distinguish them. As soon as the distinction can be made, the male should be drawn up by the root, except here and there a solitary one left that the female plant may be properly impregnated; the female is to be retained until its seeds are perfected, when it is to be harvested by cutting at the ground and removal to cover; when cured detach the seed with a stout stick of convenient length, winnow and put up in barrels or sacks, perfectly dry, and out of the way of rats and mice.

PREPARATION OF LAND.

The soil for hemp must be a strong, calcareous, deep, warm, loamy, and perfectly dry one, deeply and thoroughly prepared by ploughing and cross-ploughing, until a fine state of tilth is produced, more or less, according to its previous condition.

PUTTING IN THE CROP.

The ground having been faithfully prepared, the grower must hasten the operation of seeding with the utmost despatch, as, generally, the earlier the seeding the heavier the lint of the plant. Mark off the land with a small plough, and very shallow furrow, or it may be marked off by a drag made of a small log of wood—anything to make a line to guide the sower accurately; then proceed by hand to broadcast your seed evenly at the rate of fifty pounds of seed per acre as the minimum, or even up to seventy pounds as the maximum quantity, varying with the strength of the land, the object being

to produce as thick a growth of plants as the land will sustain. If set too thin on rich soil, the stalks grow too large producing a coarse and inferior lint; on the contrary, if seeded too thick, the growth proves so short as to materially affect the value of the crop.

In the latitude of the hemp-growing section of Kentucky, the seeding is mostly done from the 1st to the 15th of April, and the land generally ploughed the fall before.

In Iowa the seeding should be done as soon as the ground proves to be in good dry working order. Although the seed itself seems very tender, its vitality easily affected, and its germination after sowing often seriously disturbed by unfavorable circumstances, yet when once above ground, and fairly set, no ordinary frosts that destroy other vegetation seem to affect it; hence but little danger need be apprehended from late frosts, that prove so destructive to corn.

The seeds being sown, proceed to cover them up with a tight harrow by running both ways to secure uniform results; the more shallow the seed is covered in a moist soil the more certain the vegetation. If the season and soil be dry, a somewhat deeper covering may be necessary. Under favorable circumstances, the crop makes its appearance in a few days, and with proper sun and moisture it rapidly covers the ground. From seed time until harvest the laborer has only to watch its almost magic growth from day to day.

After having once covered the ground, the crop is generally considered safe by the grower; yet he is sometimes doomed to disappointment. Hail storms prove very destructive to the tender watery plant; high winds damage the yield, but never entirely destroy the crop.

[The remainder of Mr. Bradford's instructive treatise, which we extract from the Reports of the Agricultural Department at Washington, will be given next month.]

GROUND BONES AND THEIR USES.

Of all the special manures Bone Dust is the safest for the farmer to buy. It holds out the least inducement to the manufacturer to adulterate, and contains weight for weight as many valuable fertilising qualities, as the best Peruvian Guano, or any of the numerous Superphosphates. If it is not so readily absorbed by the soil, or does not so quickly act on the crop as either of the two mentioned, the purchaser should bear in mind that it is only half the price by weight; and if he is satisfied to have his returns divided over three years, he actually gets double the value, by laying his money out in bone dust, that he would have received had he purchased either Guano or Superphosphate. And if it is considered that eight hundred of the one can be bought for the same price as four hundred of

either of the other two, it follows, therefore in theory, that a given amount of money laid out in dust would give twice the results in three years that the same sum would do invested in either of the others; and I believe the same result will be found good in practice, for if eight hundred of bones, about a fair quantity for turnips or potatoes, be put through a fine sieve, about one-third will be found as fine as flour and immediately available for the crop, and two-thirds more for gradual absorption by the first and two succeeding crops.

I purchased from Mr. Stanford, last spring, four tons of fine ground bones, which I used as follows:—

	Acres.	Cwt.
Turnips.....	3	24
Indian Corn....	0½	6
Barley.....	4	32
Potatoes.....	0½	8
Hay.....	3	10
	11½	80

The results were—turnips, one thousand bushels; corn, twenty six; barley, seventy-five; potatoes, one hundred and twenty-five; shipping hay, no increase whatever. The results are nothing to boast of, but the land, a sandy loam, is very poor and run out from constant cropping with but little manure, and very weedy from poor cultivation. To that, the dryness of the season, and the bones not having arrived, owing to delays in the transportation, until the end of May, I ascribe the poorness of the results, and not to any deficiency in the manure. For when I compare them with some crops on the same sort of land on farms adjacent, put in with barn-yard manure, I find the turnips, barley, potatoes equal, and the corn superior; and though there were no results from the bones put on grass, neither was there from the land round it top-dressed in April with barn-yard manure, finely spread and well harrowed in. This, I think, may be also laid to the dryness of the season, for after cutting the hay the manure lay about like chips, and has only now disappeared and melted into the ground under the fall rains. As it is, I feel so satisfied that bone dust affords the readiest and cheapest means of restoring a worn out farm, such as mine, that next year I intend to use twelve tons and grow with it my whole crop, putting all the manure I make on the hay land, and by that means to bring it from what it cuts at present, about half a ton, to two or perhaps two and a half tons to the acre.

HENRY E. DECTE,
Wilmot, Annapolis Co.

HORACE GREELY ON FARMING.—Mr. Greeley purposes to write a series of essays on Farming, to be published each week during 1870, in THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE. The essays will all appear in the Daily, Semi-Weekly, and Weekly editions of THE TRIBUNE. He means to demonstrate that Agriculture in the future is certain to be very different from what it has been in the past, and hopes to embody words of cheer as well as hints for guidance to the future farmers of our country. The first essay was published in the WEEKLY TRIBUNE of Jan. 5.

THE "CANADA FARMER."

Yarmouth, Dec. 24, 1869.

TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE:

Gentlemen,—A circular recently received from the Publishers of the *Canada Farmer*, offers so liberal a discount to Agricultural Societies only for 1870, forty per cent on 200 copies and over, and free of postage, that I venture to suggest no more useful appropriation of a portion of the grant for the past year can be made by the Board than to order, say, 20 copies of the *Canada Farmer* for 1870, to be addressed to the Secretary of each Agricultural Society in the Province, deducting cost, \$12, from the grant to the Society for the year 1869. The papers could be either sold to members at cost, distributed by lot, or otherwise disposed of, as the managers should decide best. I have ordered 30 copies for our Society. There seems a greater disinclination than usual this year to subscribe for papers, or I should order more at once. I have a large club for the *American Agriculturist*, 96 copies ordered in 1869. Of ten copies of *Nova Scotian Journal of Agriculture* for which I subscribed last year, I was obliged to give away three. Am sorry not to be able to contribute more to its support—shall order ten copies for 1870 next week. The Board can estimate as well as I the effect of the distribution of 1000 copies of a good agricultural paper,—they would be so many centres of improvement radiating near and wide year after year. It would be better for Societies to pay cost; as gratuities the papers would not be duly appreciated.

Yours, &c.,
CHARLES E. BROWN.

(Extract from Circular.)

"The Proprietors of the *Canada Farmer* have resolved to supply Agricultural Societies with that journal for the coming year (1870) at the following very low rates, free of postage:—

A Club of 10 copies and under 20.	30 cents per copy.
" 20 "	36.80 "
" 30 "	40.75 "
" 40 "	60.70 "
" 60 "	100.65 "
" 100 "	200.62½ "
" 200 copies and over	.60 "

[The foregoing communication being addressed to the Board of Agriculture, we have printed it in the *Journal* as the readiest means of reaching Members of the Board. We quite agree with Mr. Brown that the circulation of twelve or fourteen hundred copies of the *Canada Farmer* throughout the Province would be productive of much benefit, and we have been constantly urging upon the Members of our Societies the propriety of subscribing not only for the *Canada Farmer*, but also for the *American Agriculturist*, *Stock Journal*, *Gardener's Monthly* and other standard publications. The reply frequently is, that the societies are in debt, have difficulty in paying for the keeping of their thorough-bred animals, &c. Whether the reasons assigned be good or bad, we know that if the Board of Agriculture were to bargain for *Canada Farmers* for the societies, and deduct \$12 a year, or 12 cents a year from each Agricultural society, the societies would

very justly turn upon the Board and tell them that it was for the society to attend to its own business, and expend its own money. The Act provides that the money shall be expended in a manner that will meet the Board's approval, but the Board has no right to handle it. We trust, however, that societies will give Mr. Brown's suggestion full consideration, and if any are disposed to act upon it, they will please communicate with us on the subject. The officers of the Board are prepared to take any reasonable amount of trouble to encourage a taste for agricultural literature in any shape, and the practice has hitherto been adopted to some extent of supplying societies with such journals as they want and keeping the subscription price out of the societies' annual grants. We furnished the editor of the *Farmer* with the address of every Secretary in the Province, and we hope that a good many societies will embrace the offer made through the circular addressed to them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLYDE RIVER, Dec. 23, 1869.

Dear Sir,—Would it be out of your line or too much trouble to give me a little information for the guidance of the Committee?

Where can we get some (1.) new Seed Wheat, and (2.) Norway Oats, and (3.) Early Rose Potatoes?

(4.) At what price can they be obtained?

(5.) Where would you recommend us to get the best Garden Seeds?

(6.) What are the terms of the *Agricultural Journal*, and (7.) to whom will we send for it if we wish to take it?

(8.) What Agricultural papers would you recommend?

M. G. HENRY, Sec'y.
Clyde Ag. Society.

[1. The Board of Agriculture has a few bushels of Russian Wheat and Canadian Fife Wheat on hand.

2. The Yarmouth County Society, C. E. Brown, Esq., Sec'y., may supply Norway Oats.

3. Enquire of Alfred Thomas, Esq., Windsor.

4. The Wheat will cost \$2.50 or \$3.00 per bushel.

5. Mr. Saunders, Seedsman, Argyle Street, or any of the Drug Stores.

6. Half a dollar a year.

7. A. & W. McKinlay, Granville St.

8. The *American Agriculturist*, the *Canada Farmer*, and others mentioned from time to time in our columns.—ED.]

SALTED MUTTON.

"Salted mutton in barrels is now chiefly used in the lumbering districts of Quebec owing to the high price of pork."—*Globe*.

The raising of pork has not proved a profitable speculation in Nova Scotia, and

can never do so in any country that is not a grain-growing country. But no part of America is better adapted than our grassy hills for sheep pasturage.—There is therefore, very little necessity for the enormous importations of pork which we receive, if salt mutton will do as well. In some parts of Europe we know that salt mutton is much used. Corned mutton if properly prepared is a delicacy fit for any table.

There is not much profit in the present system of sheep farming which necessitates the sending down of all the surplus stock of lambs and old sheep to Halifax on the approach of winter, where they arrive not always in the best condition, and are frequently sold at nominal prices. How much better it would be for the farmer to fatten up his sheep and salt them down for winter use. Then in spring time, when fresh meet is at famine prices, all classes would have the opportunity of obtaining a healthy variety of animal food at a low price, instead of wasting their means and tempers by dining day after day for months together, alternately on fat pork and pork fat.

ONSLOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The officers, in reporting, have great pleasure in assuring the members that the Society is in a very sound and prosperous condition, and is considered by all as highly beneficial not only to the immediate township in which it is located but to the country at large.

The Chester White Pigs imported last year from Pennsylvania, and placed in the hands of trustworthy persons for keeping at the expense of the Society, have done good service, and realized a profit to the Society in addition to the expense of keeping. It is generally admitted that they are a great improvement on the former breeds, and that they will make more pork with a given amount of food than any other breed yet introduced, notwithstanding the contrary is affirmed by the *Canada Farmer*. The Directors imported in July this year another of the same breed from the same parties, so that the pure breed can be thoroughly established in the country.

The Directors did not deem it advisable to purchase Sheep this fall, as some ten or twelve would be required to meet the wants of the whole Society, and thereby require a large outlay to make such a purchase; and as there is a prospect of a considerable addition to the funds on hand next year, the purchase could be made more advantageously.

CATTLE FAIR.

A Cattle Fair and Exhibition was held in October under the auspices of the Society, when over two hundred head of different kinds of stock were entered for

competition; and although it was open to the whole of the county yet very few entries were made outside of the bounds of the Society. The day being all that could be desired, over one thousand people assembled on the ground; and we are assured that many that went there with little or no faith in Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions went away firmly convinced that they were highly beneficial to the interests of agriculture. Any lover of fine stock could view with pleasure the young half breeds on exhibition raised by some of our enterprising farmers, and we will venture the assertion that if the system adopted by some of our farmers were pursued with energy by all, this county would in a very short time compare favorably with any part of the Dominion in stock raising, and the day would not be far distant when stock of an inferior kind would not be seen.

The prizes, though small, were pretty general. The amount of prize fund—\$160—was raised by subscription; \$149 paid in prizes. The balance is in the hands of the Committee, to be appropriated for a like purpose as soon as an opportunity offers; also the second prize for carriage horse was placed in the hands of the Committee for a like purpose by the owner.

The four Bulls of the Society, which are kept by private individuals in each section for the service fee, have given general satisfaction, and are here to-day to be located for the next year.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

President—J. B. Dickie, Esq.; Vice President—Robert Putnam, Esq.; Sec'y Wm. Blair; Treasurer—Isaac Barnhill, Esq.; Directors—J. J. Dickson, Richard Archibald, Lucius Crowe, Wm. Dickson and James Graham.

COUNTY EXHIBITION PROPOSED FOR 1870.

The following resolutions were passed at the annual meeting:

1st. Believing Exhibitions beneficial to the interests of agriculture generally, and knowing the difficulties that small sections experience in holding an Exhibition, and being of opinion that the end sought could be more readily obtained by the co-operation or combined efforts of different societies and sections of the county,

Therefore Resolved, That this Society appoint a committee of three, to correspond with the different societies and sections of the county, and request them severally to appoint a like committee of the whole, to be called a General Committee of Management, said managing committee to meet in some central place in the county in the month of January, 1870, to devise ways and means of holding an Agricultural and Industrial Exhi-

bition at such time and place in the year 1870 as they may determine.

2nd. Also resolved, That the Society hold a ploughing match in 1870, and draw from the funds a sufficient sum for a list of prizes.

3rd. The Directors were authorized to import a few barrels of early Rose Potatoes.

FINANCE.

The accounts show a balance in hand of \$147.88. W. B.

[From the Report sent by Mr. Blair, the Secretary, it is obvious that the Onslow Society is in a thoroughly efficient state, and productive of benefit in the district.—Ed.]

REPORT OF THE BOULARDERIE AG. SOCIETY.

The Directors find that at the Annual meeting, 1868, there were funds in the Treasurer's hands,
to the amount of..... \$118.86
Paid by order for clover and
other seed..... 75.33
Balance..... \$43.53
Subscriptions for 1869..... 45.00
Collected for wheat and other
seeds, due from last year.... 16 07

Whole amount in Treas. hands \$104.60

The officers for the ensuing year are, Henry McKinnon, Pres; Hezekiah Stubbart, Vice Pres.; Angus W. J. McLean, Sec'y.; Donald McLean, Esq., Treasurer. Directors—Solomon Knock, Robt. Wayson, Donald McKay, John Morrison, and Murdoch McLean.

The seed Wheat procured by the Central Board from Canada and purchased by the Society gave general satisfaction. Our stock is likely to improve much by our purchase of the Ayrshire Bull, (Carrick Farmer) imported by the Central Board from Canada. But the Cotswold lambs brought from Nova Scotia, proved rather a disappointment. We had likewise a Berkshire Boar from the same quarter, and which proved only a Bore. We intend the ensuing year, to hold an Exhibition of stock and produce, as likely to create an interest in our vicinity in favour of the Society.

ANGUS W. McLEAN,
Boularderie, Dec. 15, 1869. Sec'y.

[It ought to be stated that the Bore referred to was not imported by the Board of Agriculture; there is plenty of that breed in the Province already. We suspect that the Cotswold lambs were not of those imported by the Board, otherwise the results would not have been disappointing. But now that we have in the Province thorough-bred stock from strains of established reputation, there is no reason why our farmers should not with

care and good feeding, raise animals as fine and perfect as those of Stone, or Miller, or Cochran.—Ed.]

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

The Nova Scotian Institute met Dec. 13, at the Institute Room, Province Building. Prof. Lawson, of Dalhousie College, read a Monograph of the Ranunculaceæ of the Dominion of Canada and adjacent parts of British America.

The Ranunculaceæ are an order of plants characterised by the perfect separation of all the parts of the flower, the calyx of separate sepals, the corolla of separate petals, the stamens numerous and free, and the fruit composed of separate carpels. All these parts arise directly from the thalamus or receptacle; there is a great development in the size of the sepals, and a tendency to suppression or malformation of petals. The Ranunculaceæ are mostly herbaceous plants, with much divided leaves having broad sheathing petioles. They are characteristic of northern countries; in the Monograph, 48 indigenous and six introduced species, making 54 in all, are described, so that in proportion to territory there are fewer species in the Northern States (61,) and still fewer in the Southern States (51). The most interesting point in distribution, however, is the intimate relation of many of our British American plants to those of Eastern Europe and Asia, respecting which many details were given.

The genera of our Ranunculaceæ are 16 in number:—1. *Clematis*, with fruit consisting of feathery-tailed achenes, and valvate calyx, large and petal like. 2. *Pulsatilla*, with equally large petal-like sepals and feathery-tailed achenes, but herbaceous plants with a large involucre, and imbricate aestivation. 3. *Anemone*, differing from the preceding in the absence of feathery tails. 4. *Syndesmon*, with ribbed fruit, large petaloid sepals and involucre foliage. 5. *Thalictrum*, with usually ribbed carpels, diocious or hermaphrodite flowers, and very compound leaves, but no involucre verticil. 6. *Ranunculus*, with small green sepals, large, usually yellow petals, and single seeded achenes. 7. *Myosurus*, with a great development of the receptacle into a body resembling a mouse's tail. 8. *Calla*, with a fruit composed of separate, several-seeded carpels or pods and entire leaves. 9. *Trollius*, with similar fructification but palmately divided leaves. 10. *Coptis*, with cucullate petals and ternate leaves. 11. *Aquilegia*, with trumpet like or spurred petals. 12. *Delphinium*, with the uppersepal produced downwards into a spur. 13. *Aconitum*, with irregular hooded calyx enclosing small abnormal petals. 14. *Cimicifuga*, with deciduous sepals and follicular fruit. 15. *Actæa*, with deciduous sepals and fruit of many-seeded berries. 16. *Hydrastis*, with a fruit of many single or two-seeded berries.

The various species belonging to these genera are fully described in the paper; their synonymy is investigated and their distribution traced in detail throughout all the Provinces, and their range in other countries is likewise given. The effects of the dry and hot inland climate of Ontario are conspicuous in the absence from that Province, of many plants common to the North West and Maritime Provinces.

Several plants that have been described as Canadian, are shown to have been so recorded through mistakes, and many unsettled points are suggested for investigation. Of *Clematis*, we have two species, one local and the other general in its distribution, viz: *C. Virginiana* which grows around the rifle range at Bedford, and also at Windsor, N.S., it extends to lake Winnipeg, Isle Verte being its last point north-eastwardly. *Pulsatilla* is confined to the North West, whence numerous specimens have been received from Governor McTavish. The common form of the species named *P. Nuttalliana* is now known to be identical with *P. Wolfgangiana* of the Russian botanists, which is itself a variety of the European *P. patens*. Two forms from the North West are described, one of which does not accord with Regel's *Wolfgangiana*. *Anemone dichotoma* is shown to be the proper name for the plant, hitherto known as *Pennsylvanica*. Of *A. nemorosa*, the Windflower of the English forests, four varieties are described as inhabiting the Dominion, one a small northern form, and another found at Belleville by Mr. Macoun. *Richardsonii* received only from the Hudson Bay Territories. *A. Hepatica* is shown to be essentially an Ontario and New England plant, although found to extend into Nova Scotia, having been gathered at Windsor by Professor How. *A. acutiloba* is restricted and more northern in range. *A. narcissiflora* is not known to exist within British America, although it occurs in the United States in the Rocky Mountains. *A. purviflora* is a North-Western plant, and is found also at Gaspé by D. BELL of Montreal, and at Anticosti, and is found to have usually 5, not 6 petals as described. *A. multifida* has not yet been collected in Canada, except on the Gulf Shore and in the North-West, but will probably reward some diligent searcher in Ontario. *A. Pennsylvanica* has a wide and southern range. *A. cylindrica*, a sand-hill plant, confined to central and western Ontario.

Syndesmon is a curious little plant, a link between the Windflowers and the Meadow-rues, but has only been found in two localities, although in the adjoining States it is not rare; its Canadian habitats are St. David's, Dr. P. W. MACLAGAN; Hamilton, Judge LOGIE.

Thalictrum Cornuti is a stately plant with large masses of showy white blossoms, rendering it conspicuous along the Sackville River and on the meadows at Beaver Bank, and is of general distribution throughout the Dominion. *T. purpurascens*, differing in its sessile stem-leaves, greenish flowers and drooping anthers, is to be looked for in dry situations; its record as a Lower Canadian is, however, a mistake, and possibly it does not reach so far north as the St. Lawrence. *T. dioicum* has a wide range, but there are two distinct forms about Kingston which require further investigation, one growing near Kingston Mills and the other at the Penitentiary. *T. alpinum*, an arctic European plant, is confined with us to Anticosti and Newfoundland; it is general within the Arctic circle, and runs down the Rocky Mountains to low latitudes, as Arctic plants are apt to do. *T. clavatum* is a York Factory plant, remarkable for its pod-like, stipitate carpels without furrows, but with embossed veins. Of *Ranunculus*, 18 species are described and 1 excluded. *R. repens* is the most common, as a weed, but rare as an indigenous plant, in which character it grows near Toronto. *R. bulbosus* has been

frequently reported as Canadian, but the evidence is doubtful. *R. ovalis*, *R. brevicaulis* and *R. cardiophyllus* are referred to *R. rhomboideus*. *R. auricomus* does not belong to our flora, and *R. affinis*, here referred as a variety of it, is confined to the Arctic Sea, and the North West Hudson Bay Territories. Of *R. abortivus* two varieties (*pratensis* and *sylvaticus*) are described. *R. nivalis* was found by Dr. RAE at Repulse Bay, and the specimens agree with *sulphureus* of Solander. *R. Cymbalaria* is a seashore plant. The numerous varieties of *R. multifidus* and *R. aquatilis* still require careful comparison in the living state with European forms. *R. digitatus*, is a Rocky Mountain plant, approaching *Ficaria* of Europe. *Trollius lazus* has not been recently found in Canada. *Aquilegia Canadensis* presents two forms, and abounds in Ontario, but becomes scarce eastward and northward; will probably be found in Annapolis, if anywhere in Nova Scotia. *A. brevistyla* is quite western, and does not come so far east as to enter the Province of Ontario. *A. vulgaris* on the other hand is confined to Nova Scotia, but is only an introduced plant, one of the Wild Flowers of England brought long years ago by the Duke of Kent, and now widely spread through the woods and along our railway banks and roadsides. *Delphinium exaltatum* is from the Youcon and Clear Water River, although in the States its distribution is decidedly southern. *D. azureum* is also from the Youcon; *D. Consolida*, an introduced European plant, found at Prescott, and *D. Ajacis*, an excluded species, not permanently naturalized. *Aconitum delphinifolium* is kept distinct from *Napellus*, of which Dr. REEGL describes no fewer than forty varieties and forms, all named and classified. *A. semigleatum*, not previously noticed as American, is referred as a distinct variety of *delphinifolium*; the specimens of both are from Governor McTAVISH. *A. Napellus* is merely a naturalized plant. *Cimicifuga* is confined to Cayuga, in the extreme south west of Canada, where it was found by Dr. MACLAGAN.—*Actæa rubra* is widely spread throughout the whole Dominion, but *A. alba* is south-western. *Hydrastis Canadensis* is confined to Ontario, and *Adonis* is excluded, as the specimens sent to Hooker from Labrador, 30 or 40 years ago, had no doubt sprung from seeds dropped there by accident, and the plant has not been heard of or seen since.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The American Agriculturist, January, 1870. O. Judd & Co., 245 Broadway. \$1.50 per annum, A. C. This journal continues to take the lead of the American Rurals.

The Horticulturist. New York. Monthly, \$2.50 per annum. An excellent magazine for those who wish to obtain all the news of new fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The Gardener's Monthly. Edited by T. Meehan, Philadelphia. Our readers are familiar with the Monthly from the frequent extracts we give from its instructive pages.

The Christian Union. We have received the Christmas No. of this news-

paper, published by Ford & Co., 39 Park Row New York. It is strong in Stowe and Beecher contributions, but the reading is of a purer kind than has been recently associated with these names.

Good Health, a journal of Physical and Mental Culture. Boston, New England News Co. \$2 per annum. The articles in this journal are thoroughly scientific and well written. We have not seen in any medical work so good an account of skin parasites as appears in the January number.

The Church Herald. Weekly. Toronto. This comparatively new paper is conducted with much ability, and displays an amount of literary taste not common even in a Church paper. It is well adapted for family reading, and the Editors are evidently sensible men.

American Enterprise, published by the American Advertising Agency, 37 Park Row, New York.

The Dalhousie College Gazette. Dec. 27, 1869. This production of the Undergraduates and Students of Dalhousie College continues to improve. Contents: Ancient Speculation. Virtues and Vices of the Daily Press. Nil Desperandum. Donald Angus. Christmas! Railway Compliments. 'Old World Sketches.—Lecture Course. Rambles. A Poke at the Post Office. Advertisements.

Annual Catalogue of Vegetable and Agricultural Seeds, sold by J. M. Thornburn & Co., 15 John Street, New York.

Journal of New York State Agricultural Society.

Colonial Farmer, Fredericton, N.B.

The Abstainer, Halifax.

Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the year 1868. Washington, 1869. This valuable work will be reviewed at length, so soon as we can find room; so also will be the following:

Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditures and condition of the Institution for the year 1868 Washington, 1869.

The American Stock Journal, Parkersburg, Chester Co., Pa., continues to maintain its character. \$1 per annum.

Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1869. Washington. This is a brief Report, which will afterwards be referred to.

The Antiquity of Man in America.—By W. Gossip, Esq. Halifax, 1869.

On the Occurrence of Arctic and Western Plants in Continental Acadia. By G. F. Matthew, with corrections. St. John, N. B., 1869.

Notes on Tadousac Plants. By A. T. Drummond, B.A., LL.B.

Specimen sheets of Principal Dawson's *Class Book of Zoology* have been received, and give promise of a very useful work for students.

The Mississippi Agriculturist. Meridian, Miss., Jan. 1, 1870. This is a new agricultural monthly, which we have placed on our exchange list.

ADVERTISEMENTS!

THE RAMSDELL NORWAY OATS.

ONE farmer in every town can make a profit of \$500 per acre from a few acres of this grain next season by selling the seed to his neighbors. Every one who sees it growing will want seed. It will yield from two to three times as much as any other known variety, of better grain. W. L. Bishops, of Leroy, I. Y., writes that his yield from 9 acres was 1125 bushels, all sold at \$16 per bushel. M. Comstock, of Stanstead, Province of Quebec, reports a yield of 100 bushels to the acre. Thomas Goodsell, of Stanstead, says "the yield is tremendous, weight 40 lbs. per bushel." W. R. Ault, Antville, Ont., says "they are just the thing for our farmers, stand up well and no rust." They have taken first premiums at 41 State and County Fairs in the U. S. the past season, and are recommended by 21 farmers clubs. One bushel of seed to the acre is enough on fair ground, they spread astonishingly and choke themselves unless they have plenty of room.

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JAMES STANFORD.

Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

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The Full Reports of the American Institute Farmers' Club, and the various Agricultural Reports, in each number, are richly worth a year's subscription.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

To make THE TRIBUNE still more valuable to its readers we have engaged Pro. James Law, Veterinary Surgeon in Cornell University, to answer questions and prescribe for diseases of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and other domestic animals. This new feature in the Agricultural Department of THE TRIBUNE we are sure will add much to its value. In short, we intend that THE TRIBUNE shall keep in the advance in all that concerns the Agricultural, Manufacturing, Mining, and other interests of the country, and that for variety and completeness, it shall remain altogether the most valuable, interesting, and instructive NEWSPAPER published in the world.

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What are the practical suggestions? Many. Let every subscriber renew his subscription, and urge his neighbor to do the same. If a man cannot afford to pay two dollars, let him raise a club, by inducing his neighbors to

subscribe, and we shall send him a copy gratis for his trouble. No newspaper so large and complete as THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE was ever before offered at so low a price. Even when our currency was at par with gold, no such paper but THE TRIBUNE was offered at that price; and THE TRIBUNE then cost us far less than it now does. We have solved the problem of making the best and cheapest newspaper in America—perhaps in the world. Let us see if we cannot give it a million weekly circulation.

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Jan. 1870.

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