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Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. IV.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1884.

No. 51.

THE following Circulars have been issued to the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies :—

*Central Board of Agriculture,
Halifax, 15th Nov., 1884.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia to request that you will call the attention of the Board of Officers, and of the Members, of your Society to the following provisions of the Act "Of Encouragement of Agriculture," and amendments thereof, strict compliance with which is absolutely necessary on the part of Societies desirous of participating in the Annual Legislative Grant for Agriculture.

Revised Statutes, Chapter 37.

"18. The Annual Meetings of the Societies shall be held on the first Tuesday of December in each year, when they shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and not more than five Directors."

(The day of meeting falls this year on Tuesday, 2nd December.)

"22. The said Officers and Directors shall, in addition to the ordinary duties of management, present, at the annual meeting in December, a report of the proceedings of the Society during the year, in which shall be stated the names of all the members of the Society, the amount paid by each, the names of persons to whom premiums were awarded, with the name of the animal, article or thing in respect of which the same was granted, together with such remarks

upon the Agriculture of the County as they may be enabled to offer, and a statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Society during the year, which Report and Statement, if approved by the meeting, shall be entered in the Journal of the Society, and a true copy thereof, certified by the President and Secretary to be correct, shall be sent to the Central Board."

Amendment, Passed 4th April, 1876.

"4. An attested list of the Members of the Society whose annual subscription fees have been paid, together with a certified statement of the year's accounts and report as presented to the annual meeting under the twenty-second section of such chapter, shall be forwarded by the President or Secretary of each Society to the Board not later than the thirty-first day of December in each year; and Societies failing to comply with the provisions of this Section shall forfeit their claim to any share of the Provincial allowance to Societies for the year then ended."

I am further directed to call your attention, and that of the officers and members of your Society, to the Amendment of 1881, providing for the holding of Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions :—

Passed 14th April, 1881.

"The Central Board of Agriculture shall be authorized to draw from the Provincial Treasury every year the sum of four thousand dollars for Agricultural

and Industrial Exhibitions, to be held every year alternately in the following manner :—(1) Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions to be held in any County in the Province selected by the Central Board, and to be called Provincial Exhibitions. (2) Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions to be held respectively in any of the Counties of each District into which the Province is now, or hereafter may be divided, selected by the Central Board, and to be called District Exhibitions. The said sum of four thousand dollars shall be paid by the Central Board to any Agricultural Society or responsible body as a prize fund, every alternate year, as above provided, for the purpose of the Provincial Exhibitions, and every other year to similar societies or bodies within each Agricultural District as a prize fund for District Exhibitions, respectively in proportion to the number of counties embraced in such District. Such Exhibitions shall be carried out, and the expenses thereof borne, by such societies or bodies, under such rules as the Board may from time to time prescribe, and the prize list for such exhibitions shall be made up under the direction and subject to the approval of the Board and the Governor-in-Council."

It being the duty of the Board to make rules, regulations, &c., for the Provincial Exhibition, which, in accordance with the Act, will be held during the year 1885, notice is hereby given, that the Board is prepared to receive offers from any Agricultural Society or other respon-

sible body, for the holding of the Provincial Exhibition of 1885,—such offers to specify the place and time proposed, the extent of accommodation, the amount to be offered in Agricultural and Industrial prizes, and to be accompanied by a list of the committee or society, or other responsible body proposing to undertake the exhibition, such offers to be communicated to the Secretary of the Board not later than the first day of March next. So soon as an offer shall be accepted by the Board, the body undertaking to carry out such Provincial Exhibition, shall immediately submit to the Board a prize list for approval, and shall be subject to such other rules, regulations and instructions as the Board shall hereafter order.

A separate circular has been addressed to you requesting the officers of your Society to nominate a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board, such circular being accompanied by a form to be filled up.

Blank forms for attested lists of membership and payment of subscriptions for the year 1884 are also forwarded to your address, under a separate cover.

The Annual Reports of Societies, and their accounts, should be made out upon ordinary foolscap paper. Such documents must be prepaid by stamps at letter rates, otherwise they are liable to be sent to the Dead Letter Office at Ottawa, and detained there until after the appropriations of government grants have been made.

I am directed by the Board to solicit your earnest attention to the several requirements of this circular, in order to prevent disappointment to your Society, and to promote the successful working of our Provincial Agricultural organization.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE LAWSON
Sec'y Cen. Board of Agriculture,
Central Board of Agriculture,
Halifax, 17th Nov., 1884.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board to remind you that it is the duty of the Officers of your Agricultural Society, immediately after their election at the approaching Annual Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, 2nd December, to nominate a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board of Agriculture, and I request that you will forthwith transmit to me the name and address of the person so nominated. To prevent mistake, it is particularly requested that the return be made on the blank form appended to this Circular.

For the information of the officers of your Society, I subjoin a list of the present Members of the Board. These gentlemen retire at the close of the year, but are eligible for re-election.

GEORGE LAWSON,
Sec'y C. B. of A.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, 1884.

Government Member—Hon. Alonzo J. White, Attorney-General.

Member for District No. 1, including the Counties of Halifax and Lunenburg—Major-General J. Wimburn Laurie, Oakfield.

Member for District No. 2, including the Counties of King's, Annapolis and Queen's—Colonel W. E. Starratt, Paradise.

Member for District No. 3, including the Counties of Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth—Charles E. Brown, Esq., Yarmouth.

Member for District No. 4, including the Counties of Hants, Colchester and Cumberland—Israel Longworth, Esq., Lornedale, Truro.

Member for District No. 5, including the Counties of Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough—David Matheson, Esq., Pictou.

Member for District No. 6, including the Counties of Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness and Victoria—John McKeen, Esq., Mabou.

To PROF. LAWSON, Secretary of the
Central Board of Agriculture,
Halifax, N. S.:

Place, _____

Date, _____, 1884.

On behalf of the Officers of the _____ Agricultural Society, in the County of _____, I have to inform you that, immediately after the election at the Annual Meeting of the Society, on the 2nd December, 1884, they nominated Mr. _____ of _____, as a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board; and this notification of the name and address of the person so nominated, is transmitted to the Secretary of the Central Board, in accordance with the requirements of the Statute for Encouragement of Agriculture.

I am, &c.,

Signed, _____

Secretary of the
_____ Agricultural Society.

It will be seen by an article in another column, that Nova Scotia, which in London is supposed to be "an island in British North America," is "not only sending the best apples in the London market, but also beating the United States, with its great diversity of climate," including "sunland Florida," and the "luscious California." Let our farmers continue to send "the best" samples of "the best kinds," "honestly packed," and we shall all be proud of our country, and thank God we are Nova Scotians.

WE have received a communication kindly prepared for the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE by Alfred C. Thomas, Esq., of Windsor. It is intended to show the difficulties under which agriculturists labor in attempting to carry out thorough systems of agricultural improvement in Nova Scotia. In this Mr. Thomas succeeds very well by reference to an actual case. The details given in the first part of the article relate obviously to affairs of a personal business nature, although the names of the parties concerned are not given. On this account we are constrained to omit the introductory part of the communication, and to make some slight verbal changes, the only effect of which is, unfortunately, to lessen somewhat the force of Mr. T.'s arguments, for people like to hear the evidence of actual cases. We fear, however, that if we published the article as received it might render it necessary to open our very limited columns to a discussion that would be beyond the scope of the JOURNAL.

* * * * *

Many say, and naturally, that if men nearly owning their own farms, improved to a large extent by drainage, etc., and commanding outside property, why should they be compelled to go to an expense that they can ill afford to recover them, for farming, anyway, is only a close operation even in the best of countries? Now what would the parties empowered to lend the money say? And the same rule applies to our banking institutions. If you want money show your capacity to pay for it. Naturally, managers of vast property argue that way. There certainly is a screw loose somewhere. Where is it? A Nova Scotia friend remarked to me that Englishmen come to this country and are treated like dogs—property taken, sheriff's sales, sometimes followed by imprisonment, etc., etc. Well, I answer, what do you expect? They surely must obey the laws of the country that they settle in. They are supposed to reap the advantages, and incur the penalty of failure. But the real screw that is loose is, that you are trying to fit the square man into the round hole. An unfair bargain is attempted, and both parties suffer by the transaction,—the immigrant in the way before stated, the Province by acquiring a reputation that is anything but enviable. The whole sympathies, education and general tendencies of the English farmer (tenant or otherwise) are so entirely antagonistic to our ideas that any amalgamation under present circumstances is an utter impossibility. My pamphlet on English and American Farming was written for the very purpose of showing this great discrepancy. For an illustration, you might as well put a

first-class locomotive on a turnpike road equally good, then turn on all steam and damn the whole arrangement, for we know what would follow; the driving wheels of the engine would cut the road-bed, and the machine itself would in all probability either blow out her cylinder heads or burst her boiler; and yet the engine and road are equally good. It is here that Lord Coleridge and others make a great mistake. when speaking on subjects that they are not thoroughly conversant with. I refer to his well turned and kind compliments to his entertainers in his late visit to America, where he spoke of the glory of the country being in every man owning his own home. This is very good in theory, but I am afraid that when we come to hard pan and run the thing out, as a legal friend of mine would put it, that his lordship's ideas would be found to be rather Utopian. Alas! we have but the choice of evils in too many cases. And when the virgin soil is exhausted—nature having done her work, that is, to sustain man in his first efforts—then she calls for a return. In fact, she has discounted for a number of years, and calls for repayment; but, still just, she offers us the chance of obtaining collateral security in every way, shape and form. She's not particular. She'd take anything you choose to give her, from an ounce of bone dust to a ton of marsh mud. But mind, she does not put them there for nothing; she has done her work, now do yours. Now comes the rub. If you have not laid by a surplus from nature's liberal advances how can you possibly expect to meet, or make your land meet, your liabilities? Fortunately civilization is ready for the emergency, and means for restoring nature's forces are supplied in every conceivable form; and more than that, manufacturers working, I suppose, by the law of intuition, and recognizing these great facts, advance goods on the most liberal terms; but still there must be a certainty of their being paid for ultimately. How can this be done? The mere plant food restored to the land will scarcely ever give a sufficient return to enable the farmer to pay off the manufacturer and reserve sufficient for himself for working expenses, etc. The reason is apparent. The soil is never in that state that it can utilize every ounce of what is applied, consequently unlimited quantities of manure should be applied, or the soil reduced to the finest state of disintegration, which can only be done by drainage. I myself recognized these principles long ago, and endorsed them by carrying out the work with vigor and extreme economy, nothing doubtful, but that I would be backed on principle—mind, not individually—by an intelligent country; in fact I sank my capital on

what action, or inaction, of the Legislature has decided to be worthless security.

Any intelligent reader can now understand why the managers of Trust Estates have difficulty in enabling owners to carry out improvements. What have they to do with drainage, or any scheme? They simply recognize marketable securities, or recognized investments.

We are indebted to Messrs. Green & Whineray, K 30 Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, England, for the following weekly quotations of the Apple Market. Messrs. G. & W.'s cable address is 'Green,' Liverpool:—

Liverpool, 18th Oct., 1884.

APPLES.

We have had a good demand for Apples this week, and advancing markets, owing chiefly to the improved condition of the fruit, which has landed sounder and shown better colour, and our buyers have felt more confidence in operating. Up to the last sale of the week the demand continued good, and we think prospects for next week are favorable.

The following quotations are for tight barrels:—

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----|------|
| Baldwins, New York | 11/- | to | 14/6 |
| Greenings | 8/- | " | 12/6 |
| Newtown Pippins | 20/- | " | 27/- |
| Northern Spy | 11/6 | " | 13/- |
| Canada Red | 14/- | " | 15/6 |
| Baldwins, Boston | 11/- | " | 12/9 |
| Kings | 14/- | " | 22/- |
| Ribston Pippins | 16/- | " | 20/- |
| Fameuse | 13/- | " | 15/6 |
| Tallman Sweet | 3/- | " | 10/- |
| Slack packed | 9/- | " | 11/6 |
| Slightly wet and wet | 6/- | " | 10/- |

Arrivals are as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | Barrels. |
| City of Rome from New York | 974 |
| Adriatic | 2450 |
| City of Berlin | 1444 |
| America | 451 |
| Oregon | 293 |
| Caspian | 152 |
| Borderer | 4318 |
| Scythia | 3111 |
| Istrian | 3875 |
| Parisian | 604 |
| Ontario | 254 |
| Brooklyn | 362 |
| Lake Manitoba | 41 |
| Total for week | 18329 barrels. |
| " to date | 69314 " |

Liverpool, 25th Oct., 1884.

Apples have been in good demand all week at constantly advancing prices, the last sales shewing a full 2/- per barrel more than the early sales. The condition and colour have been good.

Canadians also have shown a considerable improvement, and good samples have excited spirited competition.

A few Newtowns have come in and good samples have made long prices, but anything common has been neglected.

The following quotations are for tight barrels:—

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---|------|
| Baldwins, New York | 11/- | " | 16/- |
| Greenings | 10/6 | " | 12/6 |
| Fameuse | 14/- | " | 15/- |
| Ribston Pippins | 16/- | " | 22/- |
| Baldwins, Boston | 11/6 | " | 13/6 |
| Kings | 15/- | " | 20/- |
| Newtowns | 25/- | " | 40/- |
| Russets | 15/- | " | 18/- |
| Slack packed | 9/- | " | 12/- |
| Slack and wet | 5/- | " | 9/- |

Arrivals are as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| | Barrels. |
| City of Montreal from New York | 1310 |
| Nevada | 2570 |
| Britannic | 2504 |
| Norseman | 4677 |
| Cephalonia | 4019 |
| Circassian | 1352 |
| Total for week | 16752 barrels. |
| " to date | 86066 " |

Liverpool, 8th Nov., 1884.

The trade for "Hallow Eve" being over there has been a slackening in the demand this week, and prices are 1/- to 2/- easier. We think, however, this is only temporary, and as the supply of English become exhausted the demand for American will improve.

Boston apples have generally landed in good condition, and tight barrels have sold from 12/- to 13/-, according to samples shewn.

Good Canadian apples have been in demand and sales have been made at prices ranging from 12/- to 18/-.

While there are plenty of buyers for good Newtown Pippins, common fruit is quite neglected and almost unsaleable.

The following quotations are for tight barrels:—

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----|------|
| Baldwins, New York | 13/- | to | 16/- |
| Greenings, | 10/- | to | 13/- |
| N. Spics, | 10/6 | to | 12/- |
| Kings | 15/- | to | 22/- |
| Golden Russets | 12/- | to | 18/- |
| Baldwins, Boston | 11/6 | to | 13/6 |
| Pearmain, | 12/- | to | 13/- |
| Spitz, | 11/- | to | 13/- |
| Jonathan, | 11/- | to | 14/- |
| Newtown Pippins, Boston | 10/- | to | 43/- |
| Slack Packed | 10/- | to | 12/- |
| Slack and wet | 8/- | to | 10/- |

Arrivals for the week are as follows:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Barrels. |
| Celtic, from New York | 1459 |
| Alaska, | 1759 |
| City of Chester, | 155 |
| Iowa, from Boston | 5556 |
| Catalonia, | 4640 |
| Peruvian, from Montreal | 1851 |
| Montreal, | 805 |
| Arrivals for week | 17,225 barrels. |
| " to date | 125,977 " |

THE October returns of Indian Corn to the U. S. Department of Agriculture average higher for condition than in the past five years. The indication is 26 bushels an acre for 70 millions of acres. The wheat crop will exceed that of last year by 100 million bushels; average 13½ bushels per acre.

THE *London Morning Post*, in an able article depicting the present Agricultural outlook of the world, points out the evil effects of "the excessive rage for wheat-growing in every clime and country," and predicts a speedy re-action, which is indeed already shown in America by a reduction of from 10 to 15 per cent in the winter wheat area, and in Britain by a reduction of a last 10 per cent. Though 1884 has been a bounteous year for the world's wheat crop, the crop represents but a fifteen month's supply; if with our present large area we obtain only a fifteen month's supply, what will happen when the area and crop in average years are only equal to a bare year's supply, and in disastrous years, when, perhaps, only a ten month's supply is obtained? In 1869, the English import of wheat from India was 998 cwt.; last year it was 11,248,988 cwt.

The writer deals with the fruit crop of the year in a manner that will interest Nova Scotian readers:—

The little province of Nova Scotia is, in a most unpretending manner, gaining a good name for itself in our English markets as sending us some of the finest productions of the Canadian Dominion. Last season we noted the importation of the new Burbank potato, and this year the importation of apples from Nova Scotia is attracting some attention. We have received a sample of the Gravenstein apple, which is just now being imported by Messrs. Northard and Lowe, and of which 2,000 barrels have been sold this season. This is one of the finest apples, either for dessert or cooking, that we have seen for some years, and the Nova Scotians are certainly to be congratulated on growing such an excellent variety for their earliest kind. The fruit is large, handsome, peach-like in colour, mellow to the palate, and just sweet enough to bring out a rich flavour. Next to these apples will come consignments of later varieties, these consisting of Ribston Pippins, Blenheim Pippins, King of the Tompkin's County, and Baldwin's. Several thousand barrels of these will be imported by this one firm before Christmas. All this importation—both of potatoes and apples—is of but a year or two's growth, but owing to the great success which has been obtained, the fruits being among the very best put on the market, and honestly packed, the suitable districts in Nova Scotia have now become vast orchards. Of course a number of the trees are young and have only just come into bearing, but in course of time the quantity sent will be enormous, and this import trade will be helped on by the fact that these Nova Scotian apples are now making a higher price than any other apples in the London market—that is, than American and Canadian apples. To distinguish them from these they are known by their own name of Nova Scotian apples, the others being known as "Canadian" and "States."

The fact is one that ought to set us thinking. While we are suffering from depression in our own agriculture, and while we hardly know where to turn for help, there

is an island in British North America not only sending us the best apples on the London market, but also beating the United States, with its great diversity of climate and with such States as the sunland Florida and the luscious California. The secret of the success is, growing nothing but the best kinds, and this we may take it will be in the near future the surest possible way to success in any department of the world's agriculture. But surely one would think that such varieties of apples as the Gravenstein ought to be produced in sufficient quantity in our own country. It is true that the law which allows the tenant to lose his property in a fruit tree the moment that its roots are placed in another man's soil acts against the planting of orchards and fruit grounds, but still one would imagine that we ought to have been able to have produced such an article as the apple in quite sufficient quantities. Both this year and last year the agricultural returns show a very good increase in orchards, but after all the fact remains that during years of severe depression a small colony has established a very important little trade in agricultural produce.

THE following is the continuation of Mr. Boardman's interesting account of his agricultural visit to Nova Scotia:—

Grand Pre, N. S., July 14.

I had so much to say in my last letter about the apple shipment business of Annapolis that I left little room to speak of other matters. I do not remember that I even alluded to the fact that this place, (or rather a little below the present location of the village) is the site of the oldest European settlement in America, north of the Gulf of Mexico. Champlain visited it in 1604, four years before he founded Quebec. On its occupation by the English, they changed the name of Port Royal to Annapolis, in honor of their reigning queen, and the modern name of Annapolis Royal is a combination of the two. Along the Annapolis river and the creeks and small streams making into it, are extensive fresh marshes reclaimed from the sea by immense dikes. Many of these dikes date back to the earliest French occupation of the country. Indeed there is abundant evidence that the early French settlers did not cultivate the high land at all. They built their houses in clusters on the high points of land just back from the marsh, and cultivated and raised their crops only on the reclaimed or diked land.

Opposite Annapolis Royal is the township of Granville, and there are little rural villages of Upper, Middle and Lower Granville. A ferry connects Granville with Annapolis Royal. The location of the rich marsh and valley uplands of the Granville side of the Annapolis river is most favorable. The North Mountains

—a high range of mountains sometimes reaching the height of 600 feet—gives shelter from the cold winds and chilling fog of the Bay of Fundy, while the sun pours down its warm rays directly upon the land. The soil is a reddish loam, deep and fertile, with an abundance of boulders of all sizes. I may have called it a "hard, clay loam" in my previous letter, gathering the statement from men with whom I talked; but on examination I found no clay loam in all the Granville soil which I examined. Still, it is a soil the like of which we have none in Maine. The verdure is rich and beautiful, the apple trees are vigorous and productive. Farm crops are rank and abundant with the exception of Indian corn, and it does seem a little strange to ride for miles and miles through this fine country and not see a single half-acre of this representative New England crop. This, as much as anything, makes a Yankee feel that he is in a foreign land.

I am under obligations to the kindness of Mr. William Winchester of Granville Ferry for the opportunity of obtaining a glimpse of the agriculture on the east side of the Annapolis Basin—perhaps I should more properly say the north side—in a drive of some four or five miles which that gentleman gave me. The main object was to inspect the great Queen Anne Marsh, which was reclaimed seven years ago, by means of a dike of four hundred rods in length, which brought into subjection from the sea five hundred acres of splendid land on which is now growing a crop of Timothy and clover that will average three tons to the acre. On our ride down we passed the fine orchards of Edward Armstrong, Miss Hallyard, William Armstrong, Ward Sproul, and many others,—orchards which yield from three to five and six hundred barrels of apples annually. These farms all have good buildings upon them and are pleasantly located on the sunny side of the Annapolis Basin. Mr. Winchester and his son have a farm of some six hundred acres which cuts over one hundred tons of hay yearly, nearly all being consumed on the farm. Near Mr. Winchester's farm is the fishing station of Mr. Solomon Farusworth, where the celebrated Digby herring, which find a market in England, are put up. I find real estate here fully as high as with us. A farm of a hundred acres, having a good orchard, fair buildings, some diked marsh and good pastures, would be held at \$3,000, while the taxes on the same would not probably exceed \$20.

Taking the eastward bound train on the Windsor and Annapolis Railway for Grand Pre, Avondale and Truro, we are so fortunate as to have the intelligent guidance of Mr. Joseph Edwards—a gentlemanly conductor. Mr. Edwards

has been Master of the Grand Lodge of Oddfellows of the Province, and carried, with well merited pride, several badges and testimonials of which he has just reason to be proud. One was a gold watch presented by his Honor Governor Archibald, and another a gold medal presented by friends in recognition of his bravery in risking his own life to save that of a passenger at the time of a railroad accident at Beaver Creek Station, in 1879. Mr. Edwards was selected to conduct both parties of the Maine Press Association on their several visits to the Province. The Windsor and Annapolis Railway extends from Annapolis to Halifax, a distance of 130 miles, and is a well managed corporation, and has done much for the business of the Province. The headquarters of the road are at Kentville, which is the residence of Mr. Innes the General Manager of the Company. The road extends along the valley of the Annapolis and Cornwallis rivers, among the farms and orchards—a most delightful and pleasant section of country. Well has it been termed the “garden of Nova Scotia!” It is such a country as one might well be happy in, for I am sure independence and every needed comfort and enjoyment are possessed by the farmers living in this portion of the Province. There are fine old orchards, (and many young ones cultivated to beans and potatoes), fields of stout grass and large fields of potatoes all along the line of the road. All crops have a wonderfully green, vigorous look. There is some attention paid to dairying along the valley, and several cheese factories have been established. Middletown, as I said in one of my previous letters, is the centre of the strawberry growing district of the valley, and from this station alone, 15,000 quarts have already been shipped this season, and as many more will probably be shipped as the season lasts all through the month of July. Kingston has also forwarded 12,000 quarts this season, chiefly to Halifax. There is one gentleman in Kingston who has ten acres of strawberries, put out last spring, which he intends for the Boston, Bar Harbor, and other American markets. I have said in my second letter that before leaving Annapolis, I made the acquaintance of Mr. Harry V. Barrett, representing the London House of John S. Townsend & Co., from whom I obtained much information relative to the shipping of apples to England. Mr. Barrett's house are large handlers of Nova Scotia apples, and Mr. Barrett usually sends over to them twenty thousand barrels annually.

Ten miles after leaving Kentville we reach Grand Pre, immortalized by the pen of Longfellow as the home of Evan-

geline. “Great meadow” the French meaning is, and it is indeed inspiring to stand on the site of the old French village, just upon the slightly elevated upland above the marsh, and look over the Grand Pre to Cape Blomidon on the shore of the Basin of Minas. Thousands of acres of the most beautiful land in the Province stretch out before you; the farms betoken independence, the farm houses are large and substantial, (roomy and comfortable as I can testify), and the landscape is one of great beauty. There is no tavern at Grand Pre, but the traveler or summer tourist will find a royal place to stop at the house of Mr. Robert L. Stuart, on the very site of the old French village, and but a few steps from the spot where stood the smithy of Basil, the blacksmith. A large, roomy, substantial house, with good beds, a well-spread and finely-served table, and withal a good-cheer that will make the stranger feel at home—these are the accommodations, and welcome he will surely find. At night on going up to my room I found it fragrant with the perfume of a bouquet of freshly-plucked roses, while in one corner was a library of some three hundred volumes of the best class of books,—a sight which made me feel completely at home, and which tempted me to read history and poetry, philosophy and theology for half the night.

Halifax, N. S., July 17, 1884.

My last letter was written in the chamber of Mrs. Stewart's roomy old mansion, with its choice volumes of which I spoke, tempting me to read, looking out over the fertile marsh of Grand Pre, with the rain pouring down in torrents. I had intended to take an early morning train for this city, but it is a sailor's motto never to leave a good harbor in a storm, and I thought it a good one to follow, landsman thought I was, in this instance. So I busied myself with correspondence of one sort and another, letters of friendship and business; read up on the romantic and surring history of the old Acadians, from Murdoch's excellent “History of Nova Scotia”—which would be more sensible if it had contained an index; skipped through some of the choice volumes near my table, had a sound nap of an hour or so in the seductive easy chair with which my room was furnished, and was only awakened, near noon, by the young lady tapping at my door and telling me a gentleman below wished to see me. I went down to be introduced to Mr. William Stewart, one of the commissioners of sewers and dikes for the Grand Pre, who kindly offered to take me in the afternoon over this grand marsh of which he had the honor to be in charge,—another evidence

of the hospitality and friendliness of the good people of Nova Scotia, of which I have already mentioned several in previous letters. The rain having ceased, leaving the ground drenched as in April, with little rivers pouring down all the roadside gutters, I improved the half hour before dinner by calling upon James Laird, Esq., of Horton,—whom I found an old friend, for (with many others whom I meet in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), he felt acquainted with me, he said, and know me well from my former connection with the *Maine Farmer*. Pleasant it is to feel you are not a stranger in another land than your own, and to be assured that your labors for the improvement of the best of human arts—because an art of peace and a means of comfort—have been appreciated by those who were before strangers to you. I found esquire Laird a most hearty and communicative gentleman, ready to give me all information in his power, and, as we Yankees say “a great talker.” I had only to regret that I could not remain with him half a day, instead of half an hour. He is well informed concerning the history of his locality, is collecting information respecting the early English—New England—settlers, and showed me a copy of an old map of the town of Horton, with the lots on the Grand Pre, made in 1760, (the original), which was a very neat piece of work, all done with his own pen. On a slight elevation on his farm he pointed out to me the graves of Col. Arthur Noble, his brother Lieutenant Noble, and Lieutenant Leachmere, who were all slain by the French, in the winter of 1746-7. “Why,” I said “Mr. Gould ought certainly to come here.” “Senator Gould, do you mean?” asked Mr. Laird; on my replying in the affirmative, he said that he was here some years ago and had since corresponded with him. Mr. Gould knows how to write history, and his sketch of the life of Col. Noble prepared for our State Historical Society proves it.

Promptly on the hour appointed Mr. William Stewart called for me at “mine inn,” and it was not without some regrets that I left the kind and hospitable quarters to which I had been recommended by Miss Bink, whose acquaintance I had made on the train down from Annapolis, and who had pointed out to me many objects and places of interest on the route. With Mr. Stewart I drove all over the Grand Pre dike, crossed over to Long Island, a ride of good farming land on the Basin of Minas, comprising a rural population of something over one hundred persons, and then Mr. Stewart drove with me to Horton Landing in season for the evening express train bound eastward. At this place I had

time before the train left to inspect the fine and productive orchard of Mr. Arthur McN. Patterson, the principal of Acadia Villa Seminary, a boarding school for boys, situated at this place. This orchard comprises two hundred trees. I speak now of the orchard which one sees close by the shabby little station of Horton Landing, for Mr. Patterson has a large orchard on his farm a few miles from his school. Here are about two hundred trees, half of which have been set from fifteen to eighteen years, and the other have been set more recently. The first lot were Rochester, N. Y., trees and have done finely, making a good growth and bearing well. The others are native from Kings county. The soil is a deep clay loam, strong, retentive and fertile, is underdrained, has been well manured and yields large crops. On just two acres of land Mr. Patterson tells me he has one hundred trees in bearing, and last year had from this orchard three hundred barrels of apples, and on the land three hundred and twenty cocks of hay—"a fine sight it was," as he expressed it, with the trees bearing, and the cocks of hay as thick among the trees as they could stand." More money is received, Mr. Patterson informs me from the Gravenstein and King of Thompkins, than any other varieties. At his farm, some three miles from the school, Mr. Patterson has a large orchard and is constantly putting out more trees, having set one hundred two years ago. He tells me as a general thing the Rochester trees have proved well with him, and others in the Province. Mr. S. T. Cannon of our city has also sold thousands of trees here, and his stock has already been as represented and given good satisfaction. He has a first-class reputation in Nova Scotia, (as at home), and if honesty, industry and square dealing can secure reputation, he is sure to have a good record wherever he does business. Mr. Patterson's school is a family school for boys, and in its management for more than twenty years past, he has won great success as a teacher and disciplinarian. The quiet little hamlet of Horton Landing is most favorably located for such a school, being away from all disturbing influences of the town, in the midst of varied and beautiful scenery, and Mr. Patterson's classes are always full. Within a stone's throw from Acadia Villa is a summer cottage where Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt spent several weeks in resting last season, and where he is expected again the present summer.

I had planned to make a short stop at and about the mouth of the Avon river, taking in brief visits to Avondale, Falmouth, and Windsor Town—but my contemplated brief call turned out to be a very pleasant visit, dependent on a lit-

tle incident which shows the genuine hospitality and good cheer for which all these Nova Scotia people are so famous. Shall I tell it you, reader? Well, just now I spoke of an acquaintance whom I made on the cars, who directed me to a good stopping place at Grand Pre, and who chatted pleasantly about the scenery as we jogged along over this classic "land of Evangeline" in that moderate express train, that rainy afternoon. I was talking with the conductor who occupied a seat with me, just in the rear of my young lady acquaintance, of my business to the Province, enquiring of whom I could obtain information, and where were the best places to stop. Now at many of these little stations there are no inns, and it is necessary to seek entertainment with some one who makes a business of "putting up" people, and boarding summer tourists. So after the conductor had left me and I asked my acquaintance whom I should say recommended me to stop at Mrs. Stewart's, she simply bowed and said "Miss Blank." I did not mistake the *miss*, and thanked her, never expecting to see her again, and wondering how I could ever ascertain her post-office address, so as to send her a paper containing the most graceful acknowledgment I could write, in return for her attentions.

On alighting from the car at Falmouth—a familiar name—just as I was enquiring for a place to stop for the night (it was then six o'clock by Payson, Tucker's time which meant seven o'clock to people in the valley of the Avon), who should I recognize but my acquaintance of yesterday, Miss Blank. Of course my hat was raised at once—in the rain of our hay-day weather of 1884—and I was then introduced to Miss Blank's friend, Miss Dash from St. John. "It is Mr—," she said. "Oh, St. John," said I, "I have been there and know people who know people there, and besides it is not so very far from Augusta either." "I thought," said Miss Blank, "that my brother could give you more information on the subject of your inquiry than any one here, and as there is no inn at Falmouth, would you not ride up with me to tea, and then go over to my brother's for the evening and night." Expostulations were in vain, and I had to surrender on the spot. But, think of the embarrassing position in which it placed an old boy to drive two young ladies in the rain, with a strange horse which took every advantage in its favor: on account of a green teamster, doing errands along the village street, up hill two miles to a place which he knew not. I thought of the experience of the plain travelling gentleman, who telegraphed in advance to the keeper of a country hotel where he was to pass the night,

asking if he would have a room in readiness for him, on the arrival of the train. The landlord had never received a telegraphic message before, and thinking his guest must be some great personage, a Governor or at least a representative to the General Court, was at the depot, as the train rolled in, with all the servants and waiters his little hotel could muster, to receive his distinguished guest—and was disgusted to find him a little man tugging his own samplecase. However I made the best of it and talked about the weather, etc., as best I could. Arriving at Miss Blank's, tea was served, and then with good nights and other acknowledgements, I rode over to Mr. Blank's at early evening, to pass the night with a gentleman "who could give me more information than any other person in Falmouth." Mr. Blank's house is on a little eminence amid apple trees and green fields, and from my window the next morning I looked out upon as fair a landscape as I ever expect to see in this world. There was the little river Avon with Falmouth and Windsor Town in front, wide, rich dikes all about, and a glimpse of the muddy waters of the Basin of Minas to the left. I am sure if there is a happy home in this wide, wide world, it is that little cottage at the end of the Glebe road, and I shall never forget the hearty welcome I there received from those who were unknown, but whom I now esteem friends. In the morning Mr. Blank brought me to my train, and I said "good bye" again, this time, too, not without regret.

After so long a detour you will surely want me to be getting on toward Halifax from whence I date this letter. The river Avon—sweet, historic name—makes into the Basin of Minas between Horton and Kempt, the towns of Falmouth and Windsor being situated back from the bay, and opposite to each other. "Windsor Town," the good people call it, and there is something I much like in the old English way of adding "town" after the name of important places. Who does not remember.

"In London Town of great renown,"

and the romantic and thrilling history of John Gilpin, so quaintly told by Cowper. Windsor is the seat of Kings College, and the town one of culture and intellectual refinement. Here was the long-time residence of Judge Haliburton, one of the most famous writers of the Province, author of "Sam Slick the Clock Maker"—a work of unique and meritorious character. About here are extensive quarries of freestone and gypsum. I was invited to Noel, but it is too far off my route, and that pleasure I must forego. The Captain will pardon me I know, and come

and see me just the same when his little ship again touches our grand river pier in the port of Augusta, on the dear old Kennebec.

Between the Avon and the beautiful Bedford Basin just before reaching Halifax, this is little of interest. Mr. Charles Dudley Warner, in one of his enjoyable summer books says of this locality: If a man can live on rocks like a goat, he may settle anywhere between Windsor and Halifax. With the exception of a wild pond or two, we saw nothing but rocks, and stunted trees for forty-five miles, a monotony unrelieved by one picturesque feature. Then we longed for the "garden of Nova Scotia," and understood what is meant by that name." Now I think Mr. Warner must have been dozing or absorbed in some interesting book when he passed the little station of Ellershouse, for I think it both pleasant and picturesque. The place is certainly a gem in the midst of much that is dreary to the scenery and landscape along this forty-five miles of wood and rocks. It is but a little hamlet to be sure, still if all trains stop as long here as ours did, it will give the traveler an opportunity to take in two or three pretty residences at the left, some extensive orchards about them, grounds well laid out, and quite a charming bit of hill and dale beside. The apples trees appeared to be quite numberless—one loiterer at the station said there were thousands of them—and the residences of Mr. W. P. Colchester and Mr. Francis Ellershouse were notable for their good appearance. "Mr. Ellerhouse he's n' Europe," said one bystander on the form, "but his wife knows how to manage as well nor he," and I should judge from the looks of the large orchard that the way she managed was certainly well enough—whether it was better "nor he" or the country.

The approach to Halifax over the Windsor & Annapolis and Intercolonial railways is interesting, the ride along the Bedford Basin being particularly attractive. This is a noble lake, surrounded by high hills, and is the scene of many an exciting contest in rowing by rival clubs. The location of Halifax is commanding, and the harbor one of the finest on the Atlantic coast. The city contains over thirty-six thousand inhabitants, and among the objects of interest to a stranger are the Citadel, Parliament Buildings, the new Provincial building, museum, Queen's dockyard, and many fine churches. But, as my business to Halifax was not for the purpose of sight-seeing, I had little time at my command for that pastime. Here I made the acquaintance of Prof. George Lawson, one of the staff of instructors at Dalhousie College, where I had a pleas-

ant conference with him in his laboratory. Prof. Lawson is also the Secretary of the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and has a fine farm of two hundred acres at "Lucyfield," Bedford. In the Province are ninety-two incorporated agricultural societies, which receive in governments grants nearly seven thousand dollars annually. These societies hold fairs every fall and in many of the larger towns are fine exhibition buildings. The Central Board of Agriculture is composed of six members, from as many representative districts, a district usually being made up of three counties. All the members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and in addition to the six members representing the Province at large, one is appointed in behalf of the government. Prof. Lawson has been Secretary to the Board over since its re-organization, or for a period of about twenty years, and has proved a most competent officer. I am under obligations to him for many kind attentions, and also to Mr. Crosskill, Deputy Provincial Secretary, and to W. C. Sterling of the *Morning Herald*. My headquarters in their interesting old city are at the Halifax Hotel.

NOTICE TO NEW SOCIETIES.

New Agricultural Societies whose attested Returns of subscriptions paid were sent in to the Board during the summer, may supplement them by additional Returns of subscriptions subsequently paid up to 31st December. The supplementary Returns must be on the proper form and duly attested, otherwise they will not be recognized.

POTATOES.

Sir J. B. Lawes, writing in *The Rural New Yorker*, says:—Although I consider that the use of complete artificial manures involves too great a cost for their employment in the growth of ordinary crops, perhaps an exception might be made in regard to potatoes, a crop that requires a large supply of both potash and nitrogen.

At Rothamstead we have grown nine crops of potatoes in succession upon land which for fifteen years previously had received no yard manure, and the average yield of the last three crops has been 400 bushels per acre, calculating the bushel to 50 pounds. The manure used each year has been 300 pounds of sulphate of potash, 350 pounds of superphosphate of lime, and 400 pounds of salts of ammonia, while in another experiment instead of the salts of ammonia 540 pounds of nitrate of soda were applied. The produce from both manures has been almost identical.

The sulphate of potash supplies about 130 pounds of potash—and we find nearly the same amount in the crop. The phosphoric acid, is much in excess of the requirements of the crop, and it might be reduced one-half. The salts of ammonia and the nitrate each supply about the same amount of nitrogen—57 pounds—and of this the crop does not take up more than 50 pounds; there is apparently, therefore, a considerable loss of this substance; but at the same time any reduction in the amount of these manures would be followed by a reduction in the crop. The loss of this costly manure ingredient is a most serious matter, as unfortunately there is but little prospect of recovering, in succeeding crops, any appreciable amount of the 37 pounds not taken up by the first. By means of the same mineral manures alone we have grown—over the same period—one-half the crop we obtained by the application of minerals with nitrogen, the soil having supplied a sufficient amount of that substance to give a product of 200 bushels; but one-half of the minerals applied remained inactive in the soil; these, however, might be made available to the crop by an application of nitrogen.

The quantity of potash removed in potatoes is very large. In the 400 bushels it amounts to about 130 pounds. Compare this with the amount removed by animals. An ox, weighing 1,400 pounds, which was killed for the purpose of analysis, contained only two-and-a-half pounds in the whole carcase and offal. Hay is another crop which takes a good deal of potash from the soil, and farmers in England rarely grow either hay or potatoes for sale unless there are facilities for the purchase of town dung. Artificial manures are certainly not used alone by practical farmers in the growth of their crops.

In our experimental field the character of the manure is always represented in the stem and leaves of the plant. Ammonia and nitrate without minerals give a low stem and greenish-brown leaves, which appear in the evening almost black. Minerals without nitrogen give a thin, low stem and yellowish-green leaves, while minerals and nitrogen give a luxuriant, and sometimes an over-luxuriant, stem, with leaves of a bright green. There is no difficulty in accounting for these peculiarities. A plant takes up whatever food is most abundant in the soil, with the hope, as I sometimes put it, that sooner or later it may find the food that suits it best. In the dark-green leaves the nitrogen is in excess; but starch cannot be formed without potash, and the supplies of potash are not sufficient to use up the nitrogen. It is far more easy to change the yellowish-green of the mineral-manured potatoes

into a dark green than it is to lighten the color of potatoes which receive nitrogen: a solution of nitrate of soda will effect the one in a very few days, but as both potash and phosphoric acid form insoluble compounds with the soil, they are much more slowly taken up by plants.

We always, however, obtain a larger crop of potatoes where we apply the mineral-manures alone than where we apply the nitrogen without the minerals, though in the next field, salts of ammonia applied without minerals for thirty-nine years in succession, have grown larger crops of wheat over the whole period than mineral manures without ammonia. To explain this apparent inconsistency we must consider the great difference in the character of the two crops.

Wheat in England is sown in the autumn, and being a deep-rooted plant, it has a greater range of soil to obtain a supply of mineral food than the spring-sown potato. The relation between the potash and the phosphoric acid and nitrogen in the two crops is also very different. In the wheat crops, grown by salts of ammonia alone, mixed samples, taken over a period of ten years, give the products per acre of the total crop—straw and grain—as follows: nitrogen, 36 pounds; potash, 23 pounds; phosphoric acid, 13 pounds. The relation, therefore, between these two important minerals and nitrogen is as 1 to 1.

In the potato crop, on the other hand, the proportion of nitrogen to the minerals is nearer 1 of nitrogen to 3 of minerals, the demand upon the soil for potash being much greater in the case of potatoes than where wheat or barley is grown. It must be a very large wheat crop indeed which removes 50 pounds of nitrogen from the soil; but in some of our potato crops we carry off more than 100 pounds of that substance per acre.

As very few soils could furnish so large an amount as this from their own resources, when potatoes are continuously grown, it becomes necessary to furnish a supply of potash either in dung or chemical salts. The following table gives the products of the crop grown in 1883, being the ninth in succession without any change in the manures:—

| | Potatoes per acre in long tons. cwt. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 14 tons of dung..... | 6 — |
| 2. Minerals without nitrogen | 5 — |
| 3. Nitrogen without minerals | 3 3 |
| 4. Minerals and ammonia..... | 8 19 |
| 5. Minerals and nitrates..... | 8 2 |

Amount of mineral matter and nitrogen per cent. in dry tubers:—

| | Mineral matter. | Nitrogen. |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | 3.05 | 1.09 |
| 2. | 3.86 | 0.73 |
| 3. | 2.61 | 1.47 |
| 4. | 3.67 | 1.08 |
| 5. | 3.86 | 1.37 |

The character of the manure is most clearly shown in the composition of the crop. In No. 2, manured with minerals, the minerals are more than five times as high as the nitrogen; while in No. 3, where ammonia or nitrates are used, the minerals are considerably less than double the amount of nitrogen. In both cases there is a waste of power, shown by small crops and unused manures. The loss, however, is not equal in both cases, as the minerals remain in the soil to be taken up at some future time, while the nitrogen is probably lost.

VALUE OF A HERD BOOK.—The influence and value of a pedigree is frequently underrated. A herd register is simply the outward mark and record of what we consider an inward quality. If it were not it would be quite worthless, and a man who should pay \$500 for a recorded animal would be simply throwing away his money. As an example of the value of a herd record we might mention a recent sale of Jersey cattle in Tennessee, at which several animals entered in the American Jersey Herd Book were sold for \$75 to \$135 each, while others entered in the American Jersey Cattle Club Register sold for \$400 to \$600 each.

Now there must be a good reason for this difference, as few men are stupid enough to pay \$500 for a whim or a false notion, and when we look for it we find it in the fact that the Jersey Cattle Club Register has been remarkably exclusive, and none but the very clearest evidence of the quality of the animals offered for entry in it has been received. In addition to this the greatest care has been exercised to prevent inferior cattle being accepted for registry, and to avoid and reject all fraudulent entries. So it is known that a record in this Herd Book means an assumed relationship to the very best Jerseys in existence. The other Herd Book has not this exclusiveness, and consequently its reputation is worth \$500 less than that of the other.

It is important for farmers to know this, because it has a relation to their own circumstances. * * * It is not all foolishness, as some pretend to believe. Every man knows better, whatever he may please to say about it, and if every farmer would guide himself by his knowledge in this respect our common cattle would very soon become greatly more valuable and greatly improve their already good reputation.—*Live Stock Journal.*

JONATHAN THORNE, the first importer of Ducker's Short Horns in America, died in New York, Oct. 9, in the 84th year of his age.

S. M. 1884.

Thou wert not, Lady, of their common clay,
Who, sheltered by the vantage of their sex,
In soft affection dream their hours away,
And 'neath the shadow of another's love
Forget to share the toils that others vex!
But the large talent given thee from above
For help, thou, husbanding the sands of day,
Didst multiply; and now the crown that decks
Their brows, who thro' long years of effort strove,
Bound with the girle that their Master wore,
Before the lowliest feet their life to lay,
Is thine: 'tis thine for us to work no more
Nor weep: that glance of cheer and welcome gay
Is changed for rapture on the eternal shore.
Windsor, } N. S.
Sackville, }

We are always glad to notice any valuable addition to the live stock of the Province. A valuable Boar and Sow of the Berkshire breed were imported by Mr. Rupert Davis, Kentville. They arrived at Halifax on 25th August per S. S. "Worcester" from Boston, were quarantined at Mr. McKerron's barn, Coburg Road, until 10th September, and then forwarded to destination. The following are the pedigrees:—

Boar—Dropped 29th March, 1884. Sire—Belladonna Dynasty; his sire, Dynasty out of Sweet Diana, No. 1284, by Earl of St. Bridge, No. 1284. Dam—Helle Favorite, No. 8854. Sow—Dropped 8th June, 1884. Sire—Belladonna Dynasty, as above. Dam—A Sow from imported stock.

THE announcement of a special meeting of the stockholders of the Canada West Farm Stock Association for the purpose of appointing "liquidators" will be read with regret by the Shorthorn breeding fraternity of America. The company which, several years ago, acquired control of the Bow Park property, it seems have been unable to "make ends meet," and, as we understand, the English holders being unwilling to advance more money, the affairs of the Association have been brought to a close. Just what disposition may be made of the property we have not yet learned. It is to be hoped that the herd will not be dispersed, as it represents years of patient work in breeding.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

CRACKING in pears is attributed to exposure. A screen to keep off the cold winds diminishes the tendency. In sheltered gardens in cities, it is alleged, pears do not crack.

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