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Editorial.

Agriculture in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Journal of Agriculture believes that Agriculture has reached a new stage of existence in that country, and calls upon the people of that Province to look into the future from the present elevated standpoint.

The Provincial Exhibition of 1876 was essentially an experiment, and, as such, it was looked forward to, even by its most ardent promoters, with mingled hopes and fears.

Fifty years the Legislature and Government of the Province had been striving to promote a better system of Agriculture. Local Societies were at work; local Exhibitions and fairs were held; improved breeds of Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs were from time to time imported; seeds of new field crops were brought from other countries, and the claims of Agriculture to increased attention were urged upon our people, from year to year, in the most persuasive language that ever stirred the echoes of our Legislative Halls. Under such influences much improvement was expected, and in course of years a good deal was effected. The comforts of the farming community in general were increased through the efforts of Agriculture, and many subsidiary improvements in rural economy were introduced; yet, until quite recently, rural implements of husbandry continued to be employed, in most parts of the country, in a wasteful and wasteful manner, and the waste of the farmer's time and money was a sad thing to witness.

After referring somewhat to the progress of Agriculture in the past, the Journal goes on to show that the Legislature which has authorized Annual Provincial Exhibitions, has been attended with the best results, and is a great means of promoting the best interest of Agriculture and Stock raising. When the late Board of Agriculture in this Province suggested a similar course, they were laughed at, and told that they were out of their senses. The Government and Legislature ridiculed such an idea, and yet, somehow, Annual Exhibitions are considered of incalculable benefit in other places. It says:—

"In 1868 our Board of Agriculture, organized four years before, made a third attempt, and it proved successful, beyond the fondest dreams of its founders. Yet another interregnum had to follow, and it was not till 1874 that the fourth Provincial Exhibition was held."

"To those who have been accustomed to watch the close connection, even in old, but more especially in new, countries, between Industrial Exhibitions and the Development of National Industries, it was a matter of deep concern to see the futility in which Exhibitions were dealt with in this Province. It was a proof, among many other things, that the vast substantial benefits which they confer upon a community were only very faintly realized by our people. We speak plainly because our only object is to give wholesome lessons. But a brighter day was dawning. The several importations of Stock had given a new impetus to agricultural improvement. And the Legislature wisely determined upon a system of Annual Provincial Exhibitions to be held in suitable localities from year to year. The benefits likely to flow from these Exhibitions are simply incalculable, hence the importance which we attach to the experiment carried out at Truro last month. That it was abundantly successful in every respect is already well known throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and that every succeeding year's Exhibition will bring an increased measure of success we have every reason to hope. In view of what has been accomplished this year at Truro, we invite the Agriculturists of every County in the Province to view the signs of the times in Nova Scotia, and prepare for a race of progress."

But we have had hitherto to look for in other countries. It will not do to stand still now. Year by year Capital and Labour will be applied more and more to the cultivation of our soil, and to the purchase and raising of Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Pigs, of races that have been long under the hand of the improver, veritable works of art such as have hitherto been almost strangers to our

land. Agriculturists who are prepared for the new role will go hand in hand, those who keep to the old way will be left out in the cold.

"It is already time for intending competitors to try to forecast the arrangements of next year's Exhibition. From what we have already learnt, we think we can promise much better preparation on their part than was visible even at the Truro show. The locality will no doubt affect the exhibits to some extent, but not to the extent that was anticipated prior to the Truro Exhibition."

Farmers' Libraries.

Among those things that should have prominence in connection with Agricultural Societies, is a Farmers' Library. It should be placed somewhere in the district as to be easily accessible to members and their families. It is surprising how soon quite a number of useful books can be got together, when once a nucleus is formed. To lay the foundation, and make a good start, the Society should appropriate a small sum, say thirty dollars, the first year, and thereafter continue to make an annual grant of ten or fifteen dollars a year towards enlarging it. In a few years a Society, by this means, would possess a valuable collection of works, all of which would be found highly useful and instructive. This is about the way many Agricultural and other Societies commenced in the United States, that now own thousands of dollars worth of standard works.

The larger portion of the books in many of these libraries, are donations from outside the Societies. They have been added to the library on the principle that those who help themselves are worth helping. The Societies made the start, and in due course of time their efforts were appreciated, many persons contributing to these Libraries such books as were of value.

Even in a purely Agricultural neighborhood it is by no means necessary that such a Library should possess nothing but works on Agriculture. There should indeed be works on general subjects, such as may interest and improve the farmer's family, as well as those that may instruct him.

These may be some objection raised to the appropriation of any part of the funds to such an object, on the ground that legislation does not provide for it. Never mind that, try the experiment, and we have no doubt that such action will be sustained by the Legislature, should any question arise.

THE SEASON.—We have still bare ground, and the navigation of our rivers still remains unimpeded by ice. Last year, at a very much earlier period, we had an abundance of snow, the rivers were ice-bound, and the coldest weather during the whole winter prevailed at the close of November and early part of December. In a word, the fall is an unusually mild one, and therefore will go far towards making up for the short hay towards making up for the short hay in some places. Some one has calculated that taking the whole Province together the saving in food equals a thousand tons of hay per day, on account of the unusual mildness of the weather. This may be, but, probably, an exaggeration, but the consumption, as every one knows, has been greatly diminished on that account.

FALL PLOWING.—For many years there has not been so favorable an opportunity for fall plowing, as presented itself this season. It is satisfactory to know that farmers have taken advantage of it, and the extent of land operated upon, is largely in excess of last year, or some years previous. Up to the close of last week, which brought us near to the close of November, the ground had scarcely any frost in it, and could be as easily plowed as in spring.

The Vermont farmers are going to exclude horse racing from their fairs hereafter.

Forty-two acres in every one hundred acres in England, and sixty-four in every one hundred acres in Ireland are pasture.

The shipment of valuable cattle and horses from Montreal to Great Britain is steadily increasing. Recently ten heifers, valued at \$23,000, were sent on one steamer. Twelve horses alone were valued at \$1,700. The best three heifers were worth \$5,000 each, and the best horse was valued at \$2,000.

The value of sewage manure may be seen by the fact that the "Earl of Derby" having offered to take the whole of the sewage of Dudley on his farm free of expense, and to find an engineer to undertake the necessary work, the Town Council has accepted the scheme. This, it is said, will save the rate payers £50,000.

Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

THE VALUE OF TURF.

Very few farmers are aware of the quantity of actual decomposable vegetable matter contained in a square yard of turf taken from the surface of well-set sward land. Accurate experiments have shown that not less than thirty tons exist in an acre, most of which are roots and stems, a small portion only of the mass being above the surface. It will hence be seen that by investing the sward of uplands and meadows, and allowing it to decompose undisturbed, a most important humus of the soil will be secured, and at small expense. This, even were no other dressing used, would of itself be an invaluable acquisition to the fertility of any soil, and it is replaced with juices and other principles that not only favor, but insure a speedy decomposition, the advantages resulting to the farmer from frequently inverting his sward lands—where circumstances required it—are far greater than we should be inclined to suppose. Many are inclined to the opinion that when lands in general are broken up, the mere addition of the vegetable matter—roots, grass, &c., contained in it is of little or no importance; but allowing the quantity of organic matter to be only fifteen tons to the acre—one-half the quantity contained in an acre of good sward land—it will be seen at once that a very great benefit must be derived from its presence and action.

ITALIAN BEES.

Some months ago I called on Italian beekeepers, through an agricultural paper, to state what their general experience with them was, as my experience with them did not show them to be what some apiarists had claimed for them; and one of the most extensive Italian beekeepers responded as follows: "The Italian will defend themselves from robbing bees better than the natives, and are very much less liable to be injured by the natives. I have often seen them come with honey much earlier in the season than the natives, making the latter preferable in this regard. This is often a cause for more determined effort to cast early swarms, and I do not consider it in favor of Italians, where surplus honey is desired instead of increase of swarms."

Those who doubt that Italians are longer lived than natives, should take a comb containing the same amount of brood from a hive of each variety, and place them in a hive by themselves, at the beginning of the working season. Do not allow them to rear a queen. If the black bees should disappear one-half faster than the Italians (as they actually have found them to do), it will be proof positive as to this point.

MONEY IN POULTRY.

Any farmer or person owning from 10 to 20 acres of land can make considerable money in keeping poultry. But it requires some knowledge of the manner in which fowls should be managed to succeed well. Where there are no neighbors near to be molested, turkeys are profitable when allowed to roam in a well fenced field. They require no feeding when grass hoppers are plenty. Geese are also very profitable when they can have a stream of water and low grass lands to feed on. In some places several thousand are owned by one person, and a living is made on the profits of duckling fowls, they produce from 125 to 175 eggs each year, and a bushel of grain per year supplies for each fowl, costing from 30 to 75 cents, according to locality, while the eggs are worth from \$1.25 to \$2.00 each per annum. But certain rules must be observed, or a failure is certain, as follows:

1. Never crowd too many into their roosting house.

2. Give them ample grounds to run in.

3. See that they do not become infested with lice.

4. A large shed to be provided to run under in storms.

5. Fresh water daily, and plenty of it.

6. Roosting houses to be well ventilated summer and winter.

7. Not to feed too much corn, as it makes them too fat.

8. Provide plenty of gravel, lime, &c., to produce eggs.

9. Avoid low, wet grounds where your fowls congregate.

10. Obtain a good breed—good layers and hardy.

THE VALUE OF HEN MANURE.

But few men who keep fowls are aware of the real value of hen manure, and I may not be much in error, if, any, when I say that where manure is scarce and dear the manure that each hen will produce in a year is worth what it costs to feed her. Fowls average a bushel a year, when their droppings are carefully saved—say 25 pounds each, worth two and a half cents per pound to fertilize any crop. This manure also is not compared with any good soil about four parts of soil to one of manure, and allowed to remain in the heap a few months, to become disintegrated, and diffused through the soil, then a pint of the mixture in a hill of corn or any other crop will produce as good results as a shovelful of stable manure.

Miscellaneous.

Agricultural Statistics.

We cannot congratulate the Government on any particular display of ability in administering the agricultural affairs of this Province. A change in the regime, the public had been led to expect, would lead to a change in policy; to a well-defined, vigorous and liberal policy, leading to some practical results.

The old Board, nicknamed the "Agricultural Parliament," served for a long time as the butt of good-natured ridicule, because of its combined pretension and impotence, but in what respect the new order of things is any better, we fail to know. What was heralded at the time as a great and beneficent change made in the interest of the farmers, is now suspected to be a political ploy to cover a transfer of patronage "placing it where it will do the most good."

In our remarks we do not wish to reflect on our friend McQueen, who, though nominally chairman of the department, is not really chargeable with its unfortunate shortcomings, as he is as innocent of its management as a newborn babe.

One of the most important matters that could engage the attention of agriculturists, is statistics relating to weather, crops, wages, prices, and a hundred other things, about which our farmers ought to be informed.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution that the great State of Massachusetts made to the Centennial was her magnificent display of charts, exhibiting the vegetable conditions and resources of the arable land, and of various kinds of crops, and the price of labor.

From these tables, we learn that the average farmer in that State has

Income of \$500.00
That he pays for labor 148.38
That he saves and deposits 332.61
Savings Bank 332.61
Balance of stock 332.61
On the other hand the income of the average skilled laborer is \$688.00
Earnings of his family 132.62
Total \$820.62
Surplus \$210.62

So that, notwithstanding the greatness of Massachusetts with her immense cotton, boot and shoe, and other industries, her chief prosperity comes in her farming population, whose average family adds \$300.32 more to the wealth of the State than the family of the average skilled laborer. There are charts showing the respective rates of farm labor in different places, charts showing the five degrees of color, the comparative value of farm-lands in three degrees the distribution of the farm to education; the value of the acre of Indian corn "fastidious" as the word of the day is, the average corn crop in the State, premiums at fairs; nativity and longevity within the State limits; production and consumption of wheat.

In fact, there appears to be no branch of agriculture that is not illustrated and made plain to the most uneducated understanding by these charts. Until our farmers wake up and demand similar advantages and avenues of information supplied by other countries, we may make up our minds to lag in the race of agricultural progress.—Chicago Post.

Dear Beef in England.

The London, England, Spectator says: It is the fastidiousness of the English taste which is the real cause of the steady rise in the price of meat, by the use of the word "fastidious" we mean to imply no blame. We are but remarking upon a fact, which is that English people, finding themselves well-to-do, and liking highly fed, succulent meat, insist upon gratifying their taste, though the gratification entails an increasing drain upon their pockets. If they would be satisfied with a poorer quality there would be no difficulty in supplying them, for practically there is no limit to the herds of the world. The vast pastures of Hungary, Russia, the Canadian Dominion, the United States, South America, South Africa and Australia could feed all Europe with ease. But the British taste will not have itself met. Look at the Australian tinned-meat experiment. The meat itself is excellent, the price is not excessive, yet people simply won't have it. It is overcooked, and consequently pronounced unpalatable. From the annual report of the Veterinary Department and the Privy Council for 1875, we learn, without surprise, that the imports of this meat from Australia have been steadily declining during the past three years. In 1873 as many

Source of Waste.

The sources of waste on the farm are far more numerous than one, at first sight, would suppose. The waste of time in the busy season of the year is one of the most important items, not the time devoted to loafing and idleness, for few thrifty farmers are guilty of that, but the time lost from the want of proper planning of work, the failure to accomplish the greatest amount of work with a given expenditure of time and strength. One man divides his farm in small lots, and he should calculate the time he loses in turning about in ploughing, in moving with the machine, or in raking, he would be astonished to find how much of life, and of physical energy he is wasting in this simple matter of turning about, how much more efficient his work would be, if it were planned on a different scale. Let us get rid of such a multitude of division fences and so save the land they occupy, and the waste of time they occasion, to say nothing of the fact that they harbor innumerable weeds and bushes, insects and injurious animals.

The waste of manure by neglecting to take known care to apply absorbents, and to prevent wash and drainage, is something enormous every year. We lose about as much as we save, on the average, throughout New England, and we make it up in part by buying fertilizers at a high cost. Isn't it better to stop the leaks, to use more manure, more plaster about the barn, more lime in the piggery, and to collect more leaves for bedding for cattle? Isn't it better to save the ashes, to pick up and save the old bones about the place and to build the compost heap with a thousand things that are going to waste?

The waste in making and mending fences that are unnecessary, is very great. The fences and walls on farms in this State alone cost nearly twenty millions of dollars, and the average annual cost for repairs exceeds four millions. But this is not all. The loss of time caused by small lots, and the loss of land and crops, would make a still greater sum, a very large part of which might be avoided by the removal of division fences. We are not obliged to build fences to keep cattle out, but only to keep our own cattle in; and hence the expensive fences along the highway might, in many cases, be dispensed with.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

The Baby.

Who knows not the beautiful group of babe and mother, sacred in nature, sacred also in the religious associations of half the globe? Welcome to the parents is the puny little struggle, strong in his weakness, his little arms more irresistible than the soldier's, his lips touched with persuasion which Chatham and Pericles in manhood had not. The small despot asks so little that all nature and reason are on his side. His ignorance is more charming than all knowledge, and his little size more bewitching than all virtue. All day, between his three or four hours sleep, he coos like a pigeon-house, sputters and crows and puts on faces of importance; and when he fasts, the little Pharaoh fails not to sound his trumpet before him. Out of blocks, thread-spools, cards, and checkers, he will build his pyramid while with an acoustic apparatus of whistles and rattles he explores the laws of sound. But chiefly like his senior countryman, the young American studies new and speedier modes of transportation. Mistaking the cunning of his small legs, he wishes to ride on the neck and shoulders of his mother. The small enchanter nothing can withstand—no seniority of age, no gravity of character; uncles, aunts, cousins, grandmothers, all fall an easy prey; he conforms to nobody, all conform to him, all caper and make mouths and huddle and chirrup to him. On the strongest shoulder he rides, and pulls the hair of laureled heads.—Emerson.

Handy Men.

Next to a good mousing cat, a faithful watch-dog, and a good family chestnut colored horse, is a handy man. Now don't misunderstand me, and say that I compare a man with either of my favorites in the speechless world, not at all. Man is the noblest work of God, except a woman; but really a handy one I am unable to class. Conceive of anything about a

Home more desirable.

home more desirable, when circumstances have compelled you to neglect home duties, or rather postpone them, than for a man to fill the surliness by being able to wash dishes, make beds, sweep, make bread, and in very straightened times darn his own stockings, sew on his buttons, and preserve his habitual good humor. If so, there is no rill or splash in the home life, in consequence of inability to maintain the order and comfort of the household. Of course the season of the year favors the demonstrations of handy men. We should not expect him to leave his plow, harrow, or mowing machine, to help in the kitchen, but if he comes to, and has a mind to place the chairs, fill the ice pitcher, or pare the potatoes, it might contribute wonderfully to the comfort of the tired housewife; not only by saving steps, but the feeling of appreciation that shone up many a tired worker, and braces them up for the numberless duties about a home. Handy men are generally fortunate in getting good wives, and any woman is fortunate who has a handy husband.—Maine Farmer.

Poultry Raising.

When so many find it difficult to make a mere sufficiency for life's support, it seems unaccountable that the pleasant and profitable business of poultry raising should be seldom or never resorted to for the purpose of gaining a livelihood and establishing a paying and permanent business, while an eager, struggling crowd are jostling each other in every avenue of industry, no matter how difficult or how menial, and uncertain the remuneration promised. Poultry raising for profit is a light employment, requiring no great talent, and of a moderate real work, with, of course, that regular and ceaseless attention which must be given to every business to insure success, and it is a paying investment for the day of commencement. The one secret of success is thoroughness. The chicks must be well and regularly fed with a variety of good food and fresh water. The cocks must be kept clean and well ventilated, and the chicks must have more or less room in which to exercise, and to reap the fullest measure of success, must have comfortable, sheltered and airy winter quarters.—Poultry Nation.

COOK FOUNDATIONS.—The American Bee Journal thus answers the question, "What are comb foundations?" "Take a piece of empty honey-comb, cut off all the cells, until nothing is left but the division wall of wax between the two opposite sets of cells and you have a comb foundation. The latest production, however, consists not merely of the dividing wall but also a slight depth of the cell walls, themselves, on each side, and these cell walls, although slight in depth, may be of such thickness as to contain enough wax, so that the bees may work out or prolong the cells to their full depth without any additional material. These comb foundations are given to the bees in their bread chamber, enough being put in a frame to fill it, in whole or in part, and they will build the cells upon it, and give the bees a start. The object is to save the time of the bees in securing the wax, as also the time in getting the production. Another object is to save all straight, worker comb, and still another to hasten the commencement of work in boxes when the bees are loth to enter them."

STARCH.—The starch factories in Arrostoch have closed the season's operations. There have been manufactured at the

Washburn factory, 250 tons
Marysville " 300 "
Carleton " 210 "
Fort Fairfield " 200 "
Limestone " 100 "
Bridgewater " 100 "
Presque Isle " 200 "

Total 1,480 "

The above figures have been obtained from trustworthy sources and we presume are correct.

We are informed that this year it has taken but 22,000 bushels of potatoes to make 100 tons of starch, hence there have been sold 326,000 bushels of potatoes. These at 25 cents per bushel makes the snug little sum of \$81,500 distributed among the farmers entirely. This is but a very small amount, in comparison with the vast sum which can be realized by the development of our resources in all directions.—York Star.

RECIPE FOR PUDDING.—Beat up three eggs and add them, with a flavoring essence of lemon and grated nutmeg, to four ounces each of finely minced apples, currants, raisins, bread crumbs, and two ounces of sugar. Mix thoroughly and boil in a buttered mold for three hours.

