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

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER, 1867.

No. 32.

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NOTICE TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The Secretaries of Agricultural Societies are reminded that the Annual Meetings of all such Societies are required to be held on the first Tuesday of December, which this year falls on the 3rd of the month. At these meetings Annual Reports of the Officers are presented, accounts are audited, and Directors elected for the ensuing year. It is hoped that the Members of every Society will take up the matter of the Great Provincial Exhibition of next year, and make such arrangements as may be necessary for taking an active part in carrying out the scheme.

The Board of Agriculture has imported a quantity of Spring Wheat of superior quality, from the Province of Ontario, which will be supplied at cost price to such Societies as may make timely application for it. If not all applied for by Societies, the portion that remains will be sold to such persons as may desire to have it.

Mr STANFORD is sanguine of having his Bone Mill again in operation in course of two or three weeks. He is buying bones, and has a large stock on hand.

FRENCH IDEAS ABOUT FLESH AND FEATHERS.

We commend the following thoroughly practical and highly suggestive paper to the attention

of the Members of the Dog, Pigeon and Poultry Club:—

Mr. Geyelin learned some things in France. He saw turkeys hatching chickens. A hen finds a dozen chickens quite as many as she can bring up; but a turkey can hatch and protect a couple of dozen. Mr. Geyelin found large numbers of turkeys—on some farms as many as a hundred—busy hatching chickens. Some of them spend as many as six months in the year at this employment; and all the while they are rearing pullets they are fattening themselves. Pullets and Turkeys, two kinds of birds by one process, are thus prepared for the market. Moreover, by this process the frugal French reserve the hens for the more profitable pursuit of laying eggs. The hens, instead of leading about their chickens and capons, have, like other French mothers, substitutes, who discharge their nursing duties for them. Turkeys are said to be the best protectors of chickens and capons. After considering the De Sora hoax, and recalling to mind many a similar one, successively invented and propagated by our clever neighbours, the account which Mr. Geyelin gives of the ruse by which the turkeys are beguiled into the functions of foster-mothers for chickens, must be received as a hearsay which has been believed by Mr. Geyelin:

"When a turkey has been hatching for some months, and shows a disposition to leave off, a glassful of wine is given her in the evening, and a number of chickens are substituted for the eggs. On waking in the morning, she kindly takes to them, and leads them about, strutting amidst a

troop of 70 to 100 chickens with the dignity of a drum-major. When, however, a troop leader is required that has not been hatching, such as a capon or turkey, then it is usual to pluck some of their feathers from the breasts, and to give them a glass of wine, and whilst in a state of inebriation to place some chickens under them. On getting sober the next morning, they feel that some sudden change has come over them, and as the denuded part is kept warm by the chickens, they also take kindly to them."

The poultry competitions of the French differ from, or rather contrast with the poultry shows of the English; for the French do not exhibit their specimens until the feathers have been stripped off, and the fowl prepared for the table. The ideal of English excellence is in the feathers, and of French in the flesh. In December, 1864, there was an exhibition of poultry prepared for the table at Paris. 500 competitors exhibited in the Palace of Industry nearly 3000 specimens, all ready for the pot or the spit. Four specimens lay together on sloping tables covered with blue paper, each lot being separated from the other by partitions of wood painted red. The specimens were grouped into five divisions—the Houdan, La Flèche, La Bresse of Burgundy, Crèvecoeur of Normandy, and a miscellaneous group. Four La Bresse pullets won for their exhibitor the grand prize of 1000 francs and a gold medal. La Bresse fowls are remarkable for the smallness of their bones and the plumpness of their flesh. They are very artistically prepared for the market. There were at the exhibition 600 specimens of La Bresse fowls, about 150 specimens of La Flèche, and 200 Crèvecoeurs. Some of the

geese were gigantic. During the show, the judges and exhibitors dined upon La Bresse and Crève-cœur fowls. Questions were discussed, not about pencillings and spanglings, but about the loss of weight in drawing and roasting, preparing for the cook, or in cooking for the table. The loss per cent. was as follows:

La Bresse, Houdan, Crève-cœur.			
In preparing for the cook	20.95	20.52	17.58
In cooking	30.68	28.83	28.12
Total loss per cent.	52.51	44.32	49.95

No experiments of similar exactitude are on record respecting British fowls, and the "Standard of Excellence" prescribes no such tests of the relative merits of breeds. Prizes for superior merits on the table have not yet been given at any British shows. La Bresse, like our farmyard fowls, seem to have been formed by a mixture of races. They are of any or of all colours. Their shape and size resemble the grey Dorking. They are fed on buckwheat and maize. The district of La Bresse lies on the banks of the Saone, and its fame as a poultry country dates from the end of the eighteenth century, when the culture of maize for pigs and poultry became general. La Bresse pullets only three months old can be fattened for the table. The offspring of young cocks fatten best. A hen may lay 160 eggs in a year and hatch two or three broods. A chicken two months old weighs 2lb., a poultard five months old weighs 6lb., and a capon at six months may weigh 8lb. or 10lb. Crève-cœurs, the rivals of La Bresse fowls for the table, are said to be too delicate in constitution for the climate of Great Britain.

The La Flèche breed are strange birds to look at. La Flèche cocks have a metallic black plumage, an upright carriage, large watchful eyes, long red hanging wattles, red faces, and red, branching, antler-like combs. They have something weird and hobgoblin-like about them. La Flèche hens, only less formidable in appearance than the cocks, are prolific layers of tremendous eggs. The eggs are not so fertile as they are large. The appearance of this breed is so wild from their black feathers, red wattles, red faces and red combs, that they might have been made in memory of *les bonnets rouges* of *La Terreur*. *Aoudans* resemble Dorkings. They have the artificial fifth toe, which, indisposing the old Dorking to exercise and making the young ones lift their feet very high, prevents their becoming thin, tough and wiry from running about. By the way, this excrescent toe, long deemed a very cunning application of a principle in physiological science, is now generally condemned. It is said to be a cause of the disease called bumble-foot, and probably the fat gained by enforced indolence is lost in cooking. The names of the French breeds seem to be truly derived from the places in which they flourish. The Spanish breed, also, is found in Spain and on the shores of the Mediterranean. But this appropriateness seems to be the exception, and not the rule, in reference to the names of breeds of poultry. For Cochin China fowls were unknown in that country until introduced by the English. Polands are not known in Poland. Spangled Hamburgs are said to be certainly an English breed. There are no Brahmans on the banks of the Brahmapootra. The game breed is, more than any other, characteristically English, and the editor of the "Poultry Book" calls it indigenous. Perhaps the attention given to feathers rather than flesh of late years, and the culture of pluckiness in the

game breed in the times of our cock-fighting forefathers, may have not a little to do with the present inferiority of our poultry for the table. There are British game-cocks whose genealogies can be carried back in stud-books for at least a hundred years. The cock-fight was a Darwinian struggle for life which selected the strongest to be the sires of the breed. Many fanciers think the game cock the perfection of gallinaceous beauty; perhaps just as there are servant girls who think the soldier's the finest manly form. Cock-fighting having become illegal, the game or English breed has survived the purpose for which it was bred; but it is still a fine breed for gentlemen with large estates, where the fowls can have extensive runs. And this breed can be used to protect more timid breeds. When a yard is infested by cats which carry off the chickens, a game hen with steel spurs, and having a brood of her own, can give lessons in honesty to the boldest grimalkins. "The Poultry Book" and "The Poultry Keeper" are both valuable books: "The Poultry Book" may be best adapted for exhibitors, and "The Poultry Keeper" for families.—*Athensum*.

PRIZE LIST OF THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

EXHIBITION HELD AT SOMERSET, 24th OCTOBER, 1867.

The SILVER MEDAL of the Royal Horticultural Society of London given for the best lot of the following sorts of Apples, twelve of each sort, viz: Gravstein, Yellow Bellefleur, Ribston Pippin, Baldwin, Nonpareil, and Rhode Island Greening, and requiring to be taken three times, was awarded, for the second time, to

DR. HAMILTON, of Cornwallis.

APPLES.

Largest and best Collection grown by Exhibitor, not to exceed twenty-four sorts, six of each sort:—

1st Henry Skinner	.....\$6 00
2nd Joseph C. Starr	..... 5 00
3rd Ward Eaton	..... 4 00
4th Andrew Walker	..... 3 00
5th Dr. Hamilton	..... 2 00

GRAVSTEINS:—

1st John Shaw	..... 1 75
2nd Leander Rand	..... 1 50
3rd Leslie M. Stone	..... 1 25
4th do do	..... 1 00
5th John Shaw	..... 0 75
6th Edmund Calkins	..... 50
7th Leslie M. Stone	..... 25

YELLOW BELLEFLEUR:—

1st Enoch Griffin	..... 1 75
2nd James Borden	..... 1 50
3rd Sydney Shaw	..... 1 25
4th Frank Eaton	..... 1 00
5th Thomas Weathers	..... 75
6th Richard Winsby	..... 50
7th Leander Chute	..... 25

RIBSTON PIPPIN:—

1st G. D. Woodworth	..... 1 75
2nd Enoch Griffin	..... 1 50
3rd Ward Eaton	..... 1 25
4th do do	..... 1 00
5th do do	..... 75
6th John Shaw	..... 50
7th A. N. Bent	..... 25

BALDWINS:—

1st Dr. McLatchy	..... 1 75
2nd James Borden	..... 1 50
3rd Leslie M. Stone	..... 1 25
4th Albert Randolph	..... 1 00
5th Enoch Griffin	..... 75
6th Alfred Eaton	..... 50
7th De Lancy Harris	..... 25

NONPAREIL:—

1st Asa T. Morse	..... 1 75
2nd James Borden	..... 1 50
3rd Charles E. Rand	..... 1 25
4th Isaac Longley	..... 1 00
5th Enoch Griffin	..... 75
6th Leander Rand	..... 50
7th Charles E. Rand	..... 25

RHODE ISLAND GREENING:—

1st Dr. McLatchy	..... 1 75
2nd E. E. Dickie	..... 1 50
3rd Wm. H. Fisher	..... 1 25
4th Leslie M. Stone	..... 1 00
5th E. E. Dickie	..... 75
6th Wm. C. Shaffner	..... 50
6th W. H. Standford	..... 25

FLUSHING SPITZENBURG OR VANDEVERE:—

1st Isaac Morton	..... 1 50
2nd Asa T. Morse	..... 1 25
3rd T. W. Chesley	..... 1 00
4th Charles Woodworth	..... 75

AESOPUS SPITZENBURG:—

1st Ward Eaton	..... 1 50
2nd E. E. Dickie	..... 1 25
3rd Leander Huntington	..... 1 00
4th E. E. Dickie	..... 75

POMME GRISE:—

1st Joshua Kinsman	..... 1 00
2nd James P. Kinsman	..... 75
3rd Joseph C. Starr	..... 50

NORTHERN SPY:—

1st Johnson H. Bishop	..... 1 50
2nd Mayhew Beckwith	..... 1 25

BLENHEIM PIPPIN:—

1st John Shaw	..... 1 00
2nd Joseph C. Starr	..... 75
3rd John Shaw	..... 50

POUND SWEET:—

1st John G. Byrne	..... 1 00
2nd Henry Skinner	..... 75
3rd Dr. Hamilton	..... 50

BROADWELL:—

1st Dr. Hamilton	..... 2 00
2nd do	..... 75

EMPEROR ALEXANDER:—

1st John Shaw	..... 1 00
2nd Edwin Chase	..... 75
3rd Richard Winsby	..... 50

KING OF TOMPKINS COUNTY:

1st Frank Eaton	..... 1 00
2nd Ward Eaton	..... 75
3rd Sydney Shaw	..... 50

HUBBARDSTON NONSUCH:—

1st Dr. McLatchy	..... 1 00
2nd Leslie M. Stone	..... 75

GLORIA MUNDI:—

1st Charles H. Parker	..... 1 25
2nd Eliakim Tupper	..... 1 00
3rd Jacob Webster	..... 75
4th Henry Skinner	..... 50

YELLOW NEWTON PIPPIN:—

1st Ward Eaton	..... 1 00
2nd do	..... 75

H:REFORDSHIRE PEARMAIN:—

1st J. C. Starr	..... 1 00
2nd Sydney Shaw	..... 75
3rd Joseph C. Starr	..... 50

SWEET RUSSET:—

1st DeLancy Harris	..... 1 00
2nd T. W. Chesley	..... 75

DRAP D'OR:—

1st Ward Eaton	..... 1 00
2nd Richard Winsby	..... 75

GOLDEN RUSSET:—

1st John Shaw	..... 1 00
2nd Phinchas Chesley	..... 75

DELAWARE HARVEY:—

1st DeLancy Harris	..... 1 00
2nd T. W. Chesley	..... 75

SNOW APPLE:—	
1st W. H. Sandford.....	75
2nd Joseph C. Starr.....	50
FALL PIPPIN:—	
1st Dr Hamilton.....	75
2nd do.....	50
MOTHER:—	
1st Albert Randolph.....	75
2nd do do.....	50
MINISTER:—	
1st Albert Randolph.....	75
2nd do.....	50
FALL JENNETTING OR CANADA REINETTE:—	
1st James Sanford.....	75
2nd J. N. Spicer.....	50
SWAAR:—	
1st Dr McLatchy.....	75
BISHOP'S BOURNE:—	
1st John G. Byrne.....	75
2nd do do.....	50
DUTCH CODLING:—	
Wm. H. Sandford.....	75
CALKIN'S PIPPIN (LATE):—	
1st Wesley Sandford.....	75
2nd Henry Skinner.....	50
STRAWBERRY:—	
1st John Shaw.....	1 00
EARLY CALKIN'S PIPPIN:—	
1st Henry Skinner.....	75
2nd Edmund Calkin.....	50
KESWICK CODLING:—	
1st William Sutton.....	75
2nd John G. Byrne.....	50
COLVERT:—	
1st Dr. McLatchy.....	75
2nd Edward Parker.....	50
20. OZ. APPLE:—	
1st Edward Parker.....	75
2nd John Shaw.....	50
PORTERS:—	
1st Frank Eaton.....	1 00
2nd T. W. Chesley.....	75
RED WINTER PEARMAN:—	
1st Mayhew Beckwith.....	75
2nd Mayhew Beckwith.....	50
BLENHEIM PEARMAN:—	
1st Sydney Shaw.....	75
2nd E. Kinsman.....	55
TALMAN SWEET:—	
1st Edward Parker.....	75
2nd J. N. Spicer.....	50
SWEET PIPPIN:—	
1st Charles Woodworth.....	75
MUNSON SWEET:—	
1st Leander Rand.....	1 00
GREEN NEWTON PIPPIN:—	
1st Henry Skinner.....	75
AUTUMN BEAUTY:—	
1st Edward Parker.....	75
DOANEY:—	
1st Edwin Chase.....	75
LARGE AND YELLOW:—	
1st Isaac Longley.....	75
STARR'S SHEDLING:—	
1st Joseph Starr.....	75
HUBARLSTON NONSUCH:—	
1st Oliver Foster.....	75
ROXBURRY RUSSLET;	
1st G. D. Woodworth.....	1 00
MARGARET PIPPIN:—	
1st Joseph C. Starr.....	75

ENGLISH APPLE:—	
1st Joseph C. Starr.....	75
MAIDEN'S BLUSH:—	
1st Joseph C. Starr.....	75
UNKNOWN:—	
1st Ward Eaton.....	1 00
UNKNOWN:—	
1st E. E. Dickie.....	75
LARGEST APPLE:—	
Charles Bortaux.....	50
YORK AND LANCASTER:—	
1st Joseph C. Starr.....	50
GOLDEN PIPPIN:—	
1st Joseph C. Starr.....	75
2nd John Ellis.....	50

PEARS.

Edward Parker.....	1 50
William Sutton.....	1 50
C. Frize.....	1 50
Sydney Shaw.....	1 50
Phineas Chesley.....	1 50
Edward Parker.....	1 25
John G. Byrne.....	1 25
Dr. McLatchy.....	1 25
Mayhew Beckwith.....	1 25
Phineas Chesley.....	1 25
Joseph C. Starr.....	1 00
Edmund Calkin.....	1 00
Edwin Chare.....	1 00
John R. Hea.....	1 00
Oliver Foster.....	1 00
Joseph C. Starr.....	1 00

PLUMS:—

T. W. Chesley.....	1 00
Edwin Chase.....	1 00
Jacob Webster.....	75
Joseph C. Starr.....	75
Dr. McLatchy.....	75
Warnford Dodge.....	75

QUINCES:—

1st Miss Norris.....	1 25
2nd William Sutton.....	1 00
3rd Miss Norris.....	75
4th Oliver Foster.....	50

GRAPES, open air:—

1st William Sutton.....	2 00
2nd Do. do.....	1 50
3rd Edward Parker.....	1 00

Do., EUROPEAN:—

1st Dr. McLatchy.....	1 50
2nd Dr. Hamilton.....	1 25
3rd Charles Francis Eaton.....	1 00

Do., AMERICAN:—

1st Dr. Hamilton.....	1 50
2nd Charles Francis Eaton.....	1 25
3rd Joseph C. Starr.....	1 00

PEACHES:

1st Dr. McLatchy.....	1 50
2nd Isaac Shaw.....	1 00
3rd John R. Hea.....	1 00

TURNIPS:—

1st Dr McLatchy.....	1 50
2nd John Shaw.....	1 00
3rd Alfred Eaton.....	0 50

BEETS, LONG RED:—

1st Warnford Dodge.....	1 00
2nd Dr McLatchy.....	0 75
3rd Alfred Eaton.....	0 50

TURNIP BLOOD:—

1st Dr Forsyth.....	1 00
2nd Dr McLatchy.....	0 75
3rd J. B. Chute.....	0 50

MANGOLD WURTZEL, LONG RED:—

1st Malcolm Shaw.....	1 50
2nd Dr McLatchy.....	1 00
3rd Alfred Eaton.....	0 50

YELLOW TURNIP:—

1st J. R. Hea.....	1 50
2nd J. R. Hea.....	1 00

CARROTS, LONG ORANGE:—

1st Dr Sheffield.....	1 00
2nd John M. Parker.....	0 75
3rd Charles Bortaux.....	0 50

EARLY HORN:—

1st Patrick Norman.....	1 00
2nd D. Bortaux.....	0 50

ALTRINGHAM OR WHITE:—

1st Dr Sheffield.....	1 00
2nd John M. Parker.....	0 50

ONIONS FROM SEED:—

1st Charles F. Eaton.....	1 00
2nd J. R. Hea.....	0 75
3rd Charles F. Eaton.....	0 50

POTATOES:—

1st E. C. Foster.....	1 00
2nd E. C. Foster.....	0 75
3rd Ward Eaton.....	0 50

TOMATOES:—

1st G. W. Coldwell.....	1 00
2nd Dr Hamilton.....	0 75
3rd Dr Hamilton.....	0 50
4th Dr Hamilton.....	0 25

PARSNIPS:—

1st J. R. Hea.....	1 00
2nd J. R. Hea.....	0 75

CAULIFLOWER:—

1st Dr Forsyth.....	1 00
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CABBAGE, DRUMHEAD:—

1st William Eason.....	1 00
2nd Charles Bortaux.....	0 50

BROCCOLI:—

J. N. Spicer.....	0 50
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CUCUMBERS:—

1st Isaac Shaw.....	0 75
2nd Edward Parker.....	0 50

MELON, WATER:—

1st Dr Hamilton.....	1 00
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Do., MUSK:—

1st Patrick Norman.....	1 00
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Do., CITRON:—

1st W. H. Sanford.....	1 00
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PUMPKINS, best two:—

1st George Kinsman.....	1 00
2nd James E. Fellows.....	50

Do. LARGEST ONE:—

1st S. S. Thorne.....	75
2nd Albert Randolph.....	50

SQUASH, TABLE:—

1st J. E. Lockwood.....	1 25
2nd Dr. Hamilton.....	1 00
3rd Thomas Grace.....	75
4th John Shaw.....	50
5th John G. Rockwell.....	25

LARGEST:—

1st Dr. McLatchy.....	75
2nd Leander Rand.....	50

HONEY:—

1st Charles F. Eaton.....	2 00
2nd James I. Hale.....	1 00
3rd George Lydiard.....	75
4th J. B. Chute.....	50

WAX:—

1st Dr. Forsyth.....	2 00
2nd Ellan Rand.....	1 00

APPLE BARRELS:—

1st George Bond.....	1 50
2nd J. B. Dodge.....	1 00
3rd George Bond.....	75

NURSERY STOCK.

APPLE SEEDLINGS UNGRAFTED:—

One year's growth.

1st Edward Parker.....	75
2nd Robert W. Starr.....	50
3rd Robert W. Starr.....	25

PEAR SEEDLINGS, NOT GRAFTED:—
One year's growth.
 1st Oliver Foster..... 75
 2nd Robert W. Starr..... 50
 4rd Robert W. Starr..... 65

APPLES, BUDDER OR GRAFTED:—
One year's growth.
 1st John G. Byrne..... 1 00
 2nd Oliver Foster..... 75
 3rd Edward Parker..... 60

Two years' growth
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 1 25
 2nd Sydney Shaw..... 1 00
 2rd Malcolm Shaw..... 75
 4th Isaac Shaw..... 50

Three years' growth.
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 1 50
 2nd George W. Fisher..... 1 25
 3rd Isaac Shaw..... 1 00
 4th Isaac Shaw..... 75

PEARS, STANDARD:—
Two years' growth.
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 1 25
 2nd Isaac Shaw..... 1 00

PLUMS, BUDDER OR GRAFTED:—
One year's growth.
 1st Oliver Foster..... 1 25
 2nd John G. Byrne..... 1 00

Two year's growth.
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 1 50
 2nd Isaac Shaw..... 1 25

CHERRIES:—
Two years' growth.
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 1 25

GRAPES:—
One year's growth.
 1st John G. Byrne..... 0 75
 2nd John G. Byrne.....

GOOSEBERRIES:—
Two years' growth.
 1st Oliver Foster..... 0 75

CURRENTS:—
Two years' growth.
 1st Isaac Shaw..... 0 75

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES 639.

A seedling Grape raised by Mr. Wm. Sutton of Cornwallis, and which bore its first fruit this year, was tested by the Council and highly approved, and the sum of *four dollars* was awarded to Mr. Sutton therefor.

C. C. HAMILTON, *President.*
 J. R. HEA, *Secretary.*

Wolfville, Oct. 29, 1867.

Communications.

THE "ALDERNEY" COW.

With a few Remarks on Farming in the Island of Jersey, its Exports, &c.

BY ALFRED SAUNDERS, SEEDSMAN, &c.,
 168 ARGYLE STREET, HALIFAX, N.S.

Jersey cattle are known almost all over the world as "Alderneys," the general term given to the Channel Islands breed. The females of this breed are proportionately valuable above all other breeds, for two main reasons, one of which is natural, and the other the result of training and attention. The first consists of the fine rich colour of their milk, and the second in their remarkable docility and tractability. The size of these cattle makes them more valuable, if we contrast

them with other breeds, and estimate them at per cwt., for as they are small they eat accordingly, and four may be kept for three of any other breed. In regard to the great profitability of the Jersey cow in consequence of the richness of the milk they give there can be no doubt, and the difference between their milk and that of a Short Horn, Hereford, Welsh or Scotch cow is that its proportion of water is one fifth less.

If an average can be taken from each breed, and each animal be kept, according to the habits which may be imposed on it, and a ton of turnips, parsnips, mangolds, grass, &c. be allotted to each, a much larger amount of marketable produce would be derived from the Jersey than from any of the others, both in quantity and quality. There is nothing about the Jersey cattle to indicate that they are materially more tameable than other bovine breeds, indeed if physiognomy be any guide with their deer-like heads and legs, they are more like those animals, about which much has been sung by bold sportsmen.

The great secret of their docility is the result of the treatment they receive from childhood upward; they are generally reared by hand, suckling them being uncommon, and this weaning is generally done by the hand of a woman, who as a rule is naturally more gentle towards dumb creatures than is a man or boy,—what puppies and kittens are to children of this country calves are to the juvenile peasantry of Jersey.

Jersey cattle never know they have naturally the love of wild pranks, they are tethered from their birth, calves are haltered, by which they are tied to rings in the cow shed and are fed with milk; when they are fit for turning out they are tethered in an orchard, care being taken to give them a sheltered spot. When their horns grow long enough to hold a chain, this and three or four yards of cord are substituted for the calf halter, so they are led home by the two, three, or half dozen, and so they are taken to market, fair or on board ship—if these leading strings be taken off, the yearling or full grown cattle, they will follow their nurses. Calf petting is a domestic amusement with the Jersey children, but in this country, frequently if not as a rule, the boys seem to be actuated by the eleventh commandment, *Never forget to kick or hit an animal when you can, and with all your might*; the result of this is that the animals retain their natural fear of man, instead of that gentleness and tractability so perceptible in "Alderneys" at home.

An ordinary Alderney cow will give from seven to eight gallons of milk per day, during the most favourable season, but I have known many to give twelve gallons per day.

An ordinary Alderney cow will give from twelve to fourteen pounds of butter per week and some as much as sixteen pounds.

The "Guernsey" is easily distinguished from the "Jersey" breed, the head is more "square" they are larger in bone and more given to fat, they give about the same quantity of milk but of inferior quality.

The farms in Jersey, are small they vary in size from ten to thirty acres, there are a few from fifty to sixty acres, but these are quite exceptional and it is astonishing how profitable these small patches are.

The area of the Island is about 28,717 acres, its form being about eleven miles long by five and a half wide, the population in 1861 was 55,613 or about two to the acre, and you can form some idea of its productiveness from the

following list of exports. I will give you the years, 1865 and 1866,

	1865.	1866.	
Apples	81,212	170,687	bushels.
Butter	106,288	155,776	pounds.
Cider	72,466	33,905	gallons.
Cows & Heifers	2,487	1,407	head.
Bulls	23	6	
Pears	1,231	1,377	bushels.
Grapes	1,373	1,382	pounds.
Potatoes	3,216	4,080	tons.

Fruit not specially described, including Apples, Apricots, Plums, peaches 14,781 18,216 bushels.

The following is the aggregate return of live-stock in the Island of Jersey, in March, 1866.

Milk cows	5,815
Heifers, 2 yrs.	1,845
Do. yearlings	4,377
	12,037
Sheep	517
Pigs	6,332
Horses	3,227

To give you some idea of the mode of farming usually adopted in Jersey, rotation of crops and number of cattle kept, I will for example take the small farms in different parts of the Island.

FARM No. I. PARISH ST. HILLIERS. 37½ ACRES.

Distribution.	Rotation of crops.	No. of Cattle kept.
Meadow 14 ac.		
Potatoes 6	1st yr., Potatoes, parsnips, &c.	Horses 2
Turnips 5	2nd " Wheat	Cows 13
Parsnips 2	3rd " Clover	Heifers 6
Carrots, } 1½	4th " Clover	Pigs 8
Mang'le, }	5th " Clover & turnips	
Wheat 9		
	37½	

FARM No. II. PARISH ST. SAVIOURS. 22½ A RES.

Distribution.	Rotation of crops.	No. of Cattle kept.
Meadow 6½ ac.		
Clover 5	1st yr Potatoes, parsnips, mang's.	Horses 3
Potatoes 2½	2nd " Wheat	Cows 4
Turnips 3	3rd " Clover	Heifers 4
Parsnips 1	4th " Do.	Pigs 7
Wheat 4	5th " Clover broken in June	
	(for Swedes.	
	33	

FARM No. III. PARISH ST. LAWRENCE. 32 ACRES.

Distribution.	Rotation of crops.	No. of Cattle kept.
Meadow 13 ac.		
Clover 11	1st year Potatoes, parsnips	Horses 2
Parsnips 2½	2nd " Wheat and Clover	Cows 9
Swedes 1	Clover left for Hay 3 years	Heifers 11
Potatoes 1	At times portions of the land	Pigs 6
Wheat 3½	sown to perennial Ryegrass	
	White Aleycke-Clover, followed by Barley or Wheat.	
	32	

THE POTATO DISEASE.

To the Editor of the Agricultural Journal.

SIR,—The potato disease is a subject that has occupied the minds of many, and that apparently without any very beneficial results. Although this is the case, yet it is the duty of all impartial thinkers to give this subject a due portion of their time and attention, and that, too, in as courteous a manner as possible.

The worst feature in this important investigation is, that a large number who give their opinions think it unnecessary to do any more. Now, so far as I am acquainted with the human mind, it must do more than cherish opinions, to be in possession or discover facts. And, to discover the cause and cure of the potato blight without doing more than expressing our opinions, will be an exception to all other scientific discoveries.

It was the opinion of many that the decay of the potato was constitutionally owing to inconsistent treatment; if so, the cultivation of the wild potato, which had not experienced the inconsistent treatment, would be a partial remedy. Accordingly, to test this opinion, the Central Board of Agriculture obtained a few seedlings from Mr. Goodrich, which were raised from the wild potato brought from some part of South America, which, according to report, are subject to the blight. This being true, the above opinion or theory will necessarily be exploded, upon condition that the seedlings are virtually the wild potato, respecting which, in my opinion, there is room for doubt, from the probability that Mr. Goodrich, while engaged in the commendable task of testing the virtue of the wild potato, was not sufficiently careful to prevent the flowers of the wild potatoes from being impregnated with the pollen of the diseased potatoes, which would constitute a diseased seed or germ in the balls of the wild potato; and while he reproduced the potatoes through the balls, the seed or germ, so implanted, would most likely come to the greatest maturity, from the fact of them being climatized, while those that were virtually the wild seeds or germs would propagate true to their organization, and would not come to maturity because such organization is not adapted to the climate in which they were reproduced. Hence the reason why, out of so many thousand seedlings propagated by Mr. Goodrich, so few came to maturity; and hence the probability of the Goodrich seedlings being the supposed diseased potato all the while. Let this theory be as it may, there is one thing which is considered very important among men of worth, that is, so far as they give their attention they give it undividedly, and so far as they experiment they experiment thoroughly, otherwise it only tends to mystify and confuse, which condition the world appears to be in at present respecting the potato, and is destined to remain, so far as we have any guarantee of a better state of things, until it is thoroughly investigated, which it is our privilege and duty to do. An investigation which we have no guarantee nor right to expect until there are men paid and sufficiently furnished with means, and set apart expressly for this purpose. Admitting such to be our duty in relation to the subject here treated, I would respectfully suggest for our Central Board of Agriculture to negotiate with our sister Provinces, Great Britain, and the United States, for the purpose of establishing a system of investigation, by which proper men will be enabled to give their undivided attention to this important subject. A proposition, in my opinion, if properly carried out, will constitute the most likely source, in fact the only source through which we have any guarantee of success.

Undivided attention, accompanied with energy and means, is the germ or secret of modern improvement, for which this advanced period of the nineteenth century is unequalled. One instance is sufficient to demonstrate this point, the connecting the Old and New World by telegraph, an enterprise which never would have been accomplished had it been left, like the subject of the potato, to scattered opinions and divided attention; men inclining rather to ridicule each others' opinions than to be courteous in striving for the truth.

JOEL DENSMORE.

Noel, Nov. 1867.

A PAPER ON PIGS.—DISEASE IN SHEEP.—WHEN SHOULD GRAIN BE CUT?

Carlton Club Farm,
Nov. 7th, 1867.

DEAR SIR,—Having some time ago promised the *Journal of Agriculture* a paper on breeding Pigs, as I now have an opportunity I shall endeavour to redeem my promise.

Treatment of Breeding Pigs.—The period of gestation in the pig is sixteen weeks; some old sows will go longer, but this may be taken as the general rule. If young sows be well done to, they will be fit to take the boar at eight months old. If allowed to run much longer, especially when highly fed, a difficulty is experienced in getting them to breed. The time of putting all sows to the boar will depend upon the season and demand for young pigs.

It is wiser policy to risk a young sow turning, than allow her to bring her first litter during the coldest time of year. It will not answer to keep sows, except in particular cases, more than 3 or 4 years to breed from.

Boars should be kept by themselves, in as quiet a place as possible, and always treated gently, or they are apt to become cross. There is often great difficulty in getting sows away from cross boars. To be successful breeders, neither boars nor sows should be fed highly. Good store condition should be aimed at, and no more. Before farrowing, sows should have a little better food, in order to stimulate the secretion of milk, and during the whole sixteen weeks should be kept rather improving in condition. They should be allowed to have exercise, and for this purpose nothing is better than a small close field. All pigs ought to be rung; they will keep the better for it, for rooting is hard work.

Sows in low condition often produce the most healthy, and sometimes the largest pigs, but their supply of milk is liable to run short. Sows in high condition generally have weakly pigs, and are certain to destroy some by lying on them. At the time of farrowing, the sows should be put singly in houses fitted for the purpose, with a rail running round the inside to prevent them from crushing the young ones against the walls. Chaff or cut straw should only be given as litter. In long straw the pigs are liable to become entangled before they are strong, and the sow often injures them by lying and treading upon them. In the case of very fat sows, when they are long in farrow, the pigs should be removed as they are born, and returned to her when she is done pigging. But as a rule, the less the sow is interfered with the better, except in cases of malpresentation, when a little help is necessary. For a few days after pigging the sow should not have forcing food. If she is all right at the end of the fourth day, she may be generously fed. Nothing will produce more milk than warm skim milk thickened with a little buckwheat bran. A great deal of the after success of the litter depends upon a plentiful supply of milk at this stage.

At a fortnight old the young pigs should begin to feed, and a small trough should be put for them, and protected from the mother, in which skim milk, mixed with a little scalded corn or buckwheat meal, should be placed. In case of pigs made up for exhibition, they should be induced to take a little new milk at a few days old. It must be remembered that

more than half the breed of a pig goes in at the mouth. And the more generously they are fed, with reason, while young, the easier will they be fattened when wanted. On no account should young pigs be allowed to depend entirely upon their mother's milk after three weeks old. If they have been well fed they will not go back when weaned. It pays to feed all young animals well. Every one knows how long it takes for a young animal to overcome the effects of pinching when young. Pigs may be weaned at from four to eight weeks old. This will depend upon the season and their general condition. The better they have been done to, the sooner may they be weaned; and for some time after weaning they should be fed liberally. No animal takes so kindly to the young of another as a sow. It is often convenient to know this. The only danger is that the sow from whom the pigs are taken may suffer from her milk; but with proper care and attention no bad results need follow. If sows are allowed to farrow too late in the fall, the pigs do not thrive so well in cold weather as they would do if older. Pigs suffer very much from cold. The best months for pigs to come are September and March. September pigs will be a good size and strong before cold weather comes on; and the March ones will come at a time when we must expect it to be warmer, and when there is generally a good supply of milk on dairy farms. On most farms it is difficult to provide warm quarters for winter pigs, and for this reason, if no other, winter litters should be avoided if possible.

I beg also to inclose an article on a disease in sheep that may be interesting to your readers from the *Gardener's Chronicle*.

Also Mr. Hannan's experiments on the best time to cut grain.

I shall forward other articles as I have time. I may mention that the crop of cabbage I gave you an account of in my last, were not planted till 29th June, and they have been marketed at Yarmouth, for \$1. per dozen.

I am, Sir,
yours respectfully,
W. BUSTIN.

"A somewhat rare disease, not fatal but of a perplexing nature, occurred amongst my ewe flock during last lambing season, the treatment of which, if not understood, might have occasioned me heavy loss. To middle of February lambing has been highly favourable; 300 lambs were dropped in four weeks, with loss of only one ewe and six lambs. This good fortune was of short duration. An eruption, something like boils upon the human skin, appeared upon the udder, tongue, and lips of the ewe, and on the lips, tongue, and gums of the lambs. Within a week upwards of 200 ewes and as many lambs became affected with the disease. Boils formed upon the teats, inflammation extended deep and far about, involving the whole substance of the udder; in milder cases there was one or two small pimples, with redness of surrounding parts; in numerous cases the bag appeared bordering on mortification (black brown in appearance). A black scab enveloped the old teat, which, on falling off, exposed a raw, ragged surface; in one case the teat sloughed away, and the milk escape immediately from the udder. From soreness, the ewe would not allow the lamb to suck, and the imprisoned milk caused garget to attack the udder; and this became more serious than the original disease. Disease extended deep into the

gums of the lambs, causing many teeth to fall from the mouth. A heavy land farm with only one cow, and it suffering from garget, and upwards of 50 lambs deprived of milk of the dams, and requiring artificial food, and as many of the ewes suffering acute inflammation of the teats and udder consequent upon the boils and garget, so great appeared the sufferings of both ewes and lambs that, so far as ailments of animals are concerned, I never witnessed a more pitiable sight; none but a shepherd and owner of a flock in such a condition can comprehend the difficulties of my case. By the direction of Mr. Seaman, veterinary surgeon (under whose management I now placed the whole stock), the young lambs were fed with barley, malt, sweet wort, and linseed cake porridge. The older lambs had crushed beans (not bean meal), all they would eat; and I have great pleasure in stating, that so appropriate was the food, and so efficacious the medicines used by the doctor, that fatality amounted to but one ewe and two lambs. Scores of ewes suffered from garget of the most painful kind, yet but one ewe lost a portion of the bag. I believe it is Mr. Seaman's intention to shortly publish a pamphlet upon this (to us) new disease, which, if it contains the particulars of treatment, will be a great boon to the flockmaster. An artist has been employed to make drawings of the diseased parts, for the purpose of illustration."

MR. HANNAN, an eminent Yorkshire agriculturist, asserted most positively that wheat cut when thoroughly ripe is both less in weight and inferior in quality to that which is cut a week or even a fortnight before thorough maturity. His first experiments were made in 1840, when he took three separate samples of wheat to market, and found that the grain on August 4, when still "green," fetched 61s. per quarter, while that which was cut on August 18, and technically called "raw," fetched 61s., and that cut on September 1, quite ripe, fetched only 62s. In 1841 he instituted more extensive experiments, and the judges at the following agricultural show at Wetherby awarded an extra premium to the wheat which had been cut a fortnight before it was thoroughly ripe, and the price it fetched in the market fully bore out the decision. He then had samples of the various kinds of wheat ground and dressed by a careful miller, and found that the produce of half a rood cut on August 26, while "raw," yielded 15st. 10lb of grain; that a similar produce cut on August 30, also "raw," yielded 16st. 6lb.; and that cut on September 9, ripe, yielded only 14st. 13lb.; while the weights of the grain per bushel were respectively 61 6-7lb., 62 22-59lb. and 59 5-7lb., Further, 100lb. weight of the various samples of grain yielded in flour 80 40-43lb., 77 8-22lb., and 72 19-20lb. respectively. The advantages of the early cutting were, in fact, in every way surprising. There was a gain of above 15 per cent. in weight of flour upon equal measures of grain, and nearly 8 per cent. of flour upon equal weights of wheat in favor of the earlier cutting. The theory upon which the results are explained is this, that as the sugar in the green plant becomes changed into the starch of the grain, so if permitted to remain till fully ripe another change takes place, the starch being gradually converted into wood fibre, it being a well-known chemical fact that sugar, starch, and fibre are composed of the same constituent elements. Mr. Hannan also claimed a better quality for the new cut grain,

Professor Johnston having analyzed these several samples, and found 9.9 per cent. of gluten in the raw wheat, as against 9.6 per cent. in the ripe. Another eminent Derbyshire agriculturist, Mr. Fletcher, published the results of similar experiments in 1844, showing that the raw-cut grain brought him £1 10s. 9d. per acre above the produce per acre of that which was reaped when it was ripe. Fourteen days before ripeness was the period at which he fixed the time for reaping so as to secure the largest yield and the finest flour.

THE CROPS AT WEYMOUTH.

Weymouth, August 19th, 1867.

DR. LAWSON.—The crops in this section of the country are very good with the exception of potatoes. The tops were very promising until taken by the blight which has come on much earlier than usual, consequently the yield is light, and if the rot should take them, of which there are some cases already, the crop will be a failure.

The fruit crop though not very promising was much better than last year, until the recent gale which destroyed a large quantity.

Yours, &c.,
WM. H. S. DAHLGREEN.

THE CROPS AT DIGBY.

Respecting the crops I would say, that we have a good crop of hay, but the weather has been very unfavourable for getting it, grains of the various kinds, promise a good yield, I think the potatoes will not be as good as last year, the blight has made its appearance, no doubt it will cause a great loss to the country.

Yours, &c.,
JAMES M. AYMAR, Sec'y.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

AYLESFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its annual meeting on Tuesday, 4th of December, in terms of the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture. Most of the members were present. Willis Foster in the Chair.

The Treasurer presented his accounts for the past year, which were examined by the Auditors, J. W. Warner, G. Margeson and E. Armstrong, and reported correct.

The following are the receipts:—

Subscriptions from Members in 1865.....	\$41.00
Provincial Grant.....	40.00
Subscriptions from members in 1866.....	40.00
Services of Bull.....	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$157.00

EXPENDITURE.

Cost of one Devon Bull.....	\$60.00
" of bringing bull home.....	2.00
" of keeping bull 8 months.....	36.00
Cost of one Leicester Ram.....	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$148.00
Balance in hand.....	\$11.00

Office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year, viz;—*Pres.* Archibald Walker; *Vice Pres.*, Zeberlon Neiley; *Sec.*, John Foster, *Treas.*, Wm. Rhodes.

In regard to the crops in Aylesford, Wheat although not much of it was sown what was sown in most every instance was good. Rye rather better than last year. Corn excellent. Oats good, although damaged some by heavy storms in August. Buckwheat excellent, never better before. Potatoes much diseased, Beans good, Turnips fair crop, Hay rather more than an average crop, Apples better than last year. Upon the whole the prospects of the Farmer are brighter than last year, although flour is much higher.

ARCHIBALD WALKER, *Pres.*
JOHN FOSTER, *Sec'y.*

Aylesford December 24 1866.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CHESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Chester Agricultural Society, the following officers were chosen for the current year:—

President, Edw. Heckman; *Vice-President*, Robt. Smith; *Sec'y.* H. B. Mitchell; *Treas.*, David Whitford; *Directors*, William Duncan, Thos. Whitford, Stephen Corkum.

As the law requires the Secretary to forward a copy of the report of the officers, the names of the paid up members, &c., I subjoin the following information.

At the annual meeting it was agreed that the Threshing Machine owned by the Society be sold at auction on the third Saturday of February, 1867. The sum of \$6 was voted as an annual payment to the Secretary.

Fifty young apple trees were ordered from Mr. Harris' Nursery, through his agent, Mr. Mason.

It was voted to subscribe for the *Journal of Agriculture, Canada Farmer, and American Agriculturist*, for the year 1867, and that the same be kept on file, in lots, at each meeting.

The receipts and expenditure of the Society during the year, were as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

1866.		
By balance cash in hand.....	\$121 44	
Cash from 52 members, at \$1.....	52 00	
" from oats and grass seeds sold... ..	33 31 1/2	
" for 2 young Berkshire pigs sold..	3 60	
" for 3 young Suffolk do.....	5 30	
" for service of bull outside Society,	10 50	
Amount of Provincial Grant.....	56 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$282 15 1/2	

EXPENDITURE.

1866.		
Jan'y.	To paid for 2 Cotswold rams.....	\$30 00
	" 3 Berkshire pigs.....	10 00
	Expenses of procuring above.....	9 00
	Paid for 3 Suffolk pigs, with exp's,	12 00
Feb'y.	" 100 printed notices meet'gs,	2 00
	" postages Secretary, 1865,	0 50
	" 1 Alderney bull, \$36; ex-	
	penses \$8.....	44 00
May.	" oats and grass seeds, \$41	
	80; freight, 55c.....	42 35
	" 1 bush. Riga flax seed \$1;	
	coach freight on do. 75c.....	6 75
Dec'r.	" R. Smitn, bal'nce on bull	
	bought of him, 1865 ..	5 00
	" Do. keep of present bull	
	46 weeks.....	46 00
	" 54 premiums awarded at	
	Exhibition.....	47 25

254 85
Balance cash on hand.. 27 30 1/2
\$282 15 1/2

Last March an Alderney bull was bought in Windsor, at a cost of \$44 to the Society, which is still kept in their service; and it is thought that the stock raised from him will prove beneficial to our breed of cattle, especially with regard to the dairy, the Alderney being considered about the most valuable breed for milking qualities on soils like ours. It remains with the members, to-day, to decide whether said bull shall be disposed of, or still kept for the use of the Society.

The two Cotswold rams purchased last January, were of course too late for use at that time, and being the two last remaining on hand, were evidently the culls of the flock; yet we hope that the effects of the cross upon our native breeds will tend to the increase of weight both of fleece and carcase.

The Berkshire hogs introduced were beautiful specimens of their breeds, and showed clearly their vast superiority over the sharp-nosed, long-legged varieties, too common with us, both in quality and quantity of meat, and in economical feeding. It is to be regretted that on account of the sow proving barren, she was slaughtered in the autumn, producing some 380 lbs. of pork at an age of but ten months. Several litters from crosses of the boar have been had, but we trust another sow will be procured, so as to preserve and increase the breed in its purity, which we feel confident will prove very valuable.

The Suffolk pigs have done well, and we would recommend them as a valuable breed to raise to slaughter at an early age, the excellent quality of the meat, and the extreme smallness of bone, being profitable qualities.

Seed oats and grass seeds, to the value of \$41.80 (including expenses) were purchased by the Society last spring, and sold at auction among the members, realizing \$33.31; and a bushel of Riga flax seed was also purchased, but it not reaching us in the sowing season, the greater part of it remains on hand for another year. One sample of it was grown with flattering results, its growth far exceeding the article grown here hitherto.

At our Agricultural Show, held in October, the display of cattle was highly creditable, many of the animals exhibited being a credit to their owners, and such as would not have disgraced shows of greater pretensions. The samples of grain, roots, &c., were comparatively few, and not very choice, the general remark being, "Had I known this, I could have brought much better from home." But a good feeling was induced, and a spirit of emulation and improvement fostered, which will be manifested in the much better samples and more numerous parcels of seeds, &c., shown at our next Exhibition—though we we fear our funds will scarcely allow of another being held during the ensuing season. Owing to the number of societies in the County having increased, our allotment of the Provincial grant has only been about one-half the amount obtained the year previous, nor is it likely to again increase.

The past season has not been a very profitable one for our farmers—the hay and grain crops both proving light, and potatoes rotted badly. Fruit, however, was good, and the produce of the dairy and fowl-yard very remunerative.

Our Society now numbers 52 members, and this number could be easily increased to 100, were each one of our present members to exert a little for this purpose, and ask his neighbour to become a member. Let us all arouse ourselves, and endeavour to stir up

our friends, and especially the farmers, and have them flock in and swell the list of members, which will not only add to the funds of the society, and increase the amount drawn from the Province, but also awaken a spirit of enquiry, and a desire for progression, which must eventuate in good.

On behalf of the officers,
H. B. MITCHELL, Sec'y.

REPORT OF MAHONE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The officers of the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society beg to hand the following report on the state of the crops and the society:—The hay was something short of last year. Barley, in wet land, less than half a crop, in dry land an average crop. Oats something similar to barley. Winter Rye an average crop, but the wet weather hurt the quality of it. Potatoes were never a shorter crop; the white early were more destroyed by the blight than ever known before. Some farmers merely saved the seed. The vegetables a very short crop of every kind.

The Society cannot report much progress as yet. The lambs bought by the President at Richmond are doing well, and will much improve the stock. The bull bought last year is bringing good stock. The balance in hand the society intend either to purchase stock or award prizes with.

The annual meeting took place the first Tuesday in December, as the law directs, when the following persons were appointed office-bearers for the ensuing year:—*Pres.*, Benjamin Zwicker; *Vice Pres.*, Wm. Kedy; *Sec'y.*, George Duncan; *Treas.*, Jos. Zwicker. The following is the account:—

Cr.	
Balance on hand from 1865.....	\$17 38
53 members paid in \$1 each.....	53 00
Government grant received.....	104 00
Amount collected from Bull, besides wintering him.....	7 59
	\$181 88

Dr.	
Amount of seeds bought.....	\$78 47
Sheep, and expenses to get them... ..	30 00
Pigs.....	7 50
	115 97

Other expenses, rents of hall for meeting, animals, &c.....	6 00
	\$69 53

Balance on hand.....	\$63 53
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The foregoing is a true copy of the state of the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society, leaving a balance on hand, \$63.33, with the grant this year, \$61, which we intend to spend as is stated in this report.

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. DUNCAN, Sec'y.

Mahone Bay, Dec. 31, 1866.

YARMOUTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Hebron Yarmouth, Dec. 24th 1866.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with terms of the Agricultural Act, I herewith forward report of the annual meeting of the Yarmouth Agricultural Society, together with a statement of financial matters &c.

Society met on Tuesday the 4th inst., President Josiah Raymond Esq., in the chair. Treasurer's and Secretary's accounts examined and passed. Appointed as office bearers for the ensuing year:—

President, Josiah Raymond Esq.; *Vice President*, Henry Sanders; *Secretary*, James Crosby; *Treasurer*, C. Cahan; Nelson Corning Esq., William Murphey, H. Burrell, Wm. Durker, and Charles Butler *Directors*,

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR.

Funds on hand December 1865.....	\$108 29½
Subscription from members.....	63 00
Provincial grant on drawn.....	118 00
Received for sale of sheep.....	5 00
	\$289 29½

EXPENDITURE.

Cash paid premiums.....	87 80
Thirty copies Ag. Journal.....	15 00
Advertising.....	2 12½
Expenses cattle show.....	16 48
Rent, Expenses & officers fees.....	3 81
	\$125 21¼

Leaving balance on hand of \$165 08
JAMES CROSBY,
Secretary of Yarmouth A. Society

Miscellaneous.

THE ISLET FLORAS OF THE GREAT OCEANS.

[Continued.]

Oceanic Islands are to the naturalist what comets and meteorites are to the astronomer. How is the stocking of an oceanic island with plants from a continent to be accounted for?

Either (1) seeds were carried across the ocean by currents or the winds, or birds, or similar agencies; or (2) the islands once formed parts of the continent, and the plants spread over intermediate land that has since disappeared. To a superficial observer, either of these causes may appear admissible or feasible and sufficient, but the naturalist takes nothing for granted, and he finds insuperable obstacles to the ready acceptance of either.

On one point nearly all are agreed,—that those plants which occur both in the island and continent were not independently created in both localities, but that they did pass from one to the other.

Another settled point,—those peculiar insular plants which have no affinity with continental ones, are relics of a far more ancient vegetation than now prevails in the mother continents. There is proof of this in the fact that the same plants, or their congeners, are found fossil in the tertiary strata of Europe. Within the lifetime, then, of those Atlantic species, the vegetation of Europe has undergone a complete revolution.

The European fossils at a very remote period were formed of trees that are now characteristic of Asia and America; these have been driven out by the Northern and Eastern floras, which, however, did not reach the islands in such force or numbers, and thus spared these living witnesses. Just as white races drive the savages before them, and who in like manner take shelter in remote islands. The configuration of land, both continents and islands, was of course, very different at that time.

Some means of transport are always in operation. Birds carry seeds on their feet, their beaks, and in their stomach. The land birds of the Canaries are all European. There is an annual transoceanic transport or migration of American birds to Europe and European birds to Greenland. Oceanic fish devour seeds, birds feed on fish, and the contents of their stomachs may be deposited on distant islands. Dust is blown one thousand miles

over the ocean, and many seeds are no heavier than dust. The sea water does not destroy many seeds. Entada seeds have floated 3000 miles, from the West Indies to the Azores, and have afterwards been grown. There are many arguments in favour of seeds being brought in such ways to islands.

But there are likewise strong arguments against this view. The direction of the winds in the Atlantic is in favour of their bringing American and not European plants to the Azores, yet we have seen that there are fewer American plants there than in either the Madeiras or Canaries. St. Helena and Ascension have no land birds, but an African vegetation, and though nearly midway between Africa and America, they have scarcely a single American type of flowering plants. Kerguelen's land has a Flora that must have come not from its nearest but from its most distant land in the Southern Hemisphere. The islets do not contain terrestrial mammals. The Australian flora consists chiefly of gum trees and leguminous plants, but not one of them has found its way to New Zealand, which would have been the case if New Zealand owed its flora to ocean currents and winds.

Without going into further details or arguments, I may state that the view which seems to be the correct one, according to our present state of knowledge, is that the islands which lie near continents, as Great Britain, Ceylon, Madagascar, Japan, Newfoundland, the Falkland Islands, and others, were once united to the continents to which they are adjacent; that they derived their Floras from those continents, and that as these large islands have lessened in extent and become detached, so the oceanic islets have done so in a greater degree. Islands diminish in size towards the centres of the great oceans.

Such an explanation necessarily assumes great physical changes, the lapse of long periods of time, and the probable death of many species, and moreover gives to our existing species a great antiquity. G.L.

MAKE IMPROVEMENTS THAT PAY.

I could recall instances where farmers went ahead with improvements, without counting the cost, till it took the farms to pay for them. Improvements are a nice thing, if one has the ready cash to make them; if not, beware of the temptation. Only those should be made, at first, that will return the outlay again.—Farming should be conducted on business principles. If a merchant is not able to own a store, he rents one. If a farmer has not money to erect new buildings, he had better get along with his old ones. If a merchant invests money, he expects to get it all back, and more too. If a farmer buys manure or Merino sheep, he should be careful that they are so used that they return the original cost and a profit. If a farmer lays out money in ditching, he should do it where two or three crops will pay it back with interest.

A little learning, in agricultural science, is a dangerous thing, if it is not balanced with judgment. I remember a farmer who owned some hills, or rather he was in debt for some. The soil was sandy loam, except the crests of the hills, which were clay—the top soil having washed down. It was well, enough, perhaps,—a wise provision of Nature, our Scientific Editor might call it,—to make the difficult hill tops poor and the crops so very light

thereon, and the valleys rich, and the crops heavy in them, so that the honest farmer could gather the reward of his labor without toiling up the hill-side. But our farmer had read the advantages of underdraining, and among them that the land would not wash, as the water would sink into the drains, and not flow from the surface. So he dug ditches up the dry hill sides, and opened the clay crests, and put tik in them. Did the heavy thunder showers hereafter linger on the sharp, hard pinnacles, and sink gently down to the artificial channels? Not a bit. In its wrath the water tore up the earth deeper than the drains and sent the little tiles in a heap to the bottom.

I was about to moralize further on the foolishness of squandering money in enterprises that are scarcely begun, ere they are abandoned for something more enticing, or from a fear that they will not prove profitable; but it recalls disagreeable recollections, and I quit.—*Rural New Yorker.*

WINTER RULES.—Never go to bed with cold or damp feet. In going into a colder air, keep the mouth resolutely closed, that by compelling the air to pass circuitously through the nose and head, it may become partly warmed before it reaches the lungs, and thus prevent those shocks and sudden chills which frequently end in pleurisy, pneumonia, and other serious forms of disease. Never sleep with the head in the draught of an open door or window. Let more cover be on the lower limbs than on the body. Have an extra covering within easy reach, in case of a sudden and great change of weather during the night. Never stand still out of doors, especially at street corners, after having walked even a short distance. Never ride near the open window of a vehicle for a single minute, especially if the ride has been preceded by a walk; valuable lives have thus been lost, or good health permanently destroyed.

CHEERFULNESS.—A woman may be of great assistance to her husband in business by wearing a cheerful smile upon her countenance. A man's perplexities and gloominess increase a hundredfold when his wife moves about with a continuous scowl upon her brow. A pleasant cheerful wife is a rainbow set in the sky when her husband's mind is tossed with storms and tempests; but a dissatisfied and fretful wife, in the hour of trouble, is like one of those fiends who delight to torture lost spirits.

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The Journal of Agriculture

—is published monthly by—

A. & W. MACKINLAY,
No. 10, GRANVILLE STREET,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:—

Fifty Cents per annum—payable in advance. A limited number of Advertisements in connection with Agriculture will be inserted on application to the Publishers.