

The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

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Agriculture.

Report of the Queen's Central Agricultural Society.

We have received from W. O. Slipp, Esq., the Report of the Queen's Central Agricultural Society. We are glad to read the very favorable estimate of the harvest and to mark the general encouraging tone of the Report. We hope that many of the farmers of Queens who are not yet members of the Queen's Central Agricultural Society will act on the suggestion of the Secretary and enroll themselves immediately. Subjoined is the Report:

To the President of the Queen's Central Agricultural Society.

SIR,—In submitting this my second Annual Report, I am happy to be able to give expression to my own gratitude, and I trust to that of every member of this society, for the continued prosperity which has been extended to the farmer, and for the comparatively beautiful harvest which it has been his lot to gather in, noting at the same time, the fact that, at least in my humble opinion, no one in the many walks of life, or can be, as independent as he, few, if any, as well equipped to battle with our long cold winter, and no one ought to be more thankful for sacred promises given centuries before the day in which we live, but whose fulfillment can be marked as often as the seasons of the year come and go.

Our society has held three meetings during the past year, yet those three have been sufficient to have attended well to the transacting its affairs and I am happy to report, that at each and all of them, unanimity and good feeling prevailed.

During the past year, the purchase of stock for the society's use, was confined to that of a Berkshire Boar Pig of Mr. Burpee of Sunbury Co., and two Rams and a Ewe of the government importation of sheep. These when sold, proved a pecuniary loss to the society, but with, we trust, more than pay in the not distant future.

The Annual Exhibition was held on October 15th, and owing to the energy and experience of its promoters, together with an exceedingly propitious day, proved a success in every way, drawing to it many of the people of the surrounding neighbourhoods, and will we trust, prove more than a mere monetary gain to all concerned. The entries numbered nearly 800, and the show was in every department, creditable, and particularly so in that of horses, horned cattle, sheep and pigs.

The season has been favourable to the farmer in nearly every respect. By far the greater injury sustained, was in the loss of quite a large part of the low land hay, due to the high and protracted rise of the water of the river. Excepting the above, hay has been a fair crop. Wheat, more extensively grown than in former years, has yielded an average return. Oat-gold in straw, will also be good in grain. Buckwheat a good crop. Potatoes are short of last year's yield by quite a large percentage, but will prove far more remunerative, owing to the increased demand and consequent higher prices. Fruit an unusually abundant crop. By fruit we mean the apple more particularly; many fine samples of which were seen at the show. We think, all that is required to make apple raising highly remunerative, is care and attention bestowed on New Brunswick grown trees. The root crop has been a very good one, many farmers in this section having given more than usual attention to this really important branch of agriculture.

Now a word as to our society. It has never been in a more flourishing condition than at present. Many are just beginning to see the advantages derived from its membership, and its annual competition shows, and as a consequence are flocking around its standard, and laudably striving to excel in one or many of the departments of the farm.

The object of an agricultural society is to benefit the many and not the few, and all who keep aloof from its membership, are impeding, they know not how, their own prosperity. I know you will each and all endeavour to make "Queen's Central" what she should be a *magnum bonum* for the people.

Your obedient servant

W. O. SLIPP, Secretary.

AMERICAN PRODUCTS IN ENGLAND.—To the London *Agricultural Gazette* comes a plaint from a Warringtonshire fruit grower that his London merchant cannot sell his apples in that market, owing to a glut of apples imported from America—to which our contemporary adds the concise comment: "Wheat—meat—cheese—fruit! Is our occupation gone?"

The Proper Time for Slaughtering.

It has been discovered by a French chemist that the flesh of animals which are killed in the latter part of the night will keep much longer without salting than it will when they are killed in the day time. This proves that the flesh is better fitted for keeping when the animal and blood are taken from the life at the time the temperature is the lowest and respiration is the least active. Hence the reason that the flesh from animals that have been highly heated or hard driven will scarcely keep at all.

It is no new discovery that the meat of animals killed after rest will keep better than that killed immediately after exercise. As animals rest in the night, the meat will, of course, be better in the morning.

The reason why the above fact is so, is this: Exercise draws the blood to the extremities, and distributes it through all the veins. After rest it gradually returns to the vitals, and circulates more sluggishly. Of course, if an animal is then killed, the arteries, and large veins being cut, the blood is at once emptied. But, if he is killed while the blood is at the surface distributed through the small veins, it will not be discharged. As blood corrupts sooner than flesh, the meat spoils.—*Prairie Farmer.*

Jerseys.

We lately gave the opinion of Mr. Wallace of *Wallace's Monthly* of the Jersey cattle he saw in the island of Jersey, that in size and hardihood they were inferior to the Guernseys, owing to the fact that very many of the best animals have been sold to American purchasers, there was a falling away in the appearance of the Jerseys in their native soil. Another American, Col. George E. Waring, Jr. has lately visited the island, and has given his impressions of the cattle and the country, in an article which appeared in a late number of the *Illustrated American Jersey Cattle Club*. He said that the old cows were simply superb, but that the heifers and three year olds showed an inferiority of type, shown in a decided increase of thickness of hide, coarseness of hair, hairiness of neck and shoulder and tendency to fleshiness in the udder. He attributes the deterioration of the breed to the mania for color breeding. He says:—

Color-breeding has taken a much stronger hold of the majority of the large breeders of the island than would be supposed possible. Almost universally they tend to make money by their breeding—they cannot expect the smaller farmers to resist the temptation to breed for this as the chief end. While the larger and more intelligent breeders hold this view, and resist the tendency to a very great extent, not one of them is quite free from its influence; for example, I believe that no breeder in Jersey would raise for his own use a bull which had only a little white under the belly and on the flanks and legs, and a white switch. I believe that all who have seen him regard him as an absolutely perfect Jersey bull. Mr. Arthur, of St. Helier, has raised a bull from a superb cow—one of his best, which he refused to sell me for £100—a bull which I consider equal to any that I have ever seen, and he has only a little white under the belly and on the flanks and legs, and a white switch. I believe that all who have seen him regard him as an absolutely perfect Jersey bull. Mr. Arthur, of St. Helier, has raised a bull from a superb cow—one of his best, which he refused to sell me for £100—a bull which I consider equal to any that I have ever seen, and he has only a little white under the belly and on the flanks and legs, and a white switch. I believe that all who have seen him regard him as an absolutely perfect Jersey bull.

Almost invariably, in examining a herd, the farmer, or the agent by whom I was accompanied, would point out such and such an animal as being "very good"—"the best in the herd"—"the finest animal in Jersey," etc., etc.—animals which obviously were good for very little indeed. On our calling attention to the superiority of another in the same field, we were answered quite as a matter of course: "Oh! yes, for the dairy that cow is worth ten of these; but look at this one's color—not a white hair on her." We even heard of an English buyer buying on his back under a cow's belly to see that she had secreted no white spots which might taint her progeny.

All this is amusing, but at the same time it is alarming. Here is the source of the race which now promises to be the great dairy race of America and to have an aggregate value among us even greater than that of the Short-horn—a race which has grown to its present perfection under the influence of hundreds of years of careful breeding in the island of Jersey. It is useless for us to suppose that we can cross these Jersey breeders in the direction of their past efforts; they

Raising First-class Stock—Better Farming and Improving Dairy Products—The True National Policy for Canada.

The very low prices realized lately by the farmers for their butter has led many of those residing in this Province, as well as in Eastern Ontario, to reduce very materially the number of milk cows which they intend keeping through the approaching winter. Many of the *habitants* dwelling north of this city, as well as some of the farmers in the Ottawa district, have half their milk cows dry early this fall, and are selling them to drovers at exceedingly low rates, because it does not pay to feed cows when they get so little for their butter. The effect of this reduction in the number of live stock kept on the farm will be that fodder will be plentiful and cheap in the places where, owing to the severe drought in summer, it would otherwise be scarce and high priced. This fact ought to induce such farmers as have suitable cattle to put them up in stables and fatten them for the British market next spring, instead of selling them at the very low prices which butchers are now paying. Unfortunately few farmers residing in the districts where cattle are being decimated this fall have been in the habit of raising cattle suitable for sending across the Atlantic. The animals they have are too small, except the old oxen and "slab-side" bulls, which cost too much to fatten, and which, though under ordinary circumstances marketable here, are utterly unsuited to the British markets. It is very likely that the effect of the British Contagious Diseases Act, which comes into operation on the 1st of May next, will give to Canadian cattle a great advantage over all imported cattle in the British markets, since Canada is the only country which has adopted sufficiently stringent regulations for preventing the introduction of contagious diseases from other countries where they prevail to a greater or less degree. Consequently next summer, when the cattle brought from the continent and also from the United States ports, will require to be slaughtered at the port of disembarkation in Britain, the owners of Canadian cattle can take them to any town or city in Britain where they can realize the highest prices. It is a great pity that the only part of Canada which is likely to derive much benefit from this favorable condition of the British markets, for some years to come, is what is known as the Western peninsula of Ontario; for only there, to any extent, are cattle raised suitable for exportation. It is to be hoped that the farmers who are now selling off their old stock of cows will replace them as soon as possible with animals of superior breed, and should the unremunerative prices received for common country-made butter lead to the general establishing of creameries, as well as to more carefulness in the manufacture of butter in farmers' homes, the whole Dominion will have no cause to regret the occurrence of such hard times as the present, which obstinately refuse to improve, although the National Policy doctors have been called in. Perhaps, on the whole, it is best for Canada that the National Policyists acceded to power at the present juncture. So long as a large number of the people

Good Points of Ayrshires.

A writer in a late number of the "North British Agriculturist" says:—Mr. McAdam, of Rome, New York—perhaps one of the best living judges of Ayrshire cows—says that "the principal points are her udder and teats. The udder must reach well forward, and be firmly attached to the body, neither coming out behind nor hanging loosely down; the teats alike in size; and the teats set on equally and widely apart, neat and not very large, cut square at the top like a cork—not blown or hanging together like a bunch of parsnips under a loose flabby bag, as the Short-horns often have. A beautiful udder is the *sine quo non* of the Ayrshire cow."

Our opinion in regard to milking qualities is that if the eye be full and lively, the skin thin, soft and mellow, the forerunner light, with the shoulder top thin; the hindquarters broad, with the hook and calving bones high, though not presenting a pleasing contour; the milk veins well developed, running zigzag, and ending in a large opening, or if a large opening be found in addition, all the better—the purchaser will not, in nine cases out of ten, regret his bargain. It must, however, be borne in mind that exceptional animals milk well in any shape; but the above hints will form a general guide. It may be well also to point out some of the defects which have tended to restrict the increasing number of this breed. The small size is an objection, but on a proper comparison, as made by Robert McAdam, it is found that nine Short-horns will eat as much as ten Ayrshires, and with equal number will give a fifth less milk. A feasible objection is the relatively poor result obtained from the worn-out carcasses; but this disadvantage is more than compensated for in her other good qualities. Small teats, too, are an objection, more especially when the milking is done by men; and breeders would do well to give attention to this particular. Another defect, likely descending hereditarily from the native breed of cattle, is the want of docility and evenness of temper; which is a greater degree characterizes other breeds; but here too in the progeny of the breeder may at least a partial remedy be found.

For Milk and Meat.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* writes:—Holstein cattle are nearly as large as Short-horns or Durhams, but do not mature so early or fatten so kindly, and are not so fine in their points. They generally give quite large masses of milk of moderate quality, especially good, like the Ayrshires, for making cheese. The Short-horns originally were as good milkers as the Holsteins, and there are many families of them still kept up, both in England and America, as large milkers. There are repeated instances of their thirty to forty quarts of good milk per day, in full flow. I once possessed one that gave an average of thirty-three quarts per day for some time after calving. The London and other large dairies in England, having tried a variety of milking breeds, have settled on the Short-horn as the best; and in addition to their excelling all others for milk, when dried off they fatten quicker, on less food, and make a better quality of beef than any other good milkers. It will be seen by this that they excel all others as a combined dairy and butcher's cow. Beef has paid so much better profit in England and in the Western States of America than dairy products for the past half century, that breeders have by continued selection and feeding heavily at an early age, changed their animals from great milkers to great producers of beef. Such only care for a cow that will give milk sufficient to grow up a large calf, which they usually let run with the mother, and suckle till the dam herself weans it, which is at about six months' age ordinarily. If a man wishes to breed cattle for combined milk and beef of good quality, and in the largest measure, he has only to obtain Short-horns of the best milking families, and they will fulfil all his desires, with proper management on his part.

MILK COWS THROUGH INHERITANCE.

A cow eats food and milk is made, says Dr. Sturtevant, in quantities according as the ancestry of the cow have been good or poor milkers. The "natural" or wild cow gives hardly enough milk for her calf. Feed the wild cow high and her yield is slight. Large quantity of milk comes largely through inheritance. When a cow of any breed has enough food—considered in the elements of which the food is made up—if there is nothing lacking in the food that is needful to her growth and health, then I think it is agreed by the best authorities that a mere increase of food will not change the quality of the milk, while it will increase the quantity.

The Fairs.

A correspondent of the *Practical Farmer* sums up the good and bad influences of the Agricultural Fairs, as too often conducted, as follows:—I took my family to the fair last week. It was a treat for them—wife and all. My wife found enough to interest her in the floral, domestic, and in arts hall, the boys ranged at will, and I venture to say that few things escaped their notice. Alone, I made the tour of the stock pens, examining closely the merits of the animals exhibited. I wanted to purchase a pair of good Poland-Chinas near home, and here I found them. I also wanted a good plough for all purposes, and out of a dozen different makes, I found one that suited me well. This is one advantage these fairs extend to the farmer. He has the opportunity here to compare different implements, machinery, stock, etc., and if he is posted, knows what he wants, he can generally find something that will please him. The fair-keeper him apprised of the improvement made during the year, and bring to his notice a great many things he has read about, perhaps, he has never seen, and many things, also, he has never heard of.

Towards noon, I went back among the buildings to get the family for dinner, and found the boys in a crowd around a wheel of fortune. Worse yet, they had been persuaded by an old acquaintance, an older boy in our neighborhood, to "try their luck," and both had lost all their spending money. It is too bad that our fair must be disgraced by such scandals. They should be good, moral exhibitions, where parents need not be afraid to take their children for fear of contaminating influences. The gambling spirit has taken complete hold of the youngest boy, fifteen years old. "If I only could try again," he said, "I might get it all back, and more too." I did not suffer them out of my sight the rest of the day, and was truly glad when I got them off the grounds, on the way home. That day's work did much towards destroying the teaching of years, and I may never get the stain removed. A neighbor's son was hauled home the same day dead drunk. He was only seventeen years old, had never drunk any, but was naturally a little wild and inclined to the reckless. In company with others who did drink he was persuaded, and the result was as mentioned. Now gambling and liquor men were both licensed by the managers of the fair. Shall we patronize such institutions? I, for one, shall not. I shall never attend another fair unless I can be assured that these objectionable things are not admitted.

Now I have stated some of the advantages of fairs and some of the disadvantages. Which weigh the most? On the one hand are educational and pecuniary advantages; on the other, moral ruin, perhaps for your boy. Who would hesitate to which to deny himself? The advantage can be obtained in other ways. It may cost more, but the character of a son is above price.

CULTURE OF CABBAGE.

Since the advent of the cabbage worm almost every one has been at a loss to know what to do to raise a few cabbages. Some have tried one thing and some have tried another, and mostly to no purpose. Last year I set about three hundred and thirty-five plants, and picked off the worms by hand as they came, for about two weeks, which took me two hours each day. This seemed to be too much work, and as I have a well of soft water nearby, I took a five pint kettle, set in near the well, put it in a pint of soft soap, and the same of salt, and then filled it up with water. I let this stand till the water warmed by the sun, and then, after stirring it up well, I took my water-pail and applied it at the rate of one gallon to forty heads, putting it in the center. I did this every day, and the result was I had the nicest and hardest cabbages that were ever raised. I had no trouble to get ten cents per head, although cabbage was very cheap here. Some make a practice of buying their plants, but I would not give one cent per hundred—unless I knew what I was getting.—*Cultivator.*

NEED FOR A COW.

How much land is required for the support of a cow? This question depends for an answer so much on circumstances of the soil as to not admit of a very definite answer. In a dairy competition in Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1857; the first prize dairy, of sixteen cows, was kept on thirty acres of land; the second premium, of eighteen cows, on sixty acres; the third dairy, of thirteen cows on thirty acres; the fourth, of twenty-nine cows, on fifty-five acres; the fifth, of twenty-eight cows, on ninety acres. Mr. Schull, of Little Falls, N. Y., estimates that the land in pastureage, and hay requisite for the support of a cow, three acres; and this is the estimate of Mr. Carrington for moderately good dairy farms in England. In Belgium, ten acres of land support two cows, one heifer, and one yearling or calf; but when the calves are sold off young, and cows in full milk only are kept, the proportion is two cows to seven and one-half acres. Colman estimates three acres of pasture as requisite for a cow in Berkshire County, Mass., while in some towns two acres of pasture are sufficient. Mr. Farrington, in the report of the American Dairyman's Association, thinks that, on the average, four acres are required per cow for summer and winter keep; while Mr. X. A. Willard thinks that, in Herkimer County, N. Y., one and one-half or two acres of pasture per cow will answer, and in some exceptional cases, one acre.—*Scientific Farmer.*

A Shepherd's talk about Sheep.

The following article about sheep is from an American paper, and is suggestive. "There is a general impression, among those who do not know, that by means of sheep a great deal may be made out of nothing. We may frequently see absurd statements to the effect that 'the sheep's foot truss all to gold,' and there is no reader or surer way to fertilize a barren field, than to put a flock of sheep to pasture upon the briars and weeds in it; that in effect sheep will live upon the poorest food and make the richest manure, and are thus the very best stock a farmer can keep on his farm. But those 'who have been there' know better. 'Sheep are always an unhappy flock'—oves semper infelix pecus—wrote the old author, Virgil, and many a man who has been deluded into sheep keeping in the vain hope of finding gold in their foot tracks, has found out 'the truth about it.'"

Now, having been through the mill and having turned defeat into victory by disabusing my mind of the common fallacies about sheep, I warn intending shepherds that there is no other domestic animal that needs better care or food, for profitable thrift, than sheep; that out of their finely-grinding manure mill, comes nothing that is not first put into the hopper; that yet, with proper care and skill, a well selected flock of the right kind of sheep, in the right place, can be made to pay 100 per cent. on their cost every year. It is true that a flock will clear a field of weeds, briars and rubbish, and will enrich it, but it will not live upon these alone. To relish this rough herbage, the sheep must be fed liberally upon supplementary food, such as bran, meal, clover, grass, or green corn fodder, and always a pint a day per head of linseed oil-cake meal, bran or other grain food. Then, with this alloy, the sheep's foot will take on a golden tinge, and will edge with gold the farmer's pocket, by making his poor lands rich, giving him at the same time a lamb or two, and a fleece every year. A field may be enriched, too, by sowing rape seed, at the rate of a peck per acre, and when the crop is of a thrifty growth, the sheep may be turned in to eat it down through the late fall and early spring; thus fitting it for a crop of corn, oats, or roots, next year. But the sheep must have their pint per day of bran or oil-meal even then.

The fact is, sheep are manure spreaders, rather than manure makers. We fed them with the material; they take their pay out of it, and give us back the remainder, transformed into a substance of equal value—because it is more available—with that which they retained, and they get fat meanwhile in doing it. Just as we give the mint a bag of gold dust and we get back exactly the same weight of gold dollars, while the coiners have fed upon it—but without the dust we get no dollars. So with sheep; if we don't feed them with the materials needed to make fat for themselves and rich manure for us, they will be unprofitable Pharaoh's lean kine. And this is the truth about it."

FIRM BUTTER.—An English contemporary recommends the following as practiced here during hot weather for rendering butter firm and solid during the process of churning:—To the cream that is expected to make twenty pounds of butter, add one teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and a teaspoonful of powdered alum mixed together. This of course does not enter into the butter, and if it did it would be harmless, but passes away with the buttermilk. It is worth trying by those who have not perfect conveniences for making butter. If used until the time of putting into the cream, but should be kept in separate tightly corked bottles.

To keep butter safely, arrange any kind of a vessel, a keg, jar, or a barrel, make up a butter in rolls in the very best manner, cover them with a wet cloth, put them into a vessel and fill up with strong, clean brine, and arrange the cover so that a board or plank on its under side shall press the lumps down under the brine. Then bury the vessel up to the brim in the earth in the coolest corner of the cellar. Never let the brine get below the butter, and it will keep for years.

A farmer of experience says that the feet of a horse requires more care than the body. They need ten times as much, for in one respect they are almost the entire horse. All the grooming that can be done won't avail anything if the horse is forced to stand where his feet will be filthy. In this case the feet will become disordered and the legs will become bad legs there is not much else of the horse fit for anything.

California is successfully packing butter for export in kegs of white fir, which imparts neither taste nor smell to their contents.

FARMERS LEAVING THEIR HOLDINGS.

As illustrating the wide spread despondency amongst farmers in England, at the gloomy prospect of agricultural affairs, the *Land Agents' Record* learns that the Nottinghamshire agent of the Duke of Newcastle has received something like twenty notices to quit from his tenants in that county alone.

NEVER PUT THE HANDS INTO BUTTER.

There is no excuse for so doing, and every sense of cleanliness forbid it. True, the hands are clean, still as butter absorbs any and every impurity with which it comes in contact, excessive perspiration of the hands or any humor of the blood might thus be imparted to the butter. A wooden ladle to lift the butter from the churn, or to turn it over while being washed, answers just as well and a vast deal better.

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Literature.

THE LOVER'S DECISION.

Amy Thorpe was one of the prettiest little matrons that ever wore a white muslin gown, with pockets ruffled round with cherry ribbon, and carried a business-like bunch of housekeeping keys descending from her trim little waist. Yet she was not so very young; twenty-two summers had left their bright light in her blue eyes, and thrown the shadow of their June roses on her velvet cheek, and she liked to put on small matronly airs, and even hinted obscurely at the propriety of wearing caps. But for all that, when you saw her with her baby in her lap, you couldn't help thinking of a pretty child with its first wax doll!

He will not listen to reason, common sense, or argument."
"Come, Richard, I am through at last," she said, a moment afterwards.
But she had to speak twice and finally to touch him on the arm ere she was able to rouse him from the absorbed reverie into which he had fallen.
"By my parol, Dick!"
Dick made a blind dive at one of the handboxes, and got himself hopelessly entangled in several yards of illusion.
"Ah—what? Where is it?"
"By—what? Where is it?"
"By—what? Where is it?"
"By—what? Where is it?"

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SPLENDID Farming Property FOR SALE. Fire. Fire. DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, Gents' Furnishing Goods, which will be sold at reasonably low prices. SPECIAL NOTICE. CLAPBOARDS, FLOORING AND SHEATHING. BURN SALVE. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

As I contemplate making a change in my business in a short time, an IMMENSE CLEARING SALE of the whole stock of CLOTHING and DRY GOODS now held by me in the stores in Edgecombe's and Wilnot's Buildings, will commence at once.

Remarkable Bank Robberies. In 1870 a man dressed in the uniform of a police officer went into the Kensington Bank of Philadelphia, and said to the cashier: "I am Lest."
There is a plan on foot to rob your bank tonight. I want you to have your watchman here and I will have my men to assist. Do not say a word, and by tomorrow the game will be bagged."

Notice. Resuming Business. THE subscriber has to notify his friends and the public generally that he has resumed business at No. 4, GOY'S BLOCK, RO. 4.

Notice of Removal. WOULD respectfully announce to his friends and the public generally that he has removed to new premises with increased facilities to carry on his business as a Jeweller, and to repair and make all kinds of Gold and Silver Ware.

Notice. THE subscriber has to return thanks to the Citizens of Fredericton and the public generally for the liberal patronage extended to him since commencing business, and would respectfully request that he be permitted to continue to carry on his business, he hopes to merit a continuance of the very liberal patronage he has received for the last two years.

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