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# JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE,

PUBLISHED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

VOL. I. HALIFAX, N. S., MAY, 1865. No. 3.

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### Board of Agriculture.

Abstract of Annual Reports of County and District Societies organized under the Board of Agriculture.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.)

#### LUNENBURG COUNTY.

##### MAHONE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In accordance with the Act for encouragement of Agriculture, an Agricultural Society has been organized at Mahone Bay, and Mr. Duncan, the Secretary, has transmitted the necessary declaration, list of members, &c., with a view to its being recognized by the Board. President, Benjamin Zwickler; Vice-president, Alex. Lane, M. D.; Secretary, George Duncan; Treasurer, Joseph Zwickler. Annual subscription, \$1.—Number of members 52.

[We are happy to find that the exertions now being made by Mr. Kaulback are affording evidence of success in promoting the cause of agriculture in his county.]

#### COLCHESTER COUNTY.

##### SHUBENACADIE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Report of the Auditing Committee of the Shubenacadie Agricultural Society, viz:

We, your committee, having in possession the accounts of the managing com-

mittee, the books of the society, &c., beg leave to report as follows:—

First,—We find that the managing committee has purchased sheep and cattle in Prince Edward Island, whose cost amounted to £61 14 1

Second,—We find the expense of purchase and bringing home of said stock with some other expense attending the working of the society, amounted to 20 8 5½

£82 2 6½

Third,—We find the committee received from Treasurer 30 0 0

which leaves a balance due them of £43 2 6½

Fourth,—We likewise find that the sheep and cattle were sold at a credit of 3 months, and realized the sum of £86 1 0

Treasurer's Account.—First,—We find in the Treasurer's hands at the close of the annual meeting on November 3rd, 1863 £27 3 9

Cash from Secretary—members' subscriptions - - - 10 0 0  
1864, provincial grant - - 10 0 0  
From sale of Bull and Boar - 9 0 0  
Provincial grant - - - 18 10 0  
Interest received - - - - 0 11 6

£75 5 3

Second,—We likewise find the Treasurer gave to managing com. £39 0 0 And has in his hand old accts. 5 13 1 Note for money lent - - - 10 0 0 and cash in hand - - - 20 12 2

£75 5 3

Third,—There is now, after all accounts are arranged for, in the hands of the Treasurer - - - £20 12 2 In old uncollected accounts - 5 13 1 Note - - - - - 10 0 0 And notes for sale of stock - 86 1 0

£122 6 3 5

Fourth,—When the sum that is due the committee is paid, which is - - - 43 2 6

will leave the society worth £79 3 8½

#### COUNTY OF HANTS.

##### NEWPORT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The spring, though not very early, was fine, and favorable for the farmers to put their seed into the ground. Of Wheat, but a small quantity was sown, owing to the almost total failure of the crop last year; Barley, Oats, and Buck-wheat, were sown in much larger quantities than usual. Of Potatoes, our farmers planted less than usual, owing to the scarcity of seed last spring; Indian Corn, Turnips, Mangel-Wurzels, were also planted by some. In June, the crops suffered very much from

want of rain, but early in July, about the commencement of the haying season, we were visited with fine showers which were very beneficial to our crops. As to quantity, hay has been very good indeed, and secured generally, in excellent condition. Wheat—the early sown proved a failure; that sown about the first of June produced a fair crop. Barley and Oats are an average crop. Potatoes, in the first part of the season, promised a good crop, but near the time of harvesting, the disease made its appearance; some farmers lost nearly all, others saved part, but the potatoes are decaying very much in the cellars. Indian Corn and Buckwheat suffered very much from the late frosts, and in most parts did not ripen. Turnips and Manggel-Wurzels were an average crop.—Apples and Plums were scarce, owing to the frequent frosts in the first of the season which injured the blossoms.

The society purchased two bulls in Windsor, one yearling and one two years old; there is a large portion of Durham in each of these animals.

Paid R. Baker for 1 yearling bull,	\$50 00
“ Jno. Jerkins for 2 yr. old “	36 00
“ Expenses,	4 00
“ Brooklyn Hall Company,	1 50
“ Postage,	0 25
“ Secretary for his services,	6 00
<b>Total - - - -</b>	<b>\$97 75</b>

## CONTRA.

Cash from Prov. Treas. for 1864,	\$83 00
“ subscriptions of members,	43 00
<b>Total - - - -</b>	<b>\$126 00</b>

Balance in Treasurer's hands,	
6th December, 1864,	28 25

## VICTORIA COUNTY.

## NORTH SHORE ST. ANN'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

An Agricultural Society has been organized in this locality in accordance with the Act. The officers have written to Prince Edward Island in order to ascertain who keeps the best Leicester ewes, as the society have resolved to purchase what sheep they can, *as the first mare*. In reference to the agriculture of this district, it is on the old system; the most of the inhabitants have sheds attached to one end of their barns to protect the manure from rains; these sheds serve as sheep houses, which adds to the fertility of the stable manure. A great quantity of fish offals is allowed to remain on the beaches here, which if used, would be of great service as a fertilizer. The soil in this locality is rich, and if properly cultivated would yield excellent crops, but there is no end to the stones here. We intend to have another

meeting in March 1865. Subjoined are the names of our office-bearers;—

Donald McDonald, *President*. John Buchanan, *Vice-President*. Angus Buchanan, *Treasurer*. Angus McKay, *Secretary*. *Directors*: Norman M. Ritchie, Donald McLennan, Neil McLeod, Kenneth Matheson.

## The Field and Farm Yard.

## ON MANURE.

## No. II.

SIR,—Last month I tried to draw the attention of your readers to the necessity of looking more closely and attentively to their barn yard manure, in the hope, that at the least, farmers might be induced to avoid loss in a matter so important.—And in the last sentence of that letter, I asserted that the solid portion of the cattles' droppings, however well-saved, would still be only the smaller and less valuable part (*not heap*) of the manure made by the cattle.

I am, however, very much afraid that no mere writing on the subject will prove so efficacious as a remedy for this idle, squandering away of the best riches of the country as the offer of a money bonus for a better mode of saving manure. I am therefore, glad to see, by the report in your first number, that one or two of the more advanced agricultural societies have so far begun well, as to have given premiums for the erection of manure sheds. This is a considerable step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped they will not stop at this first step, having their eyes open to the necessity of keeping their dung heaps from the weather. The next thing will be to keep them from draining away, involving a little further outlay of capital; but returning itself by fifties and by hundreds to the enterprising farmers who will incur it. Each step that we take in this simple matter of saving manure shows of itself so plainly what the next step ought to be, that it seems almost superfluous to point them out, and in fact I am almost afraid that I may be doing a great amount of harm with some, who, from what they may imagine, the magnitude of the operation on paper, may be deterred from taking even the first step in this matter of saving. Fortunately, however, each step taken to save manure from waste, does in itself constitute so perfect an improvement in that particular feature of the business that it pays as it goes. For instance, a sheltering lean-to for the dung to be thrown into, is a perfect protection against deterioration by the weather, &c., and needs nothing more for that purpose, and the gain thereby is of itself sufficiently great to warrant the necessary expendi-

ture. In like manner a floor to the shed, made tight enough to prevent the moisture from draining, or being absorbed in the soil under the heap, is quite sufficient for the second step in this saving operation, and almost any rough and ready way of doing it may be perfect enough for the purpose, providing it is only thoroughly tight.

Nevertheless, as it is so very desirable that this matter should be well done, and as no particular plan can be laid down so as to suit every barn yard, I think it would be better for societies to adopt the method of appointing manure committees, who, in conjunction with the farmer, who may desire to save his manure in a proper and efficient manner, should determine what plan to adopt, being guided by the amount of outlay the farmer is willing to make, and the amount of help the society can afford to give. In somewhat this way an example might be set, which if extensively followed, would be of incalculable benefit to the country, as one ton of solid manure so saved, is worth more than two tons of exposed manure.

BEDFORD.

## THE CALVING OF COWS.

The early portion of Spring is the most advantageous time for the calving of cows, and our stock farmers will now have to be on the alert in reference to this very important department of their art. A few practical hints may, therefore, not be without their interest and seasonable application.

The gestation of the cow comprises about forty or forty-one weeks, seldom varying more than a few days, and as the expiration of this period approaches, the appearance and state of the animals should be frequently and carefully observed. A cow about calving should be separated from the herd, and have a warm, quiet place assigned her, with dry, comfortable bedding, and a moderate supply of suitable food. A distention of the udder, the falling of the flank, and other well-known symptoms of approaching labor, should be carefully observed, and preparations made accordingly. In our changeable climate, early spring is always more or less attended with cold, sharp winds, and serious mischief sometimes arises, both with cows and ewes, from their being exposed at so critical a time to their chilling and debilitating influences.

When the operation of calving actually begins, then signs of uneasiness and pain appear; a little elevation of the tail is the first mark; the animal shifts about from place to place, frequently getting up and lying down, as if not knowing what to do with herself. She usually continues some time, till the natural throes or pains come on; and as these succeed each other in

regular progress, the neck of the womb, or *os uteri*, gives way to the action of its bottom, and of its other parts. By this action the contents of the womb are pushed forward at every throes, the water bladder begins to show itself beyond the shape, and to extend till it becomes the size of a large bladder, containing several gallons; it then bursts, and its contents are discharged, consisting of the liquor amnii, in which, during gestation, the calf floats, and which now serves to lubricate the parts, and render the passage of the calf easier. After the discharge of the water, the body of the womb contracts rapidly upon the calf; in a few succeeding throes or pains, the head and feet of it, the presenting parts, are protruded externally beyond the shape. The body next descends, and in a few pains more the delivery of the calf is complete.

In natural presentations, that is, when the two forefeet and the nose of the calf can be distinctly felt by gently inserting the hand into the uterus, but little extra assistance is required. Nature, if left to herself, will, under such conditions, generally expel the fetus. The treatment, therefore, is very simple, and the natural throes or pains should be allowed to go on without any interruption, and the result, in most instances, will be as rapid and satisfactory as is desirable. But where the water bladder breaks early in calving and before the mouth of the womb is sufficiently expanded, the process is often slow, and it is a considerable time before any part of the calf makes its appearance. In that situation it will be necessary to give some assistance, which consists in introducing the arm into the womb, and laying hold of the fore legs till they are brought into the passage, gradually assisting at every pain or throes; this being accomplished, the rest of the business is brought early to a conclusion. As soon as the calf is brought forth, its nostrils should immediately be cleansed from the adhering mucus, the mouth opened, and when it has breathed freely, it may be carefully rubbed with a wisp, and then presented to its mother, who will at once lick it freely with her tongue, which acts both as brush and currycomb most advantageously. In a few minutes it should be lifted up, be supported, and enticed to suck. If it sucks freely very little danger is to be apprehended, and the dam and calf may be safely left together. Warm water only should be given to the cow, and her food should be of a mild and nutritious character, avoiding cold roots or the like. The calf should be left with the dam at least three days, in order that it may draw its food at first naturally, and as it is required. By this time the first milk, or "heastlings," acting as a gentle purge, will have passed through its bowels, cleansing them of all mucus; it may then be safely removed and brought up by hand.

In cases of wrong presentations, the cow should be carefully examined, by inserting the bare arm as far as possible into the uterus. Upon ascertaining the position of the calf, such judicious means must be adopted to get it away in the best manner, the judgment, formed by experience, may dictate. In a presentation where the hinder parts come first, the calf may occasionally be drawn away; but, generally, in such presentations, the legs are doubled backwards; it is then necessary to push the calf back into the womb or calf-bed, and, if possible, turn it, or get forward the legs, for it cannot come forth doubled up as it is; in either case it is a most difficult task to get it away safely, and often results in the death of both dam and calf. In extremely violent cases the womb, or calf-bed, will frequently protrude and fall down. This is a very difficult thing to restore, with safety, to its proper place, owing to the continued pain on the cow. It should be well washed in warm water as quickly as possible, before it has much time to swell, and, with double fists, it should be firmly pushed into the uterus, where it must be secured by strong ligatures sewn across the opening. The cow should have a strong dose of laudanum to quiet her for some hours, so that the calf-bed may have time for the swelling to subside. Subsequently give her a little warm water, with some meal stirred in. This should be given repeatedly, but sparingly, so as not to load the stomach. No heating or any purgative drenches should be given. The cleansing or after-birth, usually comes away in a few hours, and generally requires but little attention. If however, it should become necessary to draw it away after the lapse of several days, the operation requires to be performed with much judgment and care.

When the cow has had a protracted and difficult calving time, she will require careful treatment. In common natural cases she will be soon all right; but in difficult cases, brushing of the belly and loins with a wisp is said to be serviceable, and gentle walking, exercise for a short time in the open air, when the weather is warm and fine. Gruel and cordial drinks may also be occasionally given. The latter may consist of a quart of ale mixed with sugar or treacle, and diluted with water, and given warm. The old "cowleech's" drench is—1 oz. aniseed, powdered, 1 oz. sulphur, ditto, 1 oz. liquorice, ditto, 1 oz. diacutic, ditto, 1 oz. long pepper, given in a quart of warm ale.

The old barbarous practice of driving a cow about while, or just before calving, is now, happily, exploded, except in very benighted situations. It was ignorantly believed that such extreme exercise facilitated the operation of calving, whereas its tendency was the exact contrary, and many a valuable animal has been lost by

such unreasonable and inhuman treatment. A cow in open pasture will usually leave the herd, and seek some sequestered place for calving, an instinct which clearly points out the necessity of quietness in our treatment of her at this critical period.

Milk fever, or dropping, after calving, is one of the most dangerous diseases attending parturition, and unless timely arrested, will soon prove fatal. Cows in high condition are very liable to this complaint, especially if they are kept close, and luxuriantly fed, previous to calving. The symptoms usually show themselves within two or three days after calving, sometimes within a few hours. They are known by the cow shifting about from place to place; frequently lifting up her legs, with a wild appearance in her eye, and unless the disease is arrested she will, after a while, stagger and fall down. The usual recourse is to take three or four quarts of blood from the animal, and promote the natural evacuations by Epsom salts, nitre, &c.—*Canada Farmer*.

#### A FEW WORDS ABOUT SHEEP

If a man wishes to buy young sheep, it is an easy matter to tell their age by their teeth. A sheep has 8 front teeth, and when one year old they shed the 2 middle teeth, and within 6 months from the time of shedding, their places are filled with 2 wider than the first; at 2 years, the next 2 are shed, and 6 months their places are filled with 2 wide teeth; at 3 years, the 2 third teeth from the centre are shed, and their places filled with 2 wide teeth, and at 4 years the corner teeth are shed, and by the time the sheep is 5 years old, the teeth will have grown out even, and it will have a full mouth of teeth; after that the teeth will begin to grow round and long, and at 9 or 10 they begin to shed, and then is the time to fatten for the butcher, and let young sheep take their place.

If a farmer would have a good flock of sheep, he must keep a few of his best ewe lambs to take the place of his old sheep. Poor nurses should not be kept. The same ram should not be kept with a flock more than one year; neither should he be used in the flock that he was raised in.

Sheep, to be healthy, should not be kept in low wet pastures. To have a good flock of sheep, they must be well fed summer and winter. To make sheep peaceable and contented, never allow them out of the pasture intended for them to run; but if they should happen to get out, return them immediately, and make the fence sure. Sheep should be taken to the field as soon as harvest is done, as their droppings are worth as much to the field as the grass they eat, and they will

thrive much faster in the field than in the pasture. Sheep should never feed their pasture so close, but that a horse or colt would find plenty to eat with them; but cows should never be allowed to go in the sheep pasture. To tell whether a sheep has a heavy fleece, put your hand into the wool, and if you can easily shut it the sheep has a small fleece; if you get your hand full it is a heavy fleece. Rams with no horns are most desirable, if other qualities are the same, as they are not so apt to injure the ewes.—*Ed. Scribner in Boston Cultivator.*

### TOM THUMB COWS.

(DWARF COWS OF BRITANNY).—The little Bretagne cows pleased me exceedingly. Standing only about three feet high on their legs—the most fashionable height—mostly black and white; now and then, but rarely, a red and white; they are as docile as kittens, and look pretty enough to become the kitchen pet of the hard pressed mountain or hill side farmer, with the pastures too short for a grosser animal. Ten pounds of hay will suffice for their limited wants for twenty-four hours, and they would evidently fill a seven quart pail as quick and long as any other cow. Those pretty cows will often hold out in milk, so the herdman said, from fifteen to eighteen months after calving, and often begin with the first calf with six or seven quarts a day. The horn is fine, not unlike the Jerseys, but smaller and tapering off gradually, and the escutcheon or milk marks of Guenon generally very good. Good cows are held from 60 to 70 dollars a head, a fancy price of course, but I am not sure that they would not pay six per cent. on the investment as well as fancy stocks.—*Mr Flint's Report.*

### HOW TO MAKE THE FARM COMFORTABLE.

Don't be afraid to spend a few leisure moments in making things look comfortable and neat about the farm. Slipshod or slovenly management makes the boys hate farming and everything connected with it. I can assure you it will pay to make the premises look as attractive as your time and means will permit. You will enjoy it far more yourself if it is well stocked with well selected and thrifty fruit trees. Strive to have a place for everything, and keep everything in its place. I know some farmers may call it puttering work; yes, I should think it was, but it is paying work too. You hate to putter, but you like ease and comfort as well as any one. Puttering is nothing else than taking care of the small items which go to make up the big whole. Puttering, why, sir, it is the very thing that has done more to enrich the farmer than any single thing which can be enumerated. But, says the thrifty farmer, I don't

putter all the time, you must remember. Sometimes there are leisure hours and wet days, when a man can do nothing else. At this time of the year I make hooks, catches or wooden buttons, for barn or stable doors; put or repair hinges on my stable windows; batten the sides of my out-buildings; put knobs on the cows' horns to prevent them from hurting the young stock; turn over manure; gather the guano from the chicken-house, put it in barrels to keep until spring; when mixed with other ingredients it forms an excellent manure for the garden—pick over and repack the apples in the cellar—saw and pile up wood enough to last until next puttering day comes—clean out the pig-pens and put in fresh straw—look over and sort the lumber pile up in the store-room so as to know just where to find what I may want in an emergency, and if the women want anything done about the house I cheerfully do it, and do not call it lost time nor grumble because it is puttering work, either.—*N. T. C. in the Cultivator.*

### DEEP DRAINING.

The farmers in Upper Canada and in some parts of the Western States may go on very well without much draining; but in Nova Scotia it is otherwise; with our more humid atmosphere, draining is a necessity. Let us request the attention of our readers to the following, from the *Gardeners' Chronicle*—

"My companion was as determined an opponent to deep draining as any Essex man, and it was evident to me that his object in walking over the work in progress was rather to justify his prejudices than to acquire information from what he saw. The frost was not out of the ground, though the men had recommenced digging, and the surface was extremely wet from the thaw, being upheld by the frozen soil beneath;—no very good condition of things to make a convert of a disbeliever. As the clay was turned out of the trenches by the diggers, my companion exclaimed from time to time, "Do you think water can pass through clay like that? You may talk as long as you please about gravitation and water being 800 times heavier than air, and of steam cultivation destroying the symmetry of the Essex 'corduroys,' but you can't make me believe that water can pass through clay like that."

While we were thus talking we had moved to that part of the field which had been drained before the frost set in, and my friend in his eagerness to "cap" his declarations by a triumphant illustration turned to a test-hole midway between the finished drains, and pointed to the ice in the hole, which was level with the surface of the ground, as a conclusive indication of the little effect the drains had had in reducing the water which had stood level with the surface before the drains were dug. Lucky incident! I asked my friend to approach close to the frozen hole, and I broke the ice. It fell to the bottom. The water had vanished to within a few

inches of the bottom of the hole (which was 4 feet deep). No conjuror's trick was more astounding to my friend. "Come to the very edge," I exclaimed, "and tell me what has become of the water." It was my turn now, and I could not refrain from repeating "Who or what has stolen the water? You have just declared that the 4 feet drains could have no effect upon a clay like this, and as this hole stood full of water before the drains were dug and the frost covered it with ice so as to prevent evaporation—what, I again repeat, has become of the water?" My companion stared and cried, "Ah! but—ah! but—" He got no further, and I left him to reflect on this simple and conclusive answer to the question he had raised.

### Communications.

**DURHAM BULL CALF.**—Dr. C. C. Hamilton, M. P. P., has kindly furnished us with the following particulars of a bull calf owned by Mr. William Harris of Canning:—The calf weighs 750 lbs., and is now eleven months old; his girth is 5 foot 1 inch; sired by the Durham bull in Canada, the grandmother was sired by a bull imported from England. Any person wishing to purchase can have him for \$60.

**GRASS SEEDS.**—Can any one inform me where I can procure the different kinds of grass seeds? I have tried most of the seed shops in Halifax and find only Timothy and Red Top. I wanted to get Tall Oat Grass, Orchard Grass, and some others, but unless some correspondent will kindly inform me where they are to be obtained in the Province, I fear I shall have to send all the way to London and get a parcel from Peter Lawson & Son. Would it not be well for the Board of Agriculture to open a regular Store where orders could be left for implements, seeds, &c., wanted by farmers. **AGROSTIS.**

**PRODUCE AGENCY.**—In all large towns in England and elsewhere there are establishments to which a farmer can send his produce such as poultry, butter, eggs, cheese, &c., and the persons keeping such establishment undertake to get the best market price for such produce, and, having deducted a small percentage for their trouble, hand over the amount realized without delay. This saves the farmer much trouble and time. Ought not Halifax to possess an establishment of the kind? **AGROSTIS.**

**ENQUIRIES RESPECTING THE DISLEY BREED OF STEER.**—I wish to make enquiry through the columns of the *Agricultural Journal*, whether any of the

sheep known as the Dishley breed may be found in the Province, or where they may be obtained; also, the opinion of any acquainted with the breed, as to their suitability to our climate, &c. Some of the kind were imported here upwards of twenty years ago, which gave great satisfaction. I have not observed any mention made of the above sheep in any of the Agricultural Journals of late years, and know not but they may have become extinct as a breed.

Will any one oblige by answering the above.

JAMES CROSBY,  
Sec'y Fal. Ag. Soc., Hebron.

**AYRSHIRES FOR SALE NEAR HALIFAX.**—In reply to an advertisement in your paper, I would beg leave to inform you that I have for sale a *Bull Calf* 1 year and 2 months old; he is out of an imported cow, by a ditto bull, and his price is \$40. I have also a 4 year old *Heifer*, and a *yearling calf*, of the same stock, for sale. They can be seen at any time at my farm. The mother of this stock (pure Ayrshire) was imported by Sir G. LeMarchant, and was bought for £50.

[We shall be glad to send our correspondent's card to any one wishing to see the animals.—Ed.]

**PICTOU AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—GRANTS TO SOCIETIES.**—As Secretary of the Pictou Agricultural Society I have been directed by the committee to make enquiry of you respecting the provincial grant to our society. The act specifies that each society shall draw from the Treasury double the amount of the subscriptions raised by it. Our society raised \$52 last year, and the Board paid us only \$87, being less than we supposed we were entitled to. We presume there is some good cause for the withholdance of the balance, and you will confer a favour by informing me as to what it may be.

JOHN D. McDONALD,  
Sec. of Pictou A. S.

[We print the above as it is similar in terms to several other communications that have been received, and one reply will suffice for all. The law in reference to the apportionment of the provincial grant is as follows, and will serve to explain the whole matter to our correspondents:—

“When any Society shall be so organized, such Society shall be entitled to draw annually from the Treasury, by warrant in favor of its president, and on the certificate of the Secretary of the central Board, double the amount of the subscriptions so raised and paid—the payment of such subscription to be certified by the secretary of the society, but no county society shall be entitled to draw more than two hundred dollars in any one year.

“In counties where more than one agricultural society exists, the government allowance shall be given on the principle above expressed, NOT EXCEEDING FOR ANY COUNTY THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY DOLLARS in any one year; and the same shall be apportioned among such societies by the central Board in a rateable proportion to the amount of the subscriptions raised and paid by each society for the year in which such allowance shall be claimed,—no county to have more than four societies.”

The full sum of \$240 was allotted to the Societies in the county of Pictou as follows, in rateable proportion to the subscriptions raised by each, the details of which will be found in a former number of the Journal, (page 5) :—

1. Egerton Agricultural Society, \$80 00
2. Maxwellton “ “ 73 00
3. Pictou “ “ 87 00

Total sum allowed to the county  
by the Act - - - - \$240 00]

**SEED WHEAT.**—In answer to correspondent “J.M.,” for improved spring seed wheat, I can furnish him with from ten to thirty bushels of Scotch wheat, which is a very hardy wheat, and will give the best return from a light soil. Of all the kinds I ever raised it is the least liable to weevil or midge. I generally sow the larger part of my crop of this kind, say from eight to ten bushels, and generally get a return of from eight to ten bushels.

He can have what he wants for nine shillings per bushel.

ROBERT McLEAN,  
Green Hill, Pictou.

**PREMIUMS OFFERED BY THE PARRSBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—We are requested to publish the following list of Bounties and Premiums established, and resolutions passed, by the Parrsborough Agricultural Society, on the 6th December, 1864, viz:—

**BOUNTIES.**

10s. to each member who provides next year a place for saving manure and keeping it under cover, attached to his barn, sufficient to accommodate at least ten head of cattle, through the winter; payable on the first Tuesday of November 1865, on the certificate of the officer in the district where situate. On the 4th April 1866—5s. for ten bushels wheat raised in 1865; 5s. for fifty bushels Swedish turnips raised in 1865; 5s. for twenty loads compost made in 1865.

**PREMIUMS.**

Three premiums, each five dollars, four dollars, and three dollars, to members in each of the seven districts of the society, for the best apple orchards set out in the years 1865, 1866, and 1867. Such orchards to consist of at least 25 trees, and to be well secured from cattle

and sheep. All the trees to be grafted with approved cultivated fruit. The premiums to be adjudged by the officer in the district where situate, and paid on the first Tuesday of November, 1865; provided the trees are then two years old and the grafts doing well.

**Resolved**—That three bull calves be purchased this Fall in Minudie, from the improved breed of cattle there, to be sold when obtained, one in the upper, one in the lower, and one in the central district, purchasers to be required to keep them as bulls in those places until they are four years old.

**Resolved**—That the President may expend this year at his discretion, three pounds, in the purchase of boars and sows to improve the breed of our swine. By order of the committee.

JOHN T. SMITH,  
Secretary.

Parrsborough, 4th April 1865.

**IMPLEMENTS.**—Several Societies have applied for leave to purchase Agricultural Implements. The Board of Agriculture has found it necessary to refuse to sanction any appropriation of the funds of Societies for such purposes.

**Orchard and Fruit Garden.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANTING  
FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES.**

No work is more carelessly or heedlessly performed, by individuals in general, than planting trees. Few persons seem to be aware that a tree is a living object; to expect success, therefore, in transplanting them, some care must be taken in performing the operation. The following brief rules may be some guide to those who have not had any experience in setting out trees:—

I. Never plant a tree unless the ground has been previously well pulverized and broken fine. To plant trees in holes, as too many persons do, is almost fatal to their future growth.

II. Deep planting is one of the greatest errors in planting in this country, and probably more trees die from this cause than all others; if they thrive for a year or two they soon languish and die, apparently without any cause. In cold, clayey soils, this is frequently the case. Avoid, by all means, this error.—The surface roots should never be more than two inches below the soil.

III. When the trees are all ready for setting out, commence planting by taking out the earth to the depth of a foot or more, and of a width sufficient to admit all the roots easily, without bending or breaking. If the soil is naturally poor, some very old and decayed manure may be thrown into the bottom of the

holes *below* the roots; then fill in among the roots with earth, enriching it slightly with *fine* compost.

IV. Before planting, prune the large roots carefully with a sharp knife, cutting off all bruised or decayed portions, shortening such as are too long, and taking out those where too much crowded; avoid injuring or cutting off any of the small fibres.

V. The most important rule to be observed in setting out trees, and one which should never be lost sight of, is to fill in the earth firmly around and among the roots, so that *no holes* or crevices may remain; avoid, however, jerking the tree up and down—merely give it a few taps at the base, which will be quite sufficient, if the soil is not thrown in too hastily and in too large quantities at once. Fill up the hole carefully, leaving a little basin at the base of the tree. If dry weather immediately ensues, a pailful of water may be given to each tree, which, as soon as it has settled among the roots, should be lightly earthed over to prevent evaporation. Avoid, by all means, *continual watering*—more trees die from this cause than any other. Mulching, with coarse straw manure, is occasionally resorted to, especially if hot dry weather succeeds.

VI. Do not neglect the trees after they are set out—the work of cultivation has but just commenced. Keep the ground continually loose around the trees; see that no insects attack them; look after the growth of the wood; and commence with *Summer pruning* in July, when all very rapid shoots should be shortened. Stake the trees if crooked, and they will soon be straight and handsome ones. At each winter pruning cut out all unnecessary wood, and give the trees a washing with whale oil-sap. Do not plant any crop within at least six feet of the trunk of the tree.

#### DISTANCES FOR PLANTING.

STANDARDS. Apples, 25 to 30 feet apart, each way. Pears, 20 feet; Cherries, 20 feet; Plums and peaches, 15 feet.

PYRAMIDS. Pears, 8 to 10 feet apart; the former if on the Quince, the latter if on the Pear. Other trees, in pyramid form, the same distance.

DWARF APPLES may be planted 6 feet apart

CURRENTS, GOOSEBERRIES, and all other small fruits, 4 feet apart. [How can ladies hope to enjoy the pleasure of picking gooseberries if the bushes are planted only 4 feet apart? We recommend 3 feet between the rows, and six feet between the bushes in the row.—ED.]

STRAWBERRIES, in rows, 2½ feet apart, and 1 foot apart in the row.—From *Hovey's Catalogue*.

STICK IN A TREE!—The Scottish Arboreal Society has adopted as a motto the well known advice of the Scotch laird: "ye may be aye sticking in a tree; it will be growing when ye're sleeping." Our own Fruit Growers' Association might with great benefit press the same advice upon our farmers.

## Vegetable & Flower Garden.

### NEW VARIETIES OF CABBAGE AND CAULIFLOWER.

SCHWENFURTH CABBAGE.—The largest of all cabbages, very early compared with other large cabbages. The head is large and very hard, slightly flattened, stem very short; this sort is said to be of the very best quality. There is another sort described by Messrs Vilmorin, the "Chou de Milan de Norwege," which is very late and suitable for storing for winter use. It is very desirable that those sorts should have a fair trial in those parts of our Province where cabbages are extensively grown.

THE EARLY DWARF CAULIFLOWER OF ERFURT is spoken of as exceedingly early and as a small delicate sort.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW ANNUALS AND OTHER SUMMER FLOWERS SUITED TO THE GARDENS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Every season brings its novelties, and we select brief descriptions of as many of the leading ones as our space will allow on the present occasion:—

CLARKIA PULCHELLA FL. PLENO.—This elegant annual is figured in the Catalogue for the present season of Messrs Vilmorin Andreux & Co., of Paris, and appears to be a very desirable novelty, certainly a great improvement upon the single flowered clarkia pulchella which has been so long known in gardens.

We select the following from the list of novelties in the Trade Catalogue of our friends Messrs Haage & Schmidt, of Erfurt, Prussia:

MIMULUS QUINQUEVULNERUS ROBUSTUS. Beautiful novelty of very vigorous growth, about a foot in height with large leaves of a beautiful green, blotched with black. The large, handsome flowers are as strangely mottled as the hieroglyphically spotted hybrids of *M. cupreus*. It flourishes luxuriantly in the greatest summer-heat when others fade, and besides being more showy, it is a most valuable acquisition for flowering groups during summer in exposed situations.

DATURA FASTUOSA HUBERIANA. A superb variety attaining the immense size of five feet in height by as much in diameter, with nearly as large flowers as *Datura arborea*, very double, the outer part of the corolla being of fine deep lilac and inner parts almost pure white, altogether a lovely flower in shape and tint of colour. Valuable annual for groups and ornamental single plant.

DELPHINIUM CHINENSE PUMILUM. We have obtained the following new colours of this valuable acquisition sent out by us last season. It flowers very early from seed the first year and its compact dwarf habit, not above a foot in height, together with its large flowers, abundantly produced, render it a most

beautiful bedding plant, flowering from July till autumn. The intensity of the colours gives a great effect even to a far distance.

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Dark blue.  | 4. Violet. |
| 2. Azure-blue. | 5. White.  |
| 3. Porcelain.  |            |

PETUNIA HYBRIDA CORONATA. A most magnificent dwarf compact variety with beautiful, regularly formed flowers of great substance, of brilliant velvety purplish crimson with five broad pure-white stripes. A profuse-blooming variety of handsome bearing in plant and flower; will give as much satisfaction as *P. picturata* sent out last season.

PETUNIA HYBRIDA VENOSA STRIATA. Fine novel variety with large flowers, milk white with satin lustre, broadly striped with rosy pink, finely veined with lilac.

SALVIA JAPONICA. A large leaved spreading herbaceous plant, two feet in height, throwing out long spikes of dark blue flowers. The leaves exhale a powerful aromatic odour, and are of a most striking blood red colour similar to that of *Amarantus melancholicus*.

RANUNCULUS ASIATICUS SUPERBISSIMUS. This new class of Garden Ranunculus forms a most valuable acquisition. They are grown as biennials flowering freely the second year, producing unusually large double varieties of an unsurpassed brilliancy of colours of all shades in white, yellow, rose, crimson, carmine, bloodred, scarlet, purple, etc. The plants are very vigorous in growth and very profuse bloomers and have claimed universal admiration. Good, perfect seed, producing but a small percentage single-flowering plants.

ROSE ASTERS.—This new class possesses the most valuable qualities of the pyramidal section of Asters, being intermediate between the large flowered Imbrique and Peony-Perfection of Truffaut. About 2 feet in height, very robust, with large flowers double to the centre when quite open, having the outer petals finely imbricatedly arranged and of great substance. A plant in full bloom shown in the wood-cut on the front page of the list is of magnificent effect and bears itself well in rainy weather. All the varieties are of the most brilliant colours.

The following notices are selected from the *Gardener's Monthly*:—

NASTERTIUM KING OF TOM THUMBS.—This variety is by far the finest of all; the lustrous blue-green foliage, contrasting vividly with the intense scarlet of the blossoms, produces an unequalled blaze of brilliance.

NEMOPHILA MACULATA PURPUREA.—An extremely pretty variety of this well-known tribe, the old variety of which is generally considered the handsomest of its tribe; colour purple, with a dark violet blotch at the apex of each petal; altogether a very novel and desirable acquisition.

GODETIA LINDLEYANA FLORE-PLENO.—A novelty among this much admired profuse blooming class of plants. We are not aware that, previous to the variety now under notice, there has ever been seen any thing approaching to a double flower among the Godetias; its colour, like that of its parent, *G. Lindleyana*, is a rich, rosy purple; the blossoms are perfectly double, and are produced in the greatest profusion.

## Arts and Manufactures.

[Under this heading we propose to give occasional notices of manufactures and inventions adapted to the country, and shall be glad to receive such communications.]

### CHAIR-MAKING IN ENGLAND.

Chipping Wycombe, known as high Wycombe, is in the very heart of the Buckinghamshire woods. Beech, the sacred tree of the Romans, out of which the sacrificial cup was made, had come to be called the "Buckinghamshire weed." In old Fuller's time, Beech was held to be of value for timber, when no oak was to be had. As long as the Oak lasted the Beech was safe from the woodman's axe for all purposes of house-building. It was still safe when the Pine, "hewn on Norwegian hills," came to us in ship-loads; and still more safe when our North American colonies sent us their deals by millions of feet. In a happy hour the people dwelling amidst the Beech woods of the Chilterns took to chair-making, and so vigorously pursued the occupation that the Buckinghamshire weed is becoming scarce, as the Oak was becoming scarce in the 17th century. It is remarkable how suddenly manufactures are localised under favourable circumstances. Chairs were, no doubt, always made in these districts. The Windsor chair has a fame of some antiquity; but the Wycombe chair-making trade was scarcely known as something remarkable 20 or 30 years ago. The demand for these chairs has grown with the enormous increase of general population; the facilities of communication with the metropolis; the rapidly extending demand of our colonies. "When I began the trade," said a large manufacturer to me, "I loaded a cart and travelled to Luton. All there was prosperous. There was a scramble for my chairs; and when I came home I laid my receipts on my table, and said to my wife, 'You never saw so much money before.'" This manufacturer now sends his chairs to London, Liverpool, and Manchester; to Australia, New Zealand, and Constantinople. He made 8000 chairs for the Crystal Palace; and, being a person of true English humour, rejoices to tell how he took his family to a Crystal Palace musical festival, and asked the attendants where they got so many chairs of one pattern, which seemed to him one of the greatest wonders of the place. But it is not the large contract which makes the great chair-trade of Wycombe and the neighbourhood. Let us bear in mind the immense improvement in the social habits of the British people, marking the universal progress of refinement, and consider the consequent number of houses with rentals varying

from 70*l.* to 50*l.*, whose tenants require useful furniture at once cheap, lasting, and ornamental. We need not then be surprised that Wycombe boasts of making a chair a minute all the year round—chairs which would not be unsightly in the handsomest sitting-room, and which can be sold at 5*s.* each. More costly chairs are here produced, as well as the commonest rush-bottom chair of the old cottage pattern. But the light caned chair, stained to imitate Rosewood, or of the bright natural colour of the Birch, and highly polished, finds a demand throughout the kingdom—a demand which might appear fabulous to those who have not reflected upon the extent to which a thriving industrious people create a national wealth which gives an impulse to every occupation, and fills every dwelling with comforts and elegances of which our forefathers never dreamt. The wondrous cheapness of the Wycombe chair is produced by the division of labor in every manufactory; and by the competition amongst the manufacturers, in a trade where a small capital and careful organization will soon reward the humblest enterprise. "I can turn out 30 dozen chairs a day," said the worthy man who occasionally carried a few dozen in a cart to Luton market when he started in business. —*Knight's British Almanac.*

## Miscellaneous.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY.** Devoted to Horticulture, Agriculture, Botany, and Rural Affairs. Edited by Thomas Meachan. March, 1865.

Many Gardening Journals are published in the United States, but this is perhaps the most carefully edited one. The March number contains quite a variety of original articles on Garden Culture, Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Garden Apparatus, notices of publications, and descriptions of new Garden Plants. We knew Mr. Mechan as a writer in the English scientific periodicals many years ago, before he removed to America, or assumed the proprietorship of the Germantown Nurseries, and we can cordially recommend his "Monthly" as a periodical well suited to supply the wants of all who have gardens and who wish seasonable hints as to the best ways and means of cultivating them. The annual subscription is eight shillings, and Mr Thos. Leahy is agent in Halifax for the publication. The opening remarks of the present number will indicate the genial style of Mr. Mechan's writing:—

"When the first warm March day comes, who is there that does not want to do a little gardening? The most delicate woman, who

for eleven months in the year is the slave of frivolity or fashion,—the child just emerging into the dignities of 'bib and tucker,'—the hard-worked clerk, or care-worn merchant,—all, whether the tenant of a small back door yard, or with the privilege of many acres, during this month feel impelled to offer some sort of homage to the spirit of gardening. Nature will not entirely let man forget that the great business of life was originally designed to be in a garden, to dress and to keep it. To us every spring seems like the beginning of a new world,—a new creation. But still the same laws prevail,—the same rules demand attention. With the world's first birth, gardening came with it; and with its annual rejuvenation, crops out the same love of gardening that marked the most primitive times. But, alas! man is but a poor weak mortal. The natural instincts of childhood suggest right things to him; but as he advances in life, one temptation or another leads him astray, until one by one each falls away from the bountiful joys prepared for him, and attempts to feast on mere husks of swine.—How few of those who now feel the exhilarating joyousness of trowelling, digging, or raking up the soil; sowing seeds, setting flowers, planting fruits, shrubs and trees; will hold on to this true faith in nature till the serene and yellow leaf shall come again? We fear but few comparatively of those who follow these lines with us now will be with us to the last. But it shall not be our fault if they do fall away. We shall try to make our hints as instructive as we can. The prophet of gardening, it shall be ours to exhort, encourage, warn and direct our people; promising full rewards to all those who with us prove steadfast to the end."

**THE CANADA FARMER.** Published Monthly; Toronto.

One of the most effectual means of promoting agriculture in a country is the circulation of agricultural publications suited to its climate and requirements. In Canada it was early found that the English agricultural periodicals were ill adapted to the wants of the farmers, and that even the numerous American ones were in some respects wanting in suitability to the climate and circumstances of Upper Canada. For many years the "*Canadian Agriculturist*" was published by the Board of Agriculture, under the able editorship of Professor Buckland of Toronto, and was productive of much benefit. But the growing importance of the agricultural interest led to a more ambitious attempt, which we see as the result of private enterprise, in the publication now noticed. Mr. Brown, distinguished not only as an able statesman, but endowed likewise with a rare amount of business sagacity, perceived that the time had arrived when the agriculturists of Canada, could and would support a first class monthly journal, devoted to the advancement of agriculture. The "*Canada Farmer*" was organized, an able staff of contributors selected, and a superior class of wood engravings provided. It is very gratifying to know that the experi-



ment has proved so completely successful.

The "Canada Farmer" is published monthly, each number containing 16 quarto pages, replete with instructive and interesting matter illustrated so fully as to render the work intelligible and attractive to all who have any interest in, or love for, rural affairs.—In another column of our present number will be found an able and judicious article on the Calving of Cows, which we have selected from the "Canada Farmer," as a sample of the original matter which it contains. The annual subscription is two dollars; Mr. Butchart has been in Nova Scotia for some time receiving subscribers' names, and we are happy to hear that he has been successful.

*Record of Temperatures observed at Sackville, N. S., during the severe weather of the past winter.*

1864.		1865.	
9 a.m.	1 p.m.	9 a.m.	1 p.m.
Dec. 17,	23°	Jan. 1,	39° 34°
" 18,	30° 27°	" 2,	10° 14°
" 19,	14° 20°	" 3,	20° 22°
" 21,	6° 16°	" 4,	22° 38°
" 22,	32° 32°	" 6,	30° 32°
" 23,	0-3 0-4	" 7,	45° 46°
" 24,	0° 16°	" 8,	4° 8°
" 25,	15° 26°	" 9,	24° 38°
" 26,	73° 40°	" 10,	39° 42°
" 27,	40° 44°	" 11,	36° 30°
" 28,	39° 44°	" 12,	14° 18°
" 29,	42° 50°	" 13,	30° 32°
" 30,	35° 32°	" 14,	38° 39°
" 31,	34° 34°		

J. W. L.

**DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.**

(Selected from various sources.)

**THIRD SERIES.**

**EELS, FRESH.**—Skin and cut them into lengths of four to five inches; fry gently for seven to ten minutes; have some parsley chopped fine, which mix with some butter, and put a little in each piece, and serve very hot. They may also be egged and bread crammed, or with plain sauce.

**CINNAMON WAFERS.**—1 lb of sugar, 1-4 lb. butter, three eggs, 1-2 teaspoonful of soda, 1 tablespoonful of cinnamon, and flour enough to roll out; to be made the same as ginger snaps.

**GOOD BISCUIT.**—Two teaspoonfuls cream tartar, one of soda, half do. of salt, rubbed fine, and well mixed with one quart of flour. Rub in a piece of butter the size of an egg, mix up soft with thick scum milk or butter-milk, and bake quickly.

**BEEF STEAK, WITH SEMI-FRIED POTATOES.**—Rub and semify your steak, adding thin slices of potatoes, letting them lie in the pan while the steak is doing; turn them as often as you do the steak, serve round with gravy, to make which pour half a gill of water in the pan under the steak, the moisture of the potatoes will cause some of the gravy to come out of the meat but it will be found very good.

**A FRIED TOAD IN THE HOLE.**—Take a steak of the size required, and partly fry on both sides; have ready a pint of butter; remove the steak for a minute, add more fat in the pan, put in the batter when it is beginning to become as thick as paste, place the steak in the middle, raise the frying pan a sufficient height from the fire, so as to cook gently; turn it over; or put the pan in the oven; when well set it is done; serve on a dish the bottom uppermost.

**CARE FOR DESSERT.**—Mix 4 eggs, 2 qts. sweet milk, 1 teaspoonful salt, 1-2 teaspoonful of soda, and 3 teaspoonfuls of flour. Spread it thin in tins and bake 15 or 20 minutes. To be eaten with butter and sugar.

**MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS.**

**A LARGE HERB.**—Colonel Playfair, British Residency, Zanzibar, recently sent to the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, the fruit of a palm called "Moallie," found in the Pangani River, East Coast of Africa. It has no arborescent stem. The leaves spring out of the ground, and are of immense length. The leaf-stalks make rattles upwards of 30 feet in length. The fruit is produced in clusters in more than 100.

**NEW WATER LILY.**—Mrs. Bain, Hillside, Montrose, sent to the same garden, specimens of a small flowered and leaved variety of the white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*). She states that it occurs in the greatest profusion in Lochalsh, the waters being entirely covered with it. It is exceedingly beautiful and delicate, and quite different from the normal form. It should be carefully compared with the small North American form of *N. odorata*.

**CALIFORNIA PEARS.**—Mr. Kerr exhibited recently to the Botanical Society a photograph of a cluster of 50 pears on a branch 8 inches long, and weighing 19lb. The pears were raised in Briggs' Orchard, Marysville, California.

**FLAX CULTURE IN IRELAND.**—At a recent meeting in Dublin in honor of the appointment of Lord Wolchouse as Viceroy, his Lordship stated that flax culture was proceeding with giant strides. In 1857, there were 100,000 acres of flax—in 1864, 300,000. The soils and climate of Nova Scotia are as suitable for flax as those of Ireland.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

Communications for the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE are to be addressed (pre-paid) to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Prof. Lawson, Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S. Communications must be in the Editor's hands not later than the 15th of the month, if intended for the ensuing number.

D. MATHESON, Pictou.—Your request will be attended to.

**ADVERTISEMENTS!**

**FOR SALE!**

**COTSWOLD SHEEP**  
and **BERKSHIRE PIGS.**

H. E. DECIE, Bellisle Farm.

Bridgetown, An. Co., May, 1865.

**1865. FRESH SEEDS. 1865.**

(Received per Steamer *Canada* from England.)  
A New Supply of **GARDEN SEEDS**;—  
comprising all the most approved early sorts.

—ALSO!—

A Good Assortment of **FLOWER SEEDS** from the same source as those which last year gave entire satisfaction. Catalogues will shortly be ready and may be had on application to  
G. E. MORTON, & Co.  
Zina.

Halifax, April, 1865.

N. B.—Removed from Granville Street to No. 185 Hollis Street, next the UNION BANK.

**SEEDS! FRESH SEEDS!**

**AVERY, BROWN & Co.,**

Have Received by the Steamer *Africa*,—

22 Sacks, 1 Cask, and 4 Cases of

**GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS.**

2 Hampers **POTATO ONIONS** and **SHALLOTS.**

These Seeds comprise 800lbs of Swedish and other Turnips, as well as every approved kind and variety of Vegetable and Flower Seeds, which are warranted of the best quality.

—ALSO!—

**AMERICAN** and **WHITE DUTCH CLOVER** and **TIMOTHY.** All of which they offer wholesale at the lowest market prices.

Agri-cultural Societies supplied on the most favorable terms.

Halifax, April, 1865.

**FOR SALE!**

A **HORSE POWER** for Two Horses, with **THRASHING MACHINE, CIRCULAR SAW TABLE, and Mill for Cracking Corn.**

—ALSO!—

Some Good **SEED BARLEY!**

Apply to **S. TUPPER, Jr.,**  
Bedford Row.

Halifax, April, 1865.

**FOR SALE.**

A thorough bred **Durham Bull,** Three years old in May next. From the purest strain in England.

Apply to

**LEWIS W. HILL,**  
Falmouth.

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