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HALIFAX, 17th May, 1870.

We have this year had a remarkable springtime. The April suns and showers came, with no frost to be taken out of the ground; Mayflowers grew scarce during the first week of May, and farmers who were not idle had all their seed sown in very good time. In the middle of May, the thermometer was ranging throughout the day at about 64°, gardeners who trusted to the usual fogs and clouds of Nova Scotian skies had cucumbers and frame stuff burnt up,—yet the fruit trees and bushes fortunately do not burst forth very much before their time, and we trust that they will this season escape the accident of an early frost.

For the article on Hemp in this number, we are indebted to the kindness of Henry Yeomans, Esq., a practical agriculturist and Vice President of the Board of Agriculture, who is well known to most of our readers on account of the active interest which he has taken in Agricultural improvement in Nova Scotia for many years.

The Bunch Grass article we commend to the attention of our readers. We have a letter on the subject from Professor Balfour, of Edinburgh, which will appear next month.

A lady writes to us on the subject of skimming cream for butter. We print the note, and beg of some of our experienced correspondents in the butter County of Cumberland, or elsewhere, to afford the desired information.

We desire in an especial manner to bespeak the attention of our readers to the articles now being published in our columns over the initials J. W. L. If we were at liberty to announce that they were from the accomplished pen of Colonel J. W. Laurie of Oakfield, we know that they would be carefully read and seriously thought over by our farmers, as the suggestions and advice of one of their best and most respected friends, and one who knows well how to compare English with Nova Scotian farming, and who is zealously doing his part to show our farmers what is needed to raise their profession

from the grovelling pursuit which it has so long remained. Let us all recollect that while the pen may be greater than the sword, the ploughshare is not less useful than either.

“Salt for Swine” and “Tan for Potatoes.” are practical suggestions, easily tried. Let some of our readers report their experience.

“A Haligonian” sends us another paper on English Horticulture. The author himself is expected back to the Horticultural Gardens this Fall. We have such good accounts of his doings in Scotland that his friends here will be delighted to see him back again, and many good wishes attend him.

Mr. Bustin’s description of the new varieties of Potatoes will be read with much interest at the present time.

Mr. Thomas has sent to us splendid roots of Saintfoin, about 3 feet long and with bushy heads of young shoots far in advance of Red or Alaike clover. He has succeeded admirably in Saintfoin Culture.

A notice of recent proceedings of the Yarmouth County Society is crowded out of our present number.

### AGRICULTURAL LIFE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

There is at present more agricultural life in New Brunswick than has been evinced for many years back. The New Brunswickers seem to have been aroused to a generous rivalry by the recent efforts of our Nova Scotian Agricultural Board, and the action of the New Brunswick authorities is of so earnest and substantial a character that much permanent good must be the result. We rejoice to see the healthy spirit of improvement which is being manifested by our neighbours, as shown by recent numbers of the *Colonial Farmer*, and trust that the example will not be lost in beneficial influence upon our Nova Scotian farmers. The Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick have again discussed the question of a Stock Farm, and have laid it over, to make way for an importation of stock. The Executive Government have passed a Minute of Council agreeing to advise His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to advance to the Board \$4000, which, together with \$1000 in hands of the Board, \$3000 in Commercial Bank and \$2000 from Societies, is to be used for the Importation of Stock. By the judicious expenditure of \$10,000 an importation ought to be made that shall prove a credit to the Province, and place the New Brunswick farmers in a very favorable position for the permanent raising of thorough-bred stock themselves, instead of being dependent in the future upon foreign importations.

The New Brunswick Board has likewise passed a Resolution forbidding the purchase by Agricultural Societies, of animals that have not pedigrees in the English, American or Canadian Herd Books.

It has also been resolved to supplement the Secretary's Annual Report with original articles by individual Members of the Board. A special subject for treatment has been dealt out to each Member, as follows:—

- "1. On General Farm Improvement. Mr. Fairweather.
- "2. On Different Breeds of Thorough-bred Stock.—Mr. M'Monagle.
- "3. On Best Methods of applying Barn Yard Manure.—Mr. Peters.
- "4. On the Manufacture and Composting of Manure.—Mr. Beckwith.
- "5. Best System of Drainage.—Mr. Davidson.
- "6. Best and most Economical System of Root Culture.—Mr. Russell.
- "7. Can Artificial Manures be used to advantage?—Mr. Harrison.

"8. Breeds of Sheep best adapted to New Brunswick.—Mr. Barker.

"9. On the Cultivation of Fruit.—Mr. Inches.

"10. Will it pay to raise Wheat in New Brunswick?—Mr. Swim."

A great Agricultural Exhibition is to be held at Fredericton this Fall, and the increased railway facilities will give our farmers an opportunity of attending it and comparing notes.

### ON WEIGHING OATS.

Two modes of filling the measure are in use in the trade; both, however, give nearly similar results. 1st. The measure must be placed firm, so that it will not move or even shake, when the Oats are poured in. A large scoop holding a good half bushel must then be taken; and from it the Oats must be poured in quickly, and then, the scoop being immediately refilled, the remainder must be poured in quickly, and the "strike" applied at once. The success of the operation depends on the measure being placed on a firm basis and filled quickly. The Oats then have not time to run together and consolidate, the measure in consequence holds the least possible quantity. If the measure is shaky, or if through clumsiness or intentionally the scoop is allowed to knock against or even to lean on the measure, the result will be that it will hold considerably more grain than it ought. A similar result will follow if a small scoop is used. The time taken to fill the measure will allow the grains to settle and consolidate; and again each successive scoopful, as it is poured in, will cause the grain below to consolidate. Or 2d, the measure being placed on a firm basis, the Oats may be run rapidly into it from a sack. Care must be taken that the sack does not touch the measure. There is a great deal of knack in getting the Oats to run out freely. The mouth of the sack must be opened wide, and the sides should be well turned down, so that no interruption may occur in filling the measure. Either of these modes will give the fair weight of the Oats. The strike used in the trade is rounded. It takes out rather more Oats than a flat strike, and it should therefore always be used. The following are the results of some other modes of filling a bushel with Oats, the trade weight of which, as given by either of the above modes of filling, was 37 lb. Filled from a shovel held at the hip, the grains being allowed to flow or trickle in slowly, the measure held 40½ lb.; or in other words the sample was made to appear to weigh 40½ lb. instead of 37 lb.; the true weight. Here both the height from which the grains fell and the slowness of the operation combined together in causing consolidation. Filled by placing the mouth of the sack on the rim of the measure and

allowing the Oats to run in, the measure held 37½ lb., when the operation was neatly and quickly managed; but when it was clumsily performed and the measure was shaken and moved by the pressure of the sack, it held nearly 39 lb. Filled by pushing the measure into the heap and turning it up, and filling up the deficiency with the scoop, the measure held 38 lb. Filled quickly from a small scoop the measure held 38 lb. Filled slowly from the same scoop it held 38½ lb. Different samples no doubt will give somewhat varying results, according to the greater or less tendency which they may possess for consolidating; but from these details the intending purchaser will readily see, that in order to get the article he contracts and pays for it is necessary that he should know how to measure a bushel. In addition, however, to knowing how to do it, there is a good deal of knack and practice required to fill the bushel properly; and the reader, if he tries the above experiments for himself, will probably at first fail to get the true weight.—*Horses and Stables.*

### CULTURE AND PREPARATION OF HEMP.

*From the Albany "Cultivator," March, 1851.*

The many purposes in life to which the products of the hemp plant may be made subservient, constitute it one of the most useful of cultivated vegetables, not to say an article of prime necessity. Hemp, however, is a plant the cultivation of which is not considered difficult in any moderately fertile soil, provided the grower govern his practice by a few plain maxims.

The best condition of the ground for the reception of a hemp crop, is that pulverization of the soil, and that smoothing of the surface by ploughing and harrowing, which the grass or wheat farmer would esteem most suitable for either of these crops. The quantity of seed applied varies in practice from one and a half to two or more bushels per acre,—an excess over the right quantity being considered safer than a short-coming, inasmuch as when too thick, the stouter plants will take the lead and overtop the others, which are thus smothered and killed. The time of sowing varies in Kentucky, ranging from the middle of April to the last of May. Each individual must be governed in practice somewhat by his discretion, forming his judgment upon the condition of soil, advance of the season, or the extent of his crop, which, if large enough to require more than two weeks in the harvesting, would make it proper to have alternate sowings, lest a part of the crop be injured by becoming over ripe,—the male plants dying and spotting. The hemp plant disregards any moderate frost, and is

therefore seldom injured from that cause in early sowing—the only striking difference between early and late sown crops is that the chilly temperature of spring produces a low plant, with thick, rough bark, whilst in the rapidly growing temperature of summer, the late crop shoots up to a greater height with a thinner and softer bark. In good crops the yield in either case will be about the same, the time of ripening varying not more than one week even though the difference in sowing may have equalled six weeks.

One maxim which experience rigidly requires the hemp grower to observe, is, *never to commit his seed to land not in "good heart,"* a phrase which implies not only moderate fertility, but also a presence in the soil and an incorporation with it, at the time of sowing, of a fair proportion of vegetable matter, in order to ensure a proper degree of friability—a condition without which no tap-rooted plant can thrive. A neglect of this maxim is the most pregnant source of disappointment known in the history of Hemp Culture, and is generally followed by one or the other of two diseases, or rather casualties to the young crop, that is to say by "baking" or "firing," either of which maladies generally has power to arrest entirely the growth of the plant, or to hold it in check until surface grasses and weeds overpower the crop. It may therefore be well to consider in detail the nature and symptoms of both "baking" and "firing." The first results from a want of vegetable matter in the soil cultivated, as will readily be seen by attending to the symptoms. The vegetable mould or humus of a soil, is but carbonaceous matter accumulated by slow combustion for centuries, which, although but slightly soluble in water at any one time, is continually washing away under the action of the laws of decomposition, being reconverted into its original gases, to fly off in air, or to be reabsorbed by plants. Any soil may, therefore, by washing rains, bad tillage, and hard cropping, be deprived of most of its vegetable mould; and such a soil may, after having been pulverised to the depth of six or ten inches, receive on its bosom the seeds of a hemp crop. Such a soil, so prepared, may moreover, yield a fair crop, provided the rains of the season fall in light showers, and with great frequency, but such a succession of favorable circumstances seldom happens; and a far more usual occurrence is the coming of a heavy rain, during which the mass of loose earth becomes saturated, and the moment after water begins to accumulate on the hard clay below, rising up towards the surface. If, then, the pulverised soil is defective in insoluble vegetable matter, well incorporated with the whole mass, to act as a sort of frame work in keeping asunder the particles of clay, the whole

soon runs together in a state of solidity, whilst the water rising above it, carries in solution carbonates and other salts, and lighter particles, which as the water subsides, leaves a marl-like coating upon the embedded clay, rendering it impervious to water or air in a very high degree. This is called "baking," and those who have sometimes experienced its effects, in their anxiety to avoid it, not unfrequently pass into the opposite extreme, which is "firing" the plants, by attempting to grow the hemp crop with too much vegetable matter present in the soil, or with vegetable matter not in a condition to nourish and sustain vegetable life.

The symptoms above ground, indicating the presence of this malady, are a suspension of growth, a loss of color and vigor in the plants, and a parching up of the margin of the lower leaves; below ground the plants will be found to have only a tap-root the lower part of which is sometimes decayed, whilst in other cases, sections of the root will be found perfectly rotten, with sound portions above and below such section, while at the same time the vegetable matter under the surface will generally be covered with a white mould. To avoid a catastrophe so pregnant with mischief, the farmer should know the nature of the disease in order to be qualified to judge of the fitness of any means of escape. I incline to adopt the theory of Liebig on this subject, which is at least, very plausible, if not true. He thinks that in such a case, the covered vegetable matter is undergoing putrefaction, a state of decay in which it not only is unfit to feed vegetables, but has power to rob all bodies in contiguity, of oxygen, in order to carry on this decay, thus even destroying or "firing" the roots of living plants. What renders his theory more plausible is, that a habit of early ploughing, which allows such matter full time to decay into a brittle mass will generally overcome this danger. By a parity of reasoning—if this fall ploughing shall have been neglected—the better practice in such a soil would be to cross-plough occasionally in the course of the hemp-sowing period, not committing the seed until the latest allowable moment.

The seed being good, the ground well prepared, and the crop having passed the dangers of "baking" and "firing,"—that is, having attained a height of six to ten inches, scarcely anything but a hail-storm can disappoint the grower's hopes of a crop, the harvesting of which will be his next concern. This operation consists in cutting, curing, binding and stacking the crop,—all, if possible, without rain; for it will be found that the lint, by every process of preparation, is better when the plants are not allowed to grow dark by exposure to rain, dews and hot sun; whilst for complete success in the white or in the water rot, a fair staple is indis-

pensable. Cutting is generally performed by hand, using a straight knife of fine steel, some fifteen inches long which in operating should dip with the horizon at about the same angle as a mower's scythe. The handle attached is about two feet long, making with the edge of the knife an angle of about 100 degrees. In about four days after the cutting, the plants, in fair weather, are gathered and tied into bundles, and if possible on the same day put into stacks containing the yield of two acres each, of a fair crop. Keep all the branches—cutting, binding, and stacking—as near together as curing or drying the plants will allow. This practice guards against the loss of labor and injury to the crop sometimes experienced when the plants are bound into bundles, and left standing over the field in small shocks. Hemp thus left in shocks, sometimes get so wet as to require being spread again upon the field before stacking. It is the work of one active man to cut, bind and stack one acre in five days.

(To be continued.)

#### THE BUNCH GRASS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (*ELYMUS CONDENSATUS*, PRESL).

Some time since we pointed out the difference between this and several other grasses of Western North America, to which the name of Bunch Grass has been applied, accompanied with quotations, descriptive of its appearance and feeding qualities, from the writings of several who were thoroughly acquainted with its native growth and usefulness; prominent among whom was Colonel Moodie, R.E., who introduced the Tus-ac Grass from the Falkland Islands, and by whose assistance our much-valued correspondent, Mr. Robert Brown, who was then collector for the British Columbian Botanical Association of Edinburgh, was enabled, in 1863, to send home a supply of its seeds, and thus first introduced it to Britain. To most of the members of this Association grass seeds, however, presented little or no attraction; and, with the exception of what fell to the shares of the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens and I. Anderson Henry, Esq., of Woodend, together with a few plants in our own collection, the Bunch Grass of British Columbia was so utterly neglected that it might have been lost to the country, notwithstanding that its merits, both as an early forage and an abundantly productive hay grass, are likely yet to secure for it a highly prominent place among the cultivated agricultural plants of Britain. With us the *Elymus condensatus* has gone on increasing annually in stature; and although grown in the past dry-summer on rather poor unmanured soil, a plant was 8 ft. 3 in. in height. Of this, several seed-

bearing as well as leafy stems were exhibited in the collection of Mr. R. T. Mackintosh, at the last July Show of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland; and others were shown by its introducer, Mr. Robert Brown, at the meeting of the Largo Field Naturalists' Society which was held last August at Elie, in Fife. This plant presented a thick, tender, leafy growth, of about 3 ft. in height in the last week of April, when it decidedly surpassed, in bulk of crop, the grass then growing in the neighbouring famed sewage-irrigated meadows of Edinburgh. So that, as a highly productive, early cutting grass, it ranks far before any other known kind. A plentiful crop of ripe seeds was reaped from the fertile stems in the first week of September, by which time several of a thick intermingled growth of leafy or barren stems had attained to about the same height as the seed bearing ones, while the others of these were of various intermediate heights. All the stems, as well as foliage, changed from a greenish to a brown withered-like colour by the second week of November.

The following analyses of both the seed-bearing and leafy stems have been made by Professor Anderson, analytical chemist, for the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, who stated in an accompanying note:—

"I enclose analyses of the two samples of Bunch Grass. They have not so high a nutritive value as good ordinary hay, which contains twice as much nitrogenous matter and rather more oil.

	Leaf-bearing stalks.	Seed-bearing stalks.
Water.....	14.84	18.29
Oil.....	1.71	1.36
Albuminous compounds....	4.44	3.62
Mucilage, gum, &c....	48.21	41.92
Fibre.....	26.61	30.65
Ash.....	4.19	4.15
	100.00	100.00
Nitrogen.....	.71	.58
The ash contains—		
Phosphates.....	.29	.15
Phosphoric acid combined with alkalis.....	.91	.19
Sand.....	2.15	1.85

I am, yours truly,  
THOMAS ANDERSON."

Although the above analyses do not show so high a nutritive value as that of good ordinary hay, this must not be deemed deprecatory of this Bunch Grass, seeing that both samples were cut in October, fully a month after the seeds were ripened; whereas grasses generally contain most nutriment when cut immediately after flowering.

In cultivating the British Columbian Bunch Grass, we would recommend sowing it in drills or beds, allowing it to grow there for at least one season, and then transplanting it in well-cleaned and drained land, at distances of 12 to 15 inches apart. The seedlings make but little growth, and never run to seed in the first season. Hooping or weeding will

therefore be requisite throughout the first summer and autumn after transplantation; but afterwards the plants will be sufficiently strong to overpower most kinds of weeds. And they will seemingly grow on in full vigour for a long series of years.

Subsequent to our fore-mentioned notice of this Bunch Grass, we have received the following particulars regarding it in its native habitats. In a paper on the Flora of Alaska—formerly known as Russian-America—which appeared in the *Smithsonian Report* for 1867, the writer, Dr Rothrock, states that the high grounds in the vicinity of Fort St. James (lat 54° 1' N.) afford the Bunch Grass (*Elymus*) of the packers. So nutritious is this, that, even when apparently dead and dry, stock will become fat on it, and remain so under hard work for long periods, if this be plentifully supplied. In a recent Californian newspaper, a correspondent mentions that in the vicinity of Boise Basin, in Idaho Territory, "the Blue-top Bunch Grass" covers the hills, and is as good as hay, some even approaching, in its nutritive qualities, to grain. There may, however, be some doubts whether one of the other Bunch Grasses formerly referred to, and not the *Elymus condensatus*, may be that here noticed. But the most recent reliable and important information regarding it is contained in the following letter to Mr. Robert Brown, of the British Columbian Botanical Expedition, from a friend who lived for many years in the Bunch Grass country:—

"LYNEAL, ELLESMERE, }  
9th Sept., 1869. }

"Dear Sir,—You ask my opinion of the Bunch Grass of the central plateau or table-lands of British Columbia—*Elymus condensatus*, as I believe you botanists call it. After a five years' experience of that country, I can bear testimony to the nutritious and fattening properties of this grass, far surpassing, I believe, those of any other known herb. A few facts will abundantly illustrate this.

"In the early years of the colony, before oats or barley had been imported, this Bunch Grass was the only (as it is still the principal) food of the trains of mules and horses which, heavily laden with provisions and goods, followed the gold diggers into the mines, over the roughest possible trails: I have ridden hundreds of miles on horses whose sole support was this Bunch Grass. Turned loose at sunset, when the camping-ground was reached, to feed, they were found next morning as fresh and gay as ever. Indeed, on such a journey, if not ridden too hard, they would rather gain flesh than lose it.

"In my *Essay on British Columbia*, page 40, I have spoken of the marvellous increase of stock in that part of the

country, an increase, owing, I believe, mainly to the amount of vital energy imparted by this herb.

"Then, as you are aware, the droves of cattle which supplied beef to the mines of Cariboo, had been driven 600 miles from Oregon, yet they were in excellent condition on their arrival, owing to the excellent pasturage, which refreshed them each night after the journey of the day.

"Finally, both horses and cattle used to survive winters of great severity; so long as there was not too much snow for them to paw aside, they could subsist on what tufts of Bunch Grass they could reach. It must have been hard times for them, but they managed to survive.

"I am rejoiced to hear that the experiment of trying this grass near Edinburgh has succeeded so admirably; and I trust agriculturists may be induced to try it on a larger scale, as I am convinced farmers and cattle-breeders would soon learn to appreciate its muscle-making and fattening properties—Believe me, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

R. C. LUNDIN BROWN,  
Vicar of Lyneal, Salop."

A very distinct variety has been raised in the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens, which may be named *Elymus condensatus compactus*, from its spikes or ears being much shorter and broader than those of the original form; bearing, in fact, the same relation to the latter that the ears of the *Triticum compactum*, or Ducks-bill wheat, does to those of the common beardless wheats.—*The Farmer*.

Communications.

STOCK—RAISING AND FEEDING.

SIR,—It is with all modesty that I bring my own experiences before the public through your *Journal*,—for I have only farmed for very few years—still I have in that time gone through every phase of farming, commencing with regular bush work, so that I cannot be said to speak of what I know nothing—besides which, I wish to provoke outspokening in my brother farmers.

It strikes me that we farmers do not study our farms sufficiently in what we produce on them; we do not consider their capacity and locality as much as we should do. In England, and I believe elsewhere, certain districts breed stock—others purchase the animals when nearly full grown, and fatten them for the butcher. Here the main boast of every farmer is that he winters so many head of cattle, young stock, cows and beef oxen. Should we not be wiser to follow the home custom? Surely our rich farming districts

like Windsor, Cornwallis, Truro, &c., would act more wisely in purchasing and fattening stock raised where hay is cheaper and less marketable. Let them even sell more hay and purchase grain or oil cake with the proceeds—and with the improved manure they would thereby obtain—a less quantity would raise better root crops than they now harvest.

Supposing the farmer has, however, settled in his own mind that stock-raising is his line, he should then decide whether heifers or steers will pay him best. I am convinced that he can obtain which ever sex he wishes. I quote from the *Cultivator* of Sept. 1851, a statement made by the Count de Tournay, a distinguished French gentleman and farmer, in regard to the breeding of cattle. He mentions the method by which the breeder can at pleasure produce bull or heifer calves. He continues, if the cow is milked clean when she receives the bull, the produce will be a bull calf; but if she takes the bull with a full udder, the produce will be a heifer calf. He named a farmer in France who put seven cows milked dry, and the produce was five bull calves—two other cows not producing any calf; and in several other instances under his observation the result had uniformly been the same.

I may add as my experience, that, for the last three years, it has been my stockman's invariable custom to put my cows to bull immediately after his breakfast, he having but half-an-hour before finished the milking. I have had a steady run of bull calves—in fact I may say that since that has been his custom, I have not had a heifer calf from a cow so served, and for which, until now, I was quite unable to account. My experience, therefore, strongly corroborates the above extract, and I make no doubt that your readers can, from their habit of cooking facts, confirm or contradict the theory so started. As to the breed of cattle, I should unhesitatingly say that the Durham (grade, as the pure is a scarce and costly article) is the most suitable stock for this country. We raise butter, it is true, for our home consumption, but it is mainly by beef that our farmers live. I have tried pure Alderneys and Durham with crosses of each, and of the Devon. I find that in summer, in bush pastures, the Durham and grades ferged well for food and thrive well—whilst the Alderney seemed afraid to go out of the beaten track—literally, I may say, waiting for their food to be brought to them; and in winter, let my food be rich or poor, the Durham have invariably been the thriftiest cattle in the barn,—they seem, too, to continue growing during the winter whilst the Alderney's, even in my warm stables, are drawn up (ail of a heap) in very cold weather. As milkers, the quantity is about the same; that of the Alderney is

a brighter color, but I do not think the yield of butter is greater. In the dairy the pans in which the Alderney milk is set show out brilliantly from the others, the difference being as that between a sovereign and a shilling. Visitors at the Provincial Exhibition of 1868 will recollect the bright golden-colored butter that took first prize—it was made from Alderney milk; onlookers constantly remarked that it must be colored. The general experience, however, is that butter made from Alderney milk alone, beautiful as it looks when fresh, is so rich that when kept any time it turns rancid and becomes unfit for use. I find, by keeping one Alderney to every three other cows, that I improve the color and taste of my butter, and yet do not risk its keeping properties. Not wishing to trespass too much on your columns,

I remain, obediently yours,  
May 4, 1870. J. W. L.

#### SALT FOR SWINE.

While all other domestic animals are regularly supplied with salt, the hog is generally neglected. He requires, however, to be as constantly supplied as the ox, the horse, or the sheep, and suffers as much from privation as either of the above named animals do. His food is almost invariably given to him in a fresh and unseasoned state, and to this fact we may doubtless attribute many of the violent and fatal diseases to which he is subject, and which stagger all remedies, however promptly and skilfully administered. If the food be not regularly seasoned, there should be a trough or box in every sty, in which salt may be deposited regularly for the use of the animals. Seasoning the food judiciously would be much the best way. As seasoning the food of the hog is mentioned above let it be understood that salt only is here alluded to, for if any person should try seasoning with pepper they will make a great mistake; for as much pepper as will suffice for a man's dinner will kill a hog.

"N. E. F."

#### TAN FOR POTATOES.

A farmer of Troyes, having remarked that while the cholera was raging in that town, some years ago, the inhabitants of every house in the neighbourhood of tan-yards escaped the disease, turned his observation to profit as to the cultivation of the potato. Previous to planting his potatoes he takes a shovelful of tan, which he throws into the hole. An entire field thus manured with tan produced a magnificent crop, whilst an adjoining tract of land, which had not undergone this preparation, had only yielded diseased roots.

It appeared that potatoes, after being dug, and placed in a cellar containing tan, were equally preserved from disease.

"N. E. F."

DALKEITH, April, 1870.

After "rather a cauld winter," it must have been refreshing to the citizens of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, to have the "spring season" opened by a flower show. Notwithstanding that winter inclined to linger in the lap of spring, all the shows were a decided success, whether we take quantity or quality as our standard. The only drawback on former shows were the Hyacinths, and they were poor every where. Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Miss Jonette, Roses, &c., have been up to the mark, and in some cases have excelled former efforts. But the things that have excited most attention were the Cyclamens, plants that have hitherto dragged out a miserable existence in some out of the way corner of the greenhouse in the winter and spring months, and during the summer exposed to all the elements. Some cultivators have taken it in hand, and by careful hybridising and good cutting, have made it a charming plant to decorate the greenhouse from November to March. The cultivation is quite simple, by sowing the seed, keeping them growing, they may be flowered in twelve months from date of sowing. I know of few plants to equal them, either for decoration or cut flowers, the foliage of the new varieties being very ornamental. It was very amusing to stand by a group of the plants in question and hear the adjectives and adverbs that were used in their praise, the ladies being particularly demonstrative, and they are allowed to be good judges; seldom will you find them at fault in matter requiring taste and selection, and their patronage and support is freely given to shows here; in fact no show would be complete without their fair countenances to adorn and grace the scene. I have also seen the "Fair Daughters of Acadia" turn out well to the shows that have now become obsolete in Nova Scotia. I trust the good folks of lovely Truro will read the Horticulturists of the Province a lesson, and offer prizes for subjects pertaining to Horticulture at their projected show. A County show is a move in the right direction, provided it will be open to all comers and if arrangements could be made to hold the shows in different Counties by rotation, much good might be effected. This is the plan adopted by several societies here, and it works admirably. I trust the different County Boards will see their way clear to give it a trial, let them pull together, and I have no doubt that lovers of Agriculture and Horticulture and all their attendant branches, will lend a helping hand.

A HALIGONIAN.



THE NUMBER OF CATTLE, SHEEP, &c., SOLD OUT OF ANTIGONISH COUNTY DURING THE YEAR 1869.

RESIDENCE.	DEALERS.	Oxen & Steers.		Cows.		HEIFERS.		SHEEP.		PIGS.		Total.
		No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	
Antigonish .....	G. Henry,	432	\$16860	196	\$2505	180	\$2810	237	\$400	.....	.....	\$22575
Do. ....	G. W. Whidden,	2	44	10	170	18	216	20	40	2	32	502
Do. ....	W. Randall,	.....	.....	12	150	5	23	200	400	.....	.....	570
South River.....	W. A. J. McDonald,	150	2403	50	600	30	240	.....	.....	.....	.....	3243
Do. ....	A. McDonnell,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. ....	A. McFarlane,	26	624	9	180	18	156	220	440	.....	.....	1400
St. Andrew's,.....	J. McMillan,	89	1780	32	512	41	410	70	140	.....	.....	2842
Addington.....	A. Cameron,	40	720	20	400	25	325	.....	.....	.....	.....	1445
Do. ....	R. Chisholm,	45	720	20	320	26	260	200	400	.....	.....	1700
Do. ....	D. McDonald,	18	432	12	248	16	208	158	395	.....	.....	1283
Cape George.....	D. McMillan,	20	520	10	180	6	72	.....	.....	.....	.....	772
Do. ....	D. McDonald,	3	44	7	98	8	80	78	183	.....	.....	405
Do. ....	C. Grant,	10	300	15	180	20	220	10	25	.....	.....	725
Do. ....	J. McInnes,	10	119	7	114	10	111	50	100	.....	.....	444
Do. ....	D. McInnes,	4	80	6	120	.....	.....	80	90	.....	.....	290
Do. ....	Robert McDonald,	4	120	10	180	21	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	600
Pinkey Town.....	J. McLaren,	11	200	7	112	15	182	60	82	.....	.....	576
Do. ....	J. McDonald,	2	40	3	48	4	48	.....	.....	.....	.....	136
Malign Cove.....	P. Ross,	12	200	7	113	14	152	75	185	.....	.....	650
Do. ....	C. McLaren,	20	360	20	400	15	240	40	160	.....	.....	1160
Do. ....	A. McDonald,	2	26	3	70	7	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	181
Pomket Fork.....	A. McDonald,	16	352	12	252	24	336	100	200	.....	.....	1140
Morristown.....	A. Cameron,	2	20	4	60	8	80	165	363	.....	.....	523
Gulf Shore.....	C. McDonald,	50	950	20	350	30	300	290	400	.....	.....	2000
Do. ....	Hugh W. Adam,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
*St. Mary's.....	*D. Cameron,	30	480	15	180	15	120	.....	.....	.....	.....	780
*Pictou County border, ...	*D. D. McDonald,	25	300	12	110	15	100	138	226	8	48	784
Goshen.....	McNeil,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	100	.....	.....	100
Do. ....	H. K. Sinclair,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total by land.....		1023	27694	523	7652	565	7071	2071	4329	10	80	46826
To Newfoundland.....		581	24983	291	4656	290	3480	1465	4395	39	234	37748
Do. Horses.....59		1604	\$52677	814	\$12308	855	\$10551	3536	\$8724	49	314	4720
Sundries shipped to Newfoundland—												4720
Butter, 154,672 lbs.												\$27,850
Lard, 13 pks.; Tallow, 9 bbls.												189
Oatmeal, 146 bbls.												876
Plums, 154 gals.,												31
Oats, 1,520 bushels,												608
Potatoes, 23 bushels,												58
Beef, 208 bbls.,												1872
Pork, 529 bbls.,												9340
Eggs, 1,975 dozen,												217
Dressed Leather,												1395
Empty barrels,												83
Total value of Exports,											\$131,803	

OBSERVATIONS.—Not having returns of former years for comparison, I asked the opinion of the dealers, which is as follows:—That during the last six or eight years a much less number of full-grown Cattle were offered for sale than formerly, and more young ones of inferior quality; that the quality of the Cattle has very considerably deteriorated; that the race of Sheep is very bad in every respect; that very few Pigs are found of a good and profitable breed; that the breed of Horses requires particular attention, as it has much fallen off,—and one is required more adapted to a farming district than the present one.

These Statistics were mostly obtained by means of sending to the parties named a form to fill up, through the Registrar of Deeds, A. D. HARRINGTON, Esq., to whom I am greatly obliged for aid.

I beg leave to suggest how easy it will be, by means of printed forms, for filling in details, to obtain Annual Returns from each County of the crops sown and raised, and the produce exported or sold, and how very useful such Returns will be.

\* Cattle bought by them in this County.

Carlton, April 20, 1870.

DEAR SIR,—The following short sketch of a few of the most prominent new varieties of Potato, may perhaps be interesting to the readers of the *Journal*. I am much interested in the cultivation of this tuber, particularly with regard to the disease or rot. At an early date I will send you a short account of my late observations on this disease, hoping that it will induce the scientific men of our community to bring their knowledge to bear on it.

When the attention of all interested in agriculture, both in Europe and America, is so much turned to raising new varieties of the Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) from the seed or apple, I have thought that a few lines on the latest novelties might be acceptable, to which I add a short account of what is thought of them in England, and a few words on the *Rixton Pippin* and *Bovina*, two remarkable English varieties.

The *Early Rose* was raised by Mr. Albert Bresee of Vermont, and brought into public notice in 1867. It is one of the most productive of the early sorts. It is two weeks earlier than the *Early Gooderich*, and on good potato soils it is as free from disease as the *Gooderich* or *Harrison*. It attains to a large size, with very few small ones. It bears very light seeding, being very stocky. The colour of the skin is light red while the flesh is white, dry and well flavoured.

*Western Chief* is a good early variety but inclined to rot, as also is the *Philben's early white*. They are only valuable as very early varieties for early use.

*Willard Seedling*, from the *Early Gooderich*, and named by Mr. Gooderich the *Gleason Potato*. It is a half early variety, most productive; of a rich rose colour spotted and splashed with white. It resembles the *Gooderich* in form and size, and is also inclined to be somewhat rough and scabby.

The *Harrison*, another of Mr. Gooderich's seedlings, and the most productive of them all. Has a fine, clear, white skin. Is remarkable for its size, shape, yield, and handsome appearance. A good winter potato. The quality varies with the soil and season. It is remarkably free from disease.

The *Gleason*, another of Mr. Gooderich's seedlings. Skin thin. Flesh coloured. Pink eyes. Very productive. Quality excellent. A late Potato.

The *Excelsior Potato*.—Is remarkable as an excellent table variety, and retains its superior cooking qualities the year round. It is one of the most desirable kinds now extant. Very productive, sometimes yielding double of any other variety under similar treatment. There are few potatoes that combine so many good points. It is a seedling from the "*State of Maine Potato*," raised by B. B.

Whiting of N. H. in 1861, and was first introduced to the public in 1867, and is regarded as one of the best and most productive table potatoes known. It is white skinned and fleshed. Very mealy. Of medium size, nearly round. Eyes prominent, skin thin and smooth. The tops are short, stalky and bushy.

*Early Gooderich* yields well and heavily. Is little inclined to rot. Quality varies with soil and cultivation. Heavy manuring with strong manure causes it to deteriorate. Latterly it has shewn a tendency to a hard spine or core, making it difficult to cook.

*Orono or Carter*, a medium early kind, of good size. White skin and flesh. Eyes quite deep set. Dry and good flavour, but tends to blight and rot.

*Bresee's No. 2, or Prolific*, introduced in 1868. Flattish round potato of large size and handsome, rather rough. Flesh white. Very productive, dry and mealy, and of good flavour. A winter variety.

*Bresee's No. 5*.—This is nearly as early as the *Early Rose*. A flattish round potato, very white skin. Excellent in quality, but tends to rot badly. Only useful as an early potato.

*Bresee's King of the Early*.—This famous potato is earlier than the *Early Rose* by about a week. Can be planted quite close, as it makes small tops. It is a roundish, flattish potato, with well defined eyes. In 1868 a single eye was sold for \$5.

The *Gardener's Chronicle* (English) speaking of the new American varieties of potato, says, "We are fully satisfied with Bresee's seedlings, but in no respect astonished at them. The *Early Rose*, *Climax*, and *Bresee's Prolific* are large, handsome roots, and remarkably prolific; but in quality they fall far below the standard of our English varieties, and are decidedly deficient of highly organized fecula, and therefore lacking in both flavour and nutritive properties, as compared with many established favourites.

Unquestionably the best potato of the year is the *Rixton Pippin*, sent to the experimental garden at Stoke Newington, by Mr. Pierpoint of Warrington. This is a handsome root, cropping heavily, quite elegant when on the table, and fine in texture and flavour as any connoisseur in potatoes could desire. The late Mr. Patterson of Dundee, to whom the Highland and Agricultural Society awarded the gold medal last year for a report on propagating new varieties of potatoes, has originated a remarkable variety, the *Bovina* or cattle feeder potato, which is the most valuable and extraordinary of all his productions. It was raised from seed in 1864. It contains a large amount of farinaceous matter. The enormous quantity of 21 tons per acre can be raised on land where finger and toe destroys the turnip crop; also on land where mangold

cannot be grown profitably. With extra culture 40 tons per acre have been grown, many of the tubers weighing from four to six pounds. It is the heaviest cropping potato known, is remarkable for keeping in good condition for twelve months, and is excellent for table use. In the Haddington market March 18th, Mrs. Patterson attended with a sample to introduce the *Bovina* to East Lothian,—some of the potatoes weighing 9 lbs. She was liberally patronized by the farmers of the district, who seem to have appreciated the merits of the variety. It is recommended as well-adapted to feed cattle, and is stated to be much less precarious than the turnip crop, while its feeding qualities are far superior.

Yours, &c.,

W. BUSTIN.

Sir,—I noticed in one of your numbers you said milk should be skimmed before it turned sour. Will you kindly tell me if this rule should be followed in the heat of summer, when milk sometimes sours in much less than 24 hours. An answer to this in your May number would much oblige,

AN INEXPERIENCED DAIRY WOMAN.

### Reports of Agri. Societies.

#### MIDDLE RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Directors feel grateful to the Board for the strenuous efforts put forth by them for the advancement of agriculture generally, but more particularly for the liberal bounty annually allowed this Society, thus enabling our farmers to embark in matters which otherwise would be beyond their ability. The directors have much pleasure in stating to the Hon. Board of Agriculture the results likely to be derived from the animals purchased by the Secretary of the Society at the Exhibition held at Halifax, in October, 1868. The increase from the two rams purchased at the exhibition, is of incalculable benefit to the Society. The Alderney bull purchased at the same time, came too late to have seen any of his increase, but from his appearance and adaptation to this climate, he cannot fail to give general satisfaction. The Society have this year imported from the well known establishment of Messrs. A. P. Richardson & Co. of Worcester, Mass., a number one Buckeye mowing machine, which turned out far above their expectations. The use of this machine is of great importance to farmers, both in the saving of labour and time, and likely in a few years a good many more will find their way to this locality. The Society have also imported a large quantity of red clover and garden seeds from Halifax, which yielded wonderful results, thereby arousing our farmers to new energy. Before concluding this report, the directors feel thankful to The All Disposer of events for His bountiful providence in bestowing upon this locality plenty of food to sustain man and beast during the ensuing season.

Hay—This crop turned out well on deep



loamy soils, but in sandy soils the yield was about the usual average.

**Wheat**—This crop was somewhat affected by the fly and rust, and did not come up to the average of last year.

**Oats**—This crop far exceeds that of last year both in straw and grain.

**Barley**—This crop being a good average crop, exceeds that of last year both in quantity and quality.

**Buckwheat**—This crop has been entirely destroyed on most of the low land farms owing to a heavy frost on the first of August, but what was sown on the upland, has yielded well.

**Potatoes**—This crop was in many instances cut down by the early frost in August, thereby retarding the growth of the crop very materially, but on the whole turned out a paying crop.

**Green Crops**—Turnips, cabbages, and carrots turned out wonderful results where particular attention had been paid to the culture of the crop.

JOHN MCLENNAN, Sec'y.

## ADVERTISEMENTS!

### DEVON BULL WANTED!

Any person having A PURE DEVON BULL, not under 2 year old, for sale, will please communicate particulars, stating lowest price, to the "Secretary of the Union Agricultural Society of Yarmouth."

JOHN CRAWLEY JR., Sec'y.

**AN INCREASE OF RICH MILK AND BUTTER**  
is produced in every case where the

### ARABIAN SPICE

is used. Horses run down and in low condition are soon brought round. Ragged, beggarly looking Sheep are clothed with a fleece of valuable wool in an astonishing short space of time. The squealing Pig soon becomes fat and happy when fed on food seasoned with the Arabian Spice.

The ARABIAN SPICE is warranted to surpass anything yet introduced for Poultry.

Sold in tins 37½ cents and \$1 each.  
Wholesale from WOOLRICH'S English Pharmacy, Upper Water Street, Halifax.

### A Thorough-bred Durham Bull Wanted.

ANY Society or individual having a thorough-bred Short Horn Bull to dispose of may find a purchaser by sending pedigree and price to James A. Cox, Brooklyn, West Cornwallis.  
March, 1870.

### HENRY A. DREER, Seedsman & Florist,

714 CHESTNUT STREET,

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Fresh and Genuine Vegetable Seeds, Choice Flower Seeds, Bulbous Roots, Green-House Plants, Roses, &c.  
April, 1870.

### FOR SALE.

WHITE AYLESBURG DUCK EGGS, from Pure Stock, for hatching. Apply at Box 116 Post Office, Halifax.  
April, 1870.

### FOR SALE.

A FINE (year old) HOUDAN COCK, from imported birds. Apply Box 116, Post Office Halifax.  
April, 1870.

## C. L. ALLEN & CO.

Importers and Dealers in

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Of all kind—Wholesale and Retail. Descriptive Catalogues sent free to all applicants. Address,  
C. L. ALLEN & CO.,  
Corner Columbia and Doughty Street.

April, 1870. Brooklyn, New York.

### LOVELL'S

**Dominion & Provincial Directories.**

To be Published in October, 1870.

NOTICE.—Learning that my name has been unwarrantably used in connection with Directories now being canvassed in the Provinces, and entirely distinct from my works, and that in other cases it has been stated that my Directories have been abandoned, I would request those desiring to give a preference to my works to see that persons representing themselves as acting for me are furnished with satisfactory credentials.

JOHN LOVELL, Publisher.

Montreal, March 16, 1870.

### LOVELL'S DIRECTORIES.

IT is intended to make these DIRECTORIES the most complete and correct ever issued on this continent. They are not being prepared by correspondence, but by PERSONAL CANVASS from door to door, of my own Agents, for the requisite information. I have now engaged on the work in the several Provinces Forty men and Twenty villages. These are engaged mainly on the towns and villages off the Railway and Steamboat Routes, important places on the lines being held till the completion of the former, to admit of correction to latest date.

I anticipate issuing, in October next, the CANADIAN DOMINION DIRECTORY, and SIX PROVINCIAL DIRECTORIES, which will prove a correct and full index to the DOMINION OF CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND, and PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and a combined Gazetteer, Directory and Hand Book of the six Provinces.

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Dominion of Canada Subscribers.....	\$12 Cy.
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JOHN LOVELL, Publisher.

Montreal, March 16, 1870. April, 1870.

### GREGORY'S

**Annual Catalogue of Choice Garden and Flower Seeds.**

HAVING in former years introduced to the public the Hubbard Squash, American Turban Squash, Marblehead Mammoth Cabbage, Mexican Sweet Corn, Brown's New Dwarf Marrowfat Peas, Boston Curled Lettuce, and other new and valuable vegetables, with the return of another season I am again prepared to supply the public with Vegetable and Flower Seeds of the purest quality. My Annual Catalogue, containing a list not only of all novelties, but also of the standard vegetables of the garden (over one hundred of which are of my own growing) and this season for the first time a carefully selected list of flower seeds, will be forwarded gratis to all. Sent without request to my customers of last season. All seed purchased of me I warrant to be fresh and true to name, and that it shall reach the purchaser. Should it fall in either of these respects I will fill the order over without additional charge.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY,

Feb. 1870.

Marblehead, Mass.

**Eggs for Hatching from Pure Bred Stock.**

VIZ.: Dark Brahma, Light Brahma, Houdan, La Fleche, and many other choice kinds, can be obtained by addressing, postage paid, Box 116, Post Office, Halifax.  
April, 1870.

1870.

## NEW SEEDS! TRUE SEEDS!

Catalogues on application.

TESTIMONIAL.—From Middle River Agricultural Society, to Mr. A. Saunders, Seedsman, 188 Street, Halifax, N. S.

"The Seeds I had from you for the Middle River Agricultural Society, have, I am happy to say, proved beyond my expectation, and a new order will be ordered for next season. I am requested to render you the thanks of our Society for your prompt attention to their business."

(Signed,) JOHN MCLENNAN,  
Sec'y. Middle River Agricultural Society,  
Victoria.

**Agricultural & Garden Seeds**  
OF ALL THE BEST VARIETIES.

The New Seed Potatoes; Ramsdell's New Oats; Russian Hemp; Iuga Flax, &c.  
Orders respectfully solicited, and promptly attended to.  
March, 1870.

## ALFRED SAUNDERS

(Late Secretary Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Formerly of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London),

### SEEDSMAN,

168 Argyle St., opposite J. Northup & Co.,  
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CALLS particular attention to his newly imported stock of Alayke and other Clovers, Grasses, Mangles, Swede and other Turnips, Peas, Beans, Vegetable and Flower Seeds, comprising almost every variety in cultivation, which is prepared to sell at the lowest remunerative price. Agricultural Societies liberally dealt with, all orders promptly executed. Descriptive Catalogues on application.

## AGRICULTURAL BONE MILL

THIS MILL is now in full operation, and large quantities of Bones are offered for sale. The Mill is under supervision of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and all Bones sold from the establishment are genuine.

#### PRICES.

Half inch Bone.....\$24.00 per ton.  
Finely-ground Bone..... 30.00 "

Delivered free of charge, on board the Cars at Richmond Depot.

Purchasers will save trouble by sending the own bags, which, together with orders, may be left at Staxford's Leather Store, 26 Water Street.

JAMES STANFORD,

Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

### FOR SALE.

A CHESTER WHITE BOAR, of superior stock, full-blood, two years old in May, purchased from the "Maxwelltown Agricultural Society," from imported stock. Parties wishing to purchase had better make application before the 10th day April. Upset Price, \$30.

JOSEPH McDONALD.

Barney's River, Pictou Co.,  
Feb'y. 25th, 1870. March, 1870.

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