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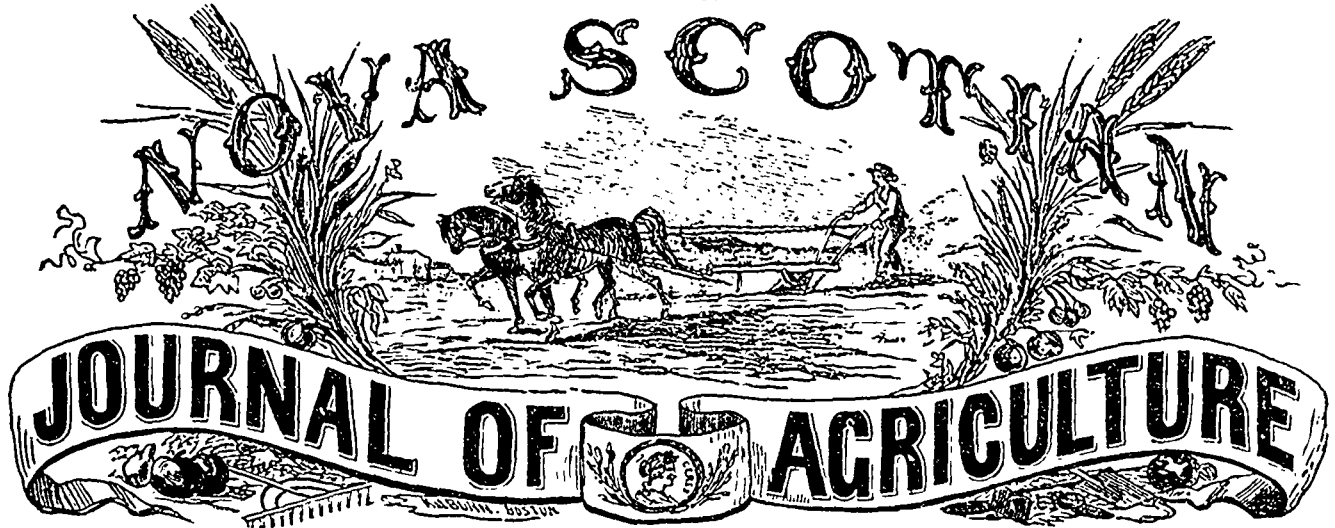
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A BROAD HINT TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION of 1868 is exciting an increasing amount of interest. The general committee and sub-committees have been holding very frequent, almost daily, meetings, and the prize list is nearly ready for publication. The prizes are on a scale of liberality hitherto unknown in this Province, not only in the department of Agriculture, but especially in that of Arts and Manufactures; a total sum of eleven thousand dollars being offered. The Board of Agriculture feels that the carrying out of this Exhibition is one of the most important trusts that have been confided to it by the Legislature,—and the Board has a right to expect the hearty co-operation and support of every farmer in the Province, and in a special manner of every member of every Agricultural Society. Now several Societies have come forward in a very handsome manner. The Western Halifax, Antigonish and Windsor Societies each contribute \$100 towards the common fund, and other Societies follow, according to their ability. But some of the proposed contributions are so miserably small that we confess to a blush of shame as we reach the bottom of

the list; one Society offers six dollars and another four. For forty well-to-do farmers in the fertile valley of Margaree to meet together in solemn conclave and gravely resolve upon raising a total fund of four dollars in a year and a half as their contribution to the greatest effort towards agricultural improvement that has ever been attempted in the Province, is surely a mistake. Then quite a number of Societies that we thought to be in an active state have shown no signs of life in this matter; but it is to be supposed that these are working hard in their respective localities, quietly raising large sums to eclipse totally the hundred dollar Societies. Let the officers and members of every Society in the Province emulate each other in striving how much they can do; if they fail in this they fail in their obvious duty, and in one of the most important objects for which Agricultural Societies have been established. Of the 3000 members of Societies in the Province, we hope for their own comfort that every one will come up to the Exhibition next year with an honest smile on his face, arising from an honest conviction that he has done his part.

We speak explicitly on this important matter, because we believe that it has not been fully considered by many Societies.

The farmers of Yarmouth, or Mabou, or St. Ann's or Guysborough, ought to feel as much interest in this Exhibition as those of Halifax or Windsor. To regard the gaining of a few prizes as the great benefit to be obtained at such an Exhibition, is a miserable misconception. The objects are, to bring before our farmers the capabilities of our soil and climate, to show the appliances that may be brought to bear upon our farms so as to render them more productive, to bring together animals and implements of the very best kinds, and thus enable Societies and individuals to supply their wants, to afford to intelligent farmers the means of meeting with their fellows and exchanging information, in short, to make the farmer a wiser, and better, and richer man, and enable him, by the use of modern improvements, to exercise his mind more and his muscle less. These are the advantages that are looked for by the intelligent farmers who visit the great Agricultural Exhibitions of England, and Ireland, and Scotland, and Canada, and the United States of America, and these are the advantages, likewise, that the really intelligent farmers of Nova Scotia expect. For a man to argue that this Exhibition will be of no interest to him because it is not at his own door, is equi-

valent to arguing that a Provincial Railway would be of no use unless it were all made within his own grounds. Selfishness is useful in the small transactions of life, but in public undertakings nothing is more mischievous.

THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

Halifax, 12th August, 1867.

In last month's number (8th July) we spoke of the genial weather which the country was then, and had been for some time, enjoying—warm sunny days alternating with frequent showers. The number was scarcely issued when we received from Cape Breton accounts of the crops having been well-nigh burnt up with drought, and immediately afterwards, just as the Peninsula farmers commenced their hay-making, a deluge of rain opened upon us, which continued till the end of the month. A good deal of early and heavy hay has been got in in bad condition; but in localities where haying was not commenced till the end of July, none has been lost. The hay crops have been remarkably heavy throughout the whole Province, except probably Cape Breton. Soon after midnight of the 2nd-3rd Aug., a southern gale opened upon us, which for some time blew with the force of a hurricane. The newspapers are recording marine disasters on our shores; but on land likewise much damage has been done. The storm calmed down about day-break, and the sun rose upon a scene of confusion, fences blown down, trees shivered and thrown across the roads, barn doors and the roofs and ends of many barns blown out, apple trees bereft of their young fruit and their foliage as well, Indian corn literally uprooted, and its long ribbon leaves torn into threads, the vines of cucumber beds twisted up like sheaves of pease straw, hen-coops blown out of sight, and the occupants left sitting in sheltered corners, ricks of raked hay scattered over the fields again, and the whole surface of field and garden strewn with the *debris* of the storm. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the damage done to green crops, we have not seen any wheat or oat fields that have suffered from the wind, although it is stated that in Prince Edward Island the grain fields have been injured.

Since the storm, we have enjoyed warm clear weather, hay is being carried rapidly into the barns in fine condition, and grains and green crops are making rapid growth.

DESTRUCTION OF MR. STANFORD'S BONE MILL.

We regret to have to chronicle a calamity that must be regarded as a misfortune to farmers as well as to the individual more immediately interested. On the

morning of 7th instant the extensive TANNERY and the BONE MILL at Three Mile House, belonging to Jas. Stanford, Esq., were burned to the ground. There was insurance to the extent of \$8000 upon the Tannery, but the Bone-mill was not insured; probably it may be possible to put the castings together again. It is said that the fire must have been the work of an incendiary, and we hope that effective steps will be taken to discover, if possible, the miscreant. In our rural districts much crime goes unpunished and unheard of. A vigilant force of rural police scattered over the Province would exercise a most beneficial influence in deterring from the commission of cowardly crimes, as well as in affording the means of bringing criminals to justice.

DEATH OF THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Hon. Isaac Newton, who has for about six years occupied the prominent position of Commissioner of Agriculture, died at Washington on 19th June. He was brought up as a farmer, and instead of becoming tired of his employment and trying his fortune at something else, he devoted himself to the interests of agriculture, and sought to make himself and his fellow farmers a power in the Republic. He pressed upon successive Presidents the importance of establishing a national Department of Agriculture, and at last, during the reign of the martyr President, 15th May, 1862, an Act was passed, and Mr. Newton was appointed to organize and preside over the new department as Commissioner. The department, and its chief officer, were subsequently the objects of very severe, and we may add, not over-courteous criticism, in the American newspapers and agricultural journals. Personally we knew nothing of Mr. Newton, or his fitness for the duties he undertook; but the handsome volumes, and monthly reports issued by the department will compare favorably with the publications of any Government Board, or Agricultural Society, in the civilized world. We must therefore, in candour, give credit to Mr. Newton for the possession of organization-capacity. An Act that passes through Congress or any other mill, is not necessarily perfect; some of the chaff is sure to stick, and if the Act was faulty, as was alleged, all the more credit is due for the successful working of it.

THE ONTARIO EXHIBITION.

In September next will be held the Grand Annual Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association of Ontario, (known in olden times as Upper Canada). The place fixed for this year's exhibition is Kingston. No doubt there will be a number of visitors from Nova Scotia, and it would not be amiss if some of our farmers and fruit growers would take with them a few samples of our produce, and try to beat the Ontarions on their own ground. The following synopsis of arrangements we quote from the *Globe*:—

"The prize list for the approaching Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association, has been published for circulation. The Exhibition, by the system of rotation adopted since the first formation of the Association, takes place this year at Kingston on the last week in September, commencing on the 23rd of the month, and lasting till Friday, the 27th, inclusive. The local committee in that city have been at work for about six weeks in putting their buildings in a state of proper repair, and have, we understand, made considerable progress already towards the completion of their work. The prize list in the agricultural department exhibits no marked change from that of last year; but a prominent feature, though not a new one, adopted some two or three years ago, is that which permits the competition of exhibitors from all parts of the world. The development of Canadian agriculture and manufactures is observable in the gradual abolishing of restrictions on exhibitors until now the world is invited to a contest of skill with our Canadian artisans and farmers in their different spheres. For the last two years a gradual increase in the number of foreign exhibitors has been observable, and where these have proved the masters, their success has proved of benefit to our home producers in stimulating them to additional exertion, and has led to many valuable improvements—especially in some of our most prominent manufactures. The amount of money offered for prizes remains at about the same figure. Some unimportant alterations have been made in the details of a few minor classes of the agricultural productions; but the only one of any prominence is that regarding the Prince of Wales' prize of \$60, which is this year given to the best pen of Cotswold sheep, consisting of one ram and five ewes, not over two shears. A change in the rule regarding the shearing of sheep, has also been adopted—the Committee of the Association appointed to revise the prize list having adopted a resolution requiring sheep on exhibition

to be shorn on or after the 25th April, instead of the 1st, as previously. In the poultry classes, some alterations from last year are observed—two or three sections having been dropped and others inserted. The Fruit-Growers' Association have offered some suggestions to the Board this year, which have been also embodied in the prize list. Competitors can now receive one premium in each section, instead of in each variety of fruit shown, as formerly. This will open a wider competition, especially among professionals, any one of whom was heretofore debarred from taking more than one prize for apples, grapes, or any other similar article. Now, however, each section is open to the competition of every exhibitor. The only noticeable alteration in the implement classes is, that a prize for a gang plow is introduced. In domestic wines, a different classification has also been adopted. Instead of the prizes being offered for the best specimens from the Catawba, Isabella, or other grape, the list now standing for the best dozen of dry, sweet and sparkling wine as the case may be. The change is thought by fruit growers to be advantageous, as the old classification does not allow that competition which will prove the most advantageous to fruit growers.

Regarding the change in the Arts and Manufactures department, the Journal of the Board makes the following summary:

"Last year the Committee having charge of this department secured a great many improvements, both in the arrangement of prizes and the classification of goods. In the Fine Arts classes especially was this observable. Previously, no distinction was made between original works and copies; and the terms "professional" and "amateur," as applied to artists, were indefinite, and generally so differently understood in their application, even by those who were without doubt professional artists, as to result in continual difficulties, and in numerous protests being made to the Association. The terms have now a published definite meaning, which cannot be misunderstood by exhibitors. This year further improvements have been made, by striking out the entire list of prizes for "professional copies," and reducing the number of prizes for "amateur originals." The Committee have thus been enabled to add a few prizes to the remaining divisions, and also slightly to increase the several amounts offered in prizes to both professionals and amateurs.

"In the Prize List the Fine Arts have been separated into two classes. The number of entries, and the merits of the several productions, having progressed so rapidly within the past two or three years, have rendered this change necessary, so as to enable the Judges to complete their onerous duties either in pro-

per time, or with satisfaction to themselves or the exhibitors. The first class now comprises all works in oil, statuary and photography; the second-class all water colours, pencils, crayons, sepias, pen and ink sketches, &c. This change, we have no doubt, will give satisfaction.

"It will be observed that the class heretofore termed "Decorative and Useful Arts," has been superseded by what is believed to be a more correct classification, its several sections having been distributed into classes with which they respectively the nearest assimilate. With so limited a number of classes, there will always be a difficulty in arranging many articles in the proper positions; the only alternative is to place them with things similar in materials or uses, or that will best come under the consideration of the same Committee of Judges. Thus, in the new class we have designs, materials and workmanship in building construction, and such other articles as might most fittingly be judged by a committee of architects and civil engineers, rather than by any of the other committees of judges. In the various departments of wood, iron, leather and woollen manufactures, are severally placed with the raw materials, furnishings and tools connected with the respective trades, so as to bring them under the same judges as the finished work. This arrangement, no doubt, tends to secure the most efficient judgment possible under the circumstances.

"The Ladies' Department, next to the Fine Arts, is always the most extensive in the Exhibition, and imposes a large amount of labour upon lady judges. This, it will be observed, is also now divided into two classes; the first embracing chiefly all kinds of needle-work, plain and fancy, and knitting, netting, tatting, etc. The second class includes all work in flowers, hair, moss, shells, cones, seeds, wax and worsted. This change will greatly facilitate the work of the judges."

The entries will require to be made at the following times:—

Horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry must be entered on or before Saturday, August 17th, five weeks preceding the show.

Grain, field roots and other farm products, agricultural implements, machinery and manufactures generally, must be entered previous to or on Saturday, August 31st, three weeks preceding the show.

Horticultural products, ladies' work, the fine arts, etc. may be entered up to Saturday, September 14th, one clear week preceding the show.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.

Hungarian Grass (*Panicum Germanicum*) has now been cultivated for several years in Ontario and the northern States,

and has afforded satisfactory results.—There is no good reason why it should not succeed in our province. We recollect the distrust with which it was first received in Canada, as all new crops are. The following statement appears in the monthly report, just received, of the Agricultural Department, Washington:—

"Many farmers have kept both horses and horned stock through the winter with no other feed than Hungarian grass; the animals coming out of winter quarters in a superior condition. There need be no fears of poisoning, as intimated by one correspondent; the suggestion probably arose from injuries resulting from over-eating.

This grass is now generally used and highly esteemed for forage, is used green or dry, is very productive, of quick growth, and flourishes well in dry soils.

Flint, in his valuable work on grasses, says: "The Hungarian millet has been cultivated to some extent in this State (Massachusetts) from seed received thro' the Patent Office. It is an annual forage plant introduced into France in 1815, where its cultivation has become considerably extended. It germinates readily, withstands the drought remarkably, remaining green even when other vegetation is parched up, and if its development is arrested by dry weather, the least rain will restore it to vigor. It has numerous succulent leaves, which furnish an abundance of green fodder, very much relished by all kinds of stock. It flourishes in somewhat light and dry soils, though it attains its greatest luxuriance in soils of medium consistency, and well manured. It may be grown broadcast or in drills, and cultivated precisely like other varieties of millet."

D. B. Dixen, of Muscatine, Iowa, after experimenting with this grass, remarks: "It is luxuriant in its growth, and produces hay of the finest quality. Horses and cattle eat it with avidity. A good crop of Hungarian grass is about three tons of hay and thirty bushels of seed to the acre, while it will often go beyond and seldom falls below this. The time for cutting is when the seed is nearly ripe, and the whole plant of a fine yellow color. It may be cured in the same manner as hay. As fodder, after threshing, it is fully equal to timothy; and when fed with the seed in, as it generally should be, it is better than good sheaf oats."

William Story, of Jamestown, Fentress county, Tennessee, says: "I send you a full account of my experiments with the Hungarian grass. On the 10th of June, 1858, I received a pint of seed from the Patent office, and on the 11th I sowed it on a piece of rich clay land. I ploughed the ground with a shovel plough, which left the surface very rough and uneven.

I then harrowed about one-fourth of the patch, levelling the surface very smooth. After sowing the seed on all the ground I again harrowed. The ground was very dry, and the weather continued hot for three weeks; consequently it was some time before the seed came up. I was soon sorry I had not harrowed all the ground before sowing, for where I omitted this operation but few seeds came up. Notwithstanding the extreme heat of the sun the grass grew astonishingly fast, branched out beyond all expectation, and grew about waist high by the first of August. It was headed out like millet, though seeming more vigorous and hardy. By the 10th of August the heads, which were from one to six inches in length, were all turned to a golden-yellow color. I cut and threshed off the seed, and had sixty-three pints from the one pint of seed sown. I am confident that not more than half the seed came up, and consequently the sixty-three pints were the product of half a pint of seed. In Tennessee it should be sown about the first week of May, on clear and loose ground, harrowed smooth before and after sowing. One bushel of seed will, I think, sow three acres. I recommend the Hungarian grass to be the best and most nutritious food of all grasses, and shall rejoice when our State shall be supplied with it."

Communications.

RAIN DROPS.

BY G. T. B., GRANVILLE.

[We seldom have occasion to announce to our readers that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the writings of our correspondents; and probably there is not much occasion for doing so in reference to the present communication. To be sure some of the rain drops are warm, like those that fell during the recent hurricane, and the Fruit Growers' Association comes in for a few heavy drops at the tail of the shower; but the Association is now a well established tree, which puts out an annual show of blossoms and ripens excellent fruit, and the only effect will be to shake down a few wormy apples if there are any such upon it.—Ed.]

Granville, July 20.

DEAR JOURNAL.—It is a wet day emphatically, and nothing to be done out of doors; will you accept of a few lines for your pages if found worthy of a place?

I noticed H. G. F., a correspondent in your last issue, asks information concerning a "Sulphur shower." Was it any thing more than a fall of pollen from the

spruce and firs, brought down from the air by a sudden shower or heavy dew. I have frequently noticed such an appearance as he has described, and have attributed it to the above mentioned cause. It closely resembles lupuline, the pollen of hops.

I have been watching the king birds about my hives of late, and have come to the decided opinion that they take no bees but drones. Drones leave the hive in the middle of a warm day and fly far from home, more than a mile; they are then high in the air, quite out of sight, but not out of hearing, and I have distinctly heard them filling the space above and about me with the hoarse hum of their wings when half a mile from my hives. They straggle back one by one, and on a warm evening I have heard them coming some time after sunset. No doubt the king-birds have ears as acute as my own, and linger about the hives to pick up the lumbering fatties on their homeward journey. I have repeatedly shot them in the very act of taking bees, and never found a bee in the crop of one, but the gizzard would be full, crushed out of all bee shape; on washing these fragments and examining with a microscope, I have never yet found any part of a sting, though legs, feet, antennæ, &c. were readily recognized. I shall never shoot a king-bird again for a bee robber.

The crops are all very good in our county, particularly grass, corn, and, as a general thing, apples. Here and there late frosts did some damage to the blossoms. Strawberries have been very fine and very abundant. By way of putting to shame that Halifax Triumph de Gaud that girted three inches, I may assure your readers that a strawberry, I am not sure of what variety, was raised at Paradise, Annapolis, that measured in circumference four inches and a half.

Winter rye is almost a total failure in Wilmot and Aylesford, and has been for some years back, owing to the ravages of an insect that eats off the straw at the joints. I have not been able to get a specimen, but judge it is the larva of some species of Daddy-long-legs. Can you suggest a remedy? How it rains! and I without hay caps. Mem.—To get some the first dry day.

I wonder why the Fruit Growers' Association has all its shows near Cornwallis this year,—that it may be more entitled to the "international" part of its title, I suppose; and I wonder why so important a change was made in the terms by which the London Society's medal may become private property. Why not let bye-gones be bye-gones, and begin again with a fair start and no favour, if the change spoken of was necessary. Knowing how much easier it is to find fault with what other men do than do better myself, I forbear any remarks on the "list of prizes," but

this, that it would bear a still greater change with improvement.

How it does rain, to be sure!—Believe me, dear Mr. Editor,

Yours sincerely,

G. T. B.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The July Quarterly meeting of the Association was held at Wolfville on the 16th inst., according to announcement. The following gentlemen were appointed Judges to the Annual Exhibition to be held at Somerset in October:—

1. *Medals and Collections of Fruit.*—D. R. Eaton, Oliver Foster, G. A. S. Crichton.

2. *First six sorts of Apples on prize list.*—J. W. Cornwall, Charles F. Eaton, Leander Rand.

3. *Remaining Apples.*—Isaac Shaw, DeLancy Harris, Henry Skinner.

4. *Other Fruits, Honey, Nursery Stock, and Fruit Barrels.*—J. G. Byrne, Herbert Harris, Dr. Bingay.

5. *Roots and other Vegetables.*—John M. Parker, Jas. E. Fellows, Robt. Stewart.

Judges for the July, August, and September Exhibitions—Thos. W. Chesley, Isaac Shaw, D. R. Eaton, Geo. V. Rand, and J. R. Hea.

It was resolved that the October Exhibition for 1868 be held at Halifax in connection with the great Industrial Exhibition, and the sum of two hundred dollars from the funds of the association was voted, conditionally, towards the prize list for fruit on that occasion.

THE JULY EXHIBITION

was then opened, when a very interesting collection of early fruits and vegetables was displayed, as well as a rather remarkable collection of last year's apples.

Of the latter Mr. John G. Byrne exhibited Ribston Pippins, *Æsopus* Spitzenberg, Keswick Codlins, Nonpareils, Baldwins, and the Willoughby apple, most of which appeared as plump and fair to the eye as at any time in the year; Mr. Richard Starr also exhibited Nonpareils and Cooper's Russet, and Dr. Hamilton Nonpareils.

Among the samples of smaller and summer fruits exhibited there were shown by Richard Starr, 4 varieties of Cherries, Dr. Hamilton, 4 varieties of Cherries, Dr. McLatchy, 3 varieties of Strawberries, Geo. V. Rand, 8 varieties of Strawberries and 4 of Cherries, Robt. Stewart, Cherries and Currants, Robert W. Starr, Cherries and Currants, J. G. Byrne 3 varieties of Cherries.

Early potatoes were exhibited by Dr. Hamilton and Robert Stewart; several varieties of Peas by Dr. Hamilton and others; Beets by Charles Fritze, Robert Stewart and Dr. Hamilton; Carrots, Kohl Rabbi, and Cabbage by Charles Fritze;

Currants by Robert Stewart and Robert W. Starr; Indian Corn four feet high, and in blossom, by Dr. Hamilton; Wheat, Rye and Grapes, by Robt. Stewart, &c.

The Judges made special mention of the vegetables exhibited by Mr. Fritze, which were very fine and remarkably early; also of a very large and magnificent bouquet of flowers by Mrs. Robert Stewart, which graced the central exhibition table; it consisted of choice flowers of upwards of forty different kinds, all from Mrs. Stewart's garden in Lower Horton; of about thirty varieties of roses grown by Mrs. Stewart, however, only about a dozen were included, as the remainder were out of bloom.

The strawberries from Dr. McLatchy's garden were finer of their sorts than any previously exhibited; but Mr. Rand, as usual, excelled in the number of varieties, all of the choicest kinds.

The next Exhibition will be held at Berwick on the 13th of August.

J. R. HEA, Secretary.

Wolfville, July 19, 1867.

QUEBEC.

The Province of Quebec is not quite so enterprising in Agricultural matters as her younger sister Ontario. It appears that there is not to be a Provincial Agricultural Exhibition this year, the reason assigned being that the citizens of Quebec have not been able to raise \$4000 required for building purposes.

EXPERIENCE OF A GREEN HAND IN CHEESE MAKING.

Having in previous numbers given the results of the experience of some of the best cheese makers in Nova Scotia, Ayrshire, Cheshire and Denmark, it may not be amiss to bring the subject forward this month in a new light by quoting the following pointed "Experiences" of the author of Walks and Talks on the Farm, in the *American Agriculturist*:—

We have been trying our hand at Cheese Making. It has long been a favorite theory of mine that we can make as good cheese in the wheat region as they do in the dairy districts. I think so still, but a few days dabbling at cheese making, with no convenience, may well deter any one from adopting it as a business. First we wanted a cheese hoop. I was sent to the city to get one, but found it no easy task. "Have you any Cheese Hoops," I asked at the store where it was said they would most likely be found.—"Yes, Sir," and thereupon they handed me—a peck measure with the bottom knocked out! This was the nearest approach to a cheese hoop that could be

found in Rochester. I went to a cooper who it was said made them. But it seems he got up half a dozen five years ago and could not dispose of them, and gave up the business in disgust. He had none and would not make me one. So I took the peck measure, and started for home with pleasing anticipations of eating some nice home-made cheese next fall with a good old-fashioned apple pie, made in a deep dish with no crust at the bottom!

Now for the cheese. Here is the milk, here is the rennet, and there is the hoop. But where is the cheese-tub? The thrifty Scotch say, "keep a thing seven years and you will find a use for it." Some six years ago I got a Metropolitan Washing Machine, which has been in the lumber-room ever since; it was voted to be just the thing for a cheese tub. So it was brought down, cleaned and scalded, the night's milk skimmed and poured in, and the morning's milk added. This made the temperature 74°. The rennet was added, and in about an hour the cheese "came"—sweet and tender as could be desired. We were jubilant.

Next the curd had to be cut, in order to allow the whey to separate. In the dairy districts they have a nice knife with six or eight long, narrow blades set half an inch apart, which, being drawn slowly through the curd, accomplishes the object in a few minutes. In the English dairies they use a tin hoop, about eighteen inches in diameter, with wires stretched across, and a wooden handle in the centre. This is pressed down very gently and cuts the curd into small pieces. But we were obliged to use a long carving-knife and a tin skimmer, with a free use of that original implement, the hand. We managed to get the curd partially separated, and dipped off carefully a portion of the whey; then cut the curd of one half the tub and placed it on the other half, and in this way got off more whey. Slowly the work progressed, but at last nearly all the whey drained off.

It was then placed in a cloth and put under a small lever press and pressed gently for an hour. It was then taken out, broken up fine and salted. Now for the hoop. The curd more than fills it! What is to be done? A tin fillet is put round the cheese and inside the hoop.—This is the English way. As the cheese is compressed, the tin fillet sinks down inside the hoop and the curd is pressed. So far so good. But thinking that our hand press was not powerful enough, and recollecting that Dr. Voelcker in his analysis of English and American cheese, found that one trouble with our cheese was that the "whey was not sufficiently extracted," we put the cheese under a cider press. This brought out the whey; but putting on a little more pressure, the so-called hoop, or peck measure, burst, and the fat was in the fire.

Another peck measure was got, and using less pressure the cheese was finally made. I have no doubt that the cheese will be good, but the shape is not quite orthodox. It is ten inches in diameter and eight inches high, and weighs 27½ lbs.

This is from one day's milk of 10½ cows. (We keep 11 cows, but one of them is farrow.) And you must recollect that the night's milk was skimmed. Last week, before we commenced to make cheese, we got 79½ lbs. of butter—actual weight, not guessed at. This is a little over 11 lbs. a day. Now we get from a day's milk 26½ lbs. of cheese, and probably four or five lbs. of butter besides from the night's milk—or say 192 lbs. of cheese and 30 lbs. of butter per week. At the present relative price of butter and cheese it certainly must be more profitable to make cheese than butter. But cheese making will not become general in the wheat region, until we have a cheese vat, proper hoops, presses, and good arrangements for doing the work expeditiously. Those who judge of the labour of ordinary cheese making from a single trial with one or two cheeses, with no conveniences, will not be likely to go into the business.

Determined to give the matter a further trial, and feeling dissatisfied with the peck measure, I went again to the city and succeeded in finding a good cheese hoop. But it was sixteen inches in diameter, and if we made a cheese every day they would be too thin. So we "set the curd" one day and made it, together with the curd of the next day, when it is mixed carefully with the new curd, put in the large hoop and pressed. This gives us a cheese sixteen inches in diameter, and about 8½ in. high, weighing about 56 lbs. This is not a bad shape, and is less labour than making a cheese every day, and besides it gives you the use of the press for two days, which is undoubtedly better than pressing for only one day.

[We doubt not a fresh hand at cheese making will find as much difficulty in discovering a cheese hoop in Halifax as in Rochester.]

A GOSSIP ABOUT PIGS.

The Board of Agriculture is desirous of importing some pigs, but there is so much difference of opinion as to the breeds best suited to our Province, that we wish some of our readers would send us their experiences. Some say, we want large fellows who will give heavy weights, and the white Chesters would do for such. Others say, we don't have much food to raise them, we can't keep them over winter,—so we want little pigs that will be easily satisfied, and will soon take on fat.

Such pig fanciers would no doubt like to have Berkshires. The following is from the *American Farmer* :—

"Pigs," it is said, "are a happy people." We may talk disparagingly about living like a pig, but it is nevertheless true that to live like a pig is to live like a gentleman. Although it is not permitted by the order of Nature that a pig should laugh or even smile, he enjoys the next blessing of humanity—the disposition to grow fat. How easily he goes through the world! He has no fancy stocks to purchase—no bank notes to pay—no reconstruction meetings to attend—no political caucuses to hold! He has no occasion to take the benefit of the Bankrupt Act, or to have his estate confiscated to defray the expenses of the war—no income tax to pay. Free from all the troubles that disturb the country, he is unconcerned about national affairs, as was the man who was awaked in the earliest light of morning by being told day was breaking: "Well," said he, as he turned again to his repose, "let it break—he owes me nothing."

The pig is the personification of independence. He acknowledges no law save that of his stomach. He is no teetotaler. Give him a chance, and he will drink ale or wine unto drunkenness, and in those countries where grapes grow, if they come into the vintage, they get drunk with eating grapes, for which he has an intense liking, and often does terrible damage in vineyards. The worst of the matter is, that the animal so riots and revels among the vines that he destroys and tramples down many more grapes than he can eat, and does irredeemable damage. If the lees of wine be mingled with their food, they will grow fat without measure.

In China, they have a proverb that every gentleman works for his living except the pig. In Illinois, a few years ago, he was made to work. When a chimney was to be built, or a cabin to be daubed, a hole was dug in the earth of sufficient dimensions, and water poured into it—the hogs called, and a few grains of corn thrown into the hole, when the hogs plunged in, and soon prepared the lump of clay for the hand of the dauber.

It is rather remarkable that the Irishman and the negro hold much the same opinion of the pig. Both consider the pig as the only gentleman, for he does no work; all his meals are brought to him; eating, drinking, and sleeping are all he has to do; and the more he eats, drinks, and sleeps, the better his duty is performed. But then the motives for the opinion are widely different. The negro, that is the negro slave, thinks that the very summit of human felicity is to do no work. This is likely to be the case, for he has no motive for work, and therefore only looks upon his daily work as a terri-

ble task, which he is bound to evade in every possible way. Therefore the pig is his ideal of enjoyment; he does no work—he eats and he sleeps.

But the opinion of the Irishman is founded on more rational grounds. The pig, in his opinion, is a gentleman, and ought therefore to be treated as such. Does not the pig pay the rent, and sure isn't he a gentleman to do that? So the pig has the full range of the cabin, and pokes his nose just where he pleases. Indeed, he is often better off than his master's children, for he is never in want of a meal, and the food which he gets is precisely that which he ought to have, namely, Potatoes; while the children get the same food, which is not the proper food for man taken by itself. The pig has no care, and no fear for the morrow. He continues to enjoy himself until the knife is at his throat, and even then he knows nothing about his coming death until he is actually in the hands of his slayers, who probably do not inflict on him more pain than the children suffer when flogged by paternal or maternal authority, or when pumelled by larger boys.

A pig, in Ireland, is often the saving of a family, and his inquisitive snout, peeping out of a cabin door, should be considered a mark of prosperity rather than a sign of decreasing finances.

Pigs are an obstinate race, and are not easily driven. Boys generally succeed better than men in driving pigs, always excepting Irishmen, whose treatment of pigs is a perfect art. An Irishman never seems to drive a pig, but coaxes him along. A little push one way, a little pull another, a whistle, a few endearing expressions, and the pig trots comfortably along, giving no trouble "at all, at all." If a pig is very obstinate indeed, and utterly refuses to go where he is wanted, the Irishman manages him by putting his nose in the direction he is intended to take, and then pulling his tail. The result is evident. The pig imagines he is wanted to come backwards, and therefore with the perversity of a porcine nature runs forward as fast as he can. This method is generally used in getting pigs on board ship, where they evince much dislike to the planks on which they are required to walk. The Chinese also make use of the tail-pulling process when they wish their pigs to enter the bamboo cages in which they transport them when fat.

There exists perhaps, in creation, no animal which has less justice done him by man than the pig. We see him gifted with every faculty of supplying himself, and of providing even against the approaching storm, which no creature is better capable of foretelling, and we begin our treatment of him by putting an iron ring through the cartilage of his nose. Having thus barbarously deprived him of

the power of searching for and analysing his food, we then generally condemn him for the rest of his life to solitary confinement in a pen.

While his faculties are still his own, only observe how with a bark or a snort he starts if you approach him: and mark what shrewd intelligence there is in his bright, twinkling little eye. But with pigs, as with mankind, "idleness is the root of all evil." The poor animal, finding that he has absolutely nothing to do—having no enjoyment, nothing to look forward to but the pail which feeds him, most eagerly, or, as we accuse him, most greedily he greets its arrival. Having no business or diversion, nothing to occupy his brain, the whole powers of his system are directed to the digestion of a superabundance of food. To encourage this, nature assists him with sleep, which, lulling his faculties, enables his stomach to become the ruling power of his system, a tyrant that can bear no one's presence but his own. The poor pig thus treated gorges himself, sleeps, eats again, sleeps; awakens in a fright, screams, struggles against the blue apron, screams fainter, turns up the whites of his little eyes, and dies!

It is very amusing to watch the pigs when "ringed," as their behaviour is not at all that which ought to be expected of them. Indeed they seem to be actuated by the oriental ideas of fatalism, and after struggling as much as they can, they give up the matter as hopeless, and resign themselves to their fate. When they are about half grown, a man armed with a coil of rope, a pair of pincers, and the rings, one for each pig, enters the pen and seizes one of the pigs by the ears. The aggravated animal instantly proceeds to remonstrate most audibly at the proceeding, and sets up a series of ear-piercing screams. But screaming is of no use, and he is dragged out of the pen. A rope with a slip-knot is now thrust into his mouth, the knot is drawn close, and the pig is held in a kind of curb. He is now thrown down, the point of the ring inserted into the cartilage of his nose, and the end turned over with a pair of pincers, until it nearly meets. The ring is now complete, and when the pig tries to root or grub up the ground the pointed end curves round and pricks his nose, so that he is warned to cease. During his struggles, his cries are loud and incessant; but the moment the point enters the nostril, piggy exchanges his squeals for a series of half-satisfied grunts, and probably says to himself, "Oh, is that all? I thought I was going to be converted into pork or lard at the least, and perhaps salted afterwards. Who cares for rings?"

A pig is a more clever animal than is generally supposed; that is, if he can find a chance of exercising his abilities, and is left tolerably to himself. We remember

seeing several persons engaged for half an hour in catching a pig, which had got into a small enclosure. They tried managing it by throwing in an ear of corn for the animal to engage himself with, while they crept up behind him; but the pig was much too cunning for that, and continued to keep one eye always on his foe. When a number of them came up to surround him, he picked up the ear of corn, and ran away to another spot.

Not only is the pig naturally clever, but it is capable of instruction, and has been taught to perform duties that belong to other animals. They are often sufficiently tame to permit children to mount on their backs, and one person actually put some of his pigs through a course of training for the saddle. A team of four hogs has been trained to draw a carriage, such an event having taken place at St. Alban's some years ago, when an old farmer of the neighbourhood threw the town into much excitement by driving a carriage into town drawn by four pigs. He drove round the market-place several times, and had his porcine steeds put up at a stable, and fed on corn and wash. In a few hours the pigs were again harnessed and trotted off briskly with their master.

In some respects the pig resembles man, so that there may be some ground for calling children pigs besides those generally given. The pig and the man are both omnivorous; that is to say, they both can eat vegetable or animal food—the one being an omnivorous quadruped, and the other an omnivorous biped, so when the trough is filled with potatoes and vegetables it will make a very good dinner upon them; if the butcher chooses to throw in some of the offal of the slaughter-house, the pig will eat the offal; if a thriftless housekeeper lets the pigs have plum pudding and slices of roast beef, the most inveterate gormandiser could not attack them with greater zest than does his omnivorous companion. If the brewer has pigs and gives them grain, they will devour enormous quantities of the sweet, soft compound, and if any ale is mixed with the grains, as is often the case, they will get gloriously drunk upon it. Many is the time that a pig has been staggering about the yard quite unable to direct himself, merely because he had taken too much of the deceptive mixture; hence the saying, "as drunk as a hog."

Among the many qualities and properties which the pig is acknowledged to possess, there are some which are not generally known. For example, 99 of every 100 pots of bear's grease are obtained exclusively from the pig, and have had no connection whatever with the bear. Bears are not quite plentiful enough, or so easily killed as to supply all the vast amount of "bears' grease" which is annually consumed in the whole world. The fact is, lard is purified,

scented, put into pots, decorated with coloured labels, called bears' grease, sold at high prices, and has the double advantage of bringing in a very large percentage to the sellers, and doing quite as much good to the buyer as if it were the genuine fat of the bear.

The pig quite revels in an oak wood or under the oak trees in autumn. We cannot, however, praise the good taste of the pigs quite so much in this instance, for acorns are detestable. It is true that we used to eat them at school; but then school boys, like ostriches or sharks, will eat anything. Even we, however, could not manage them till we had roasted them.

Yet this shows the degeneracy of our race, or rather it would do so in the ears of some people, for our early ancestors used to make acorns a considerable portion of their diet. The Arcadians (happy race!) were said to live almost exclusively on that delectable food. This reminds us of an amusing print published, where a pig was represented as seated under an oak, and exactly facing him an Arcadian also seated under another oak. The ingenious artist contrived to infuse so much of the pig into the Arcadian, and the Arcadian into the pig, that there was some difficulty in discovering which was quadruped and which biped.

Miscellaneous.

MOWING MACHINES.—HOW TO AVOID DANGER!

We were informed, the other day, by a Colchester farmer, that mowing machines are coming into extensive use in his county, something like 20 machines being at present in operation within a reasonable distance of Shubenacadie. We therefore reprint the following judicious remarks from the *American Agriculturist*:

"The great number of serious and fatal accidents which are reported every year as arising from carelessness in handling mowing machines, or from drivers being thrown from off their seats in front of them, has led to much thought, both on the part of conscientious manufacturers and others, to prevent such occurrences. Some mowing machines are peculiarly liable to throw the driver off on going over rough ground, or when the cutter bar strikes a fixed obstacle. They should be avoided by purchasers, as one would any treacherous dangerous thing. When accidents occur and are reported in the papers, the name of the machine should always be given. We should like to publish a list showing the number of each machine in use, and number of accidents to those using them, could a fair one be made out.

Some years ago a lady of Burlington, N. J., invented an arrangement for throwing the knives out of gear the instant the driver's weight was taken from the seat. We never knew of its being put to use. There have been several other guards contrived, generally, however, not applicable to all machines.

We have received a suggestion in a letter from Mr. J. S. Hammond, of Scarsdale, which we regard as eminently practical and sensible, and believe it will be the means of saving many lives and limbs. He writes: "As the mowing season is rapidly approaching, I desire to make known a simple device, which I have employed during two seasons, to prevent being thrown from my mowing machine. It is well known that serious accidents have been thus produced. It is this:—I take a strong leather strap, about 30 inches long, and, passing one end between the bars on the *left* side of the seat, (generally of open iron work,) buckle, so as to make a loop. Put the left arm through this loop. Let the loop be long enough to allow free use of the arm in driving, and at the same time to steady the body. The *right* arm must be free to work the machine. Should the machine strike any hidden obstacle, the strap will prevent the rider from being thrown to the right side, or forward, upon the knives, and will in most cases enable him to keep his seat. Properly adjusted it will not interfere with the management of the team or the machine."

DRESSING SHEEP-SKINS FOR MATS, ROBES, MITTENS, &c.

Make a strong suds, using hot water; when it is cold wash the skins in it to get the dirt out of the wool; then wash the soap with clean cold water. For two skins dissolve alum and salt, of each half a pound, with a little hot water, which put into a tub of cold water sufficient to cover the skins, soaking twelve hours; then hang over a pole to drain; when well drained, spread or stretch carefully on a board to dry, tacking them down if necessary. When yet a little damp, have one ounce each of saltpetre and alum pulverized, and sprinkle over the flesh side of the skin, rubbing in well; then lay the flesh side together and hang in the shade for two or three days, turning the under skin uppermost every day until perfectly dry; then scrape the flesh side with a blunt knife, to remove any remaining scraps of flesh, trim off projecting points, and rub with pumice and rotten stone, and with the hand. Lamb-skins, thus prepared, will make beautiful and warm mittens for ladies and gentlemen.—*Journal of Board of Arts and Manufactures of Ontario.*

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia have published their third annual Report, from which we learn that very satisfactory progress in agriculture has marked the history of that portion of the New Dominion during the past few years. The result has been in great measure owing to the operation of the Board, and the formation of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province.

The number of these useful institutions at present established there is fifty-eight, the number of members 3,000, and the sum total of their annual subscriptions, as far as can be ascertained, \$3,200. The efforts of these societies have been directed to various objects of promoting better systems of culture and stock raising in their various localities. To this end they have established agricultural exhibitions, and have awarded premiums also for the best crops, &c. Much useful agricultural literature has been circulated through the country by their means; but among the most important of their operations has been the importation of improved stock and new seeds, both from Europe and Canada. The *Journal of Agriculture*, a monthly periodical, published under the auspices of the Board, has done good service in diffusing agricultural information, and stimulating a spirit of enquiry and enterprise.—*Canada Farmer*.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Monthly Report of the Agricultural Department, U. S., May and June, 1867. From P. Monaghan.

Journal of Education, Montreal, May, 1867.

The American Agriculturist, July 1867. This number has good figures of several interesting natural history objects, including the Prong Horn Antelope of the great Plains, the Puma which extends from Canada to Patagonia, the Shad which frequents the Avon and other Nova Scotia rivers; and the Tiger Triton, said to be a native only of New England and the middle States but which we have likewise at Lucyfield Farm and probably in other places in Nova Scotia. The *Agriculturist* is the best Agricultural journal published in the States, and the present number contains a large amount of valuable reading matter.

Canada Farmer. July 15, 1867.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

DIRECTIONS FOR STUFFING MEAT.—The stuffing for pork, or ducks and goose, is made of bread-crumbs mixed with sage and onions chopped small, seasoned with pepper and salt. It is not easy to

give the exact proportions for stuffings, but you require about twice the quantity of bread-crumbs than you do of the sage and onion. The stuffing for veal and turkeys is made of bread-crumbs, with suet, parsley, and thyme or marjoram, chopped very fine, seasoned with pepper and salt, and made to adhere by being mixed together with a raw egg.

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Best Heifer Calf . . . 4 00	Grass 1 00
2 do. 3 00	" 25 lbs. Butter 1 50
3 do. 2 00	2 do do 1 00
Best 2 Ram Lambs 2 00	Best 20 yds. Wool'n
2 do. 1 50	Cloth (Men's) . . 1 50
3 do. 1 00	2 do do 1 00
Best 2 Lwe Lambs 2 00	Best 10 yds. Wool'n
2 do. 1 50	Cloth (Women's) 1 50
3 do. 1 00	2 do do 1 00
Best Spring Boar . . .	Best Straw or Grass
Pig 2 00	Hat 0 50
2 do. 1 50	2 do do 0 40
3 do. 1 00	Best Hearth Rug . . 1 50
Best 3 bush. Wheat. 2 00	2 do do 1 00
2 do. 1 50	

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DONALD McTAY,

Wallace, July, 1867.

Secretary.

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Hebron, Yarmouth, May, 1867.

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By County & District Agricultural Societies, towards the Provincial Exhibition of 1868.

Western Halifax Agricultural Society	\$100 00
Antigonish Agricultural Society	100 00
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Dartmouth Agricultural Society	50 00
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Intimations of additional subscriptions by Societies should be sent to PROF. LAWSON, the Secretary, as it is desirable to issue the Prize List without delay.

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Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay, Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

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