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LETTERS OF AGRICOLA.

From the remote time of Virgil down to the days of Voelcher, many an earnest appeal has been made to the cultivator of the soil. But in the whole range of Agricultural Literature, we do not know a single production that excels, in sound sense or purity of diction, the eloquent and classic "Letters of Agricola." Many a reader who has seen extracts from these Letters has desired in vain to peruse the original work, for it has now been practically out of print for several years.

It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that we announce a valuable donation made to the Board of Agriculture by the Hon. Sir Wm. Young, as Representative of his esteemed Father, the Author of these Letters. The donation consists of a sufficient number of copies of the complete work to supply one copy to every Agricultural Society in the Province.

Societies wishing to participate in this gift, will please send to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, without delay,

the name and address of the person to whom they desire their copies of the work to be sent. On receiving the required information, the Secretary will, in every case, mail the book, free of expense, to the address given.

HEMP CULTURE AND PREPARATION.

Our readers are aware that, through the enterprise of the Hon. Wm. J. Stairs, a Rope Factory, has been established on the Dartmouth side of Halifax Harbour. The premises are very extensive, the most improved machinery has been introduced, and no pains have been spared to render the Factory as complete as possible. Hemp is not grown in Nova Scotia, and therefore the factory has to depend for its supplies of raw material upon other countries. There is no good reason, however, why Mr. Stairs should be expending his capital among the farmers of Kentucky, or the serfs of Russia, or even the *habitants* of Quebec. The soil and climate of Nova Scotia are, (as we have shown on a former occasion), as well adapted to

the culture of Hemp as those of other countries; and now that a good market for hemp has been brought to our farmers' very doors, they will surely be much to blame if they do not avail themselves of it. If it pay a Kentucky farmer or a Russian nobleman to grow hemp on his land, and send it all the way to Halifax to find a market, then it will surely pay our people in Nova Scotia, who have so much idle land, and many of whom have so much idle time on their hands, to grow hemp at home for a home market. On enquiry we find that at the present rate of manufacture, the production of a thousand acres will be annually required to supply the factory, and the demand will increase as the manufacture becomes more fully developed.

Mr. Stairs has furnished us with a communication on the cultivation and preparation of Hemp, prepared by H. G. Joly, Esq., MP., of Quebec, which was published some time ago in the "Canada Farmer;" and we gladly comply with his request to re-print it in our

columns, for the information of our readers. It is suggested by Mr. Stairs that, some of the grass lands which have lately been overflowed by the tidal wave, and which are not likely to yield a good hay crop next year, might be broken up and sown to hemp for a season or two. This would certainly tend greatly to their permanent improvement. We print this month the first portion of Mr. Jolly's paper, and will return to the subject again next month, when the remainder will be given. In the meantime we shall be glad to receive any hints or suggestions or objections from any one who may feel an interest in the development of our agriculture.

We would further suggest to our friends the Editors of Newspapers, that in the present absence of any very exciting political matters, they might advantageously devote a corner of their columns to an extract from Mr. Joly's communication. Every shipbuilder, merchant, and fisherman is interested in the production of good and cheap ropes and twines, and they have a right to expect that our farmers will do their part by producing the raw material; but many of our farmers never see an agricultural paper, and the only mode of effectually reaching them is through the political organs which every body reads:—

It is necessary that I should begin by stating, for those who may not be acquainted with the fact, that the male or fecundating flower of the hemp, and the female or seed-bearing flower, grow upon separate or distinct plants, so that hemp, unlike flax, whose every plant bears seed, is divided between female, or seed bearing plants, and male plants, which do not bear seed, but are indispensable for the fecundation of the female plant.

I have never read nor heard that it was possible to distinguish the sex of the plant in the seed of hemp; male and female must, therefore, be sown and grown up together. There is nearly an equal quantity of each; if anything, the female slightly predominates. The male ripens about three weeks sooner than the female. It is known to be ripe when its stem and leaves assume a yellowish hue. That colour makes it easily distinguishable from the female, which, at that time, is still perfectly green.

There are no two countries—scarcely two localities in the same country—where hemp is treated identically the same way; but I think all the various modes of treatment can be safely classified under

one or another of the two following heads—the old fashioned European or the new fashioned Kentucky mode.

The choice of ground, the way to prepare it, the sowing of the seed, and the cultivation between seed time and maturity, are the same in both these modes of treatment, which, in fact, differ but on one point, the harvesting of the crop.

CHOICE AND PREPARATION OF THE GROUND.

I will quote some good authorities on that subject, whose words will carry much more weight than mine, merely stating that, from experience I have found them to be perfectly correct:—

Mr. Bradford of Kentucky, says:—

“The soil for hemp must be strong, calcareous, deep, warm, loamy, and a perfectly dry one, deeply and thoroughly prepared by ploughing and cross-ploughing, according to its previous condition, until a fine state of tilth is produced.”

Henry Clay says:—

“The lands which produce hemp best are those which have lain some time in grass or clover. Manuring is not much practised yet (in Kentucky). Clover is used in lieu of it. Fall or winter ploughing is practised with advantage. It is indispensable in old meadows or old pasture grounds, intended for producing hemp.”

Sebastian Delamar says:—

“Hemp gives but a very unsatisfactory return on soils of too sandy or clayey a nature, on shallow soils, on those which are apt to be scorched by the sun, or are unable to receive their due share of atmospheric influence. Fresh broken lands in the midst of woods and forests, are favorable to its growth.”

SOWING THE SEED.

We sow hemp, in the District of Québec, about the first week in May. You can safely sow in Upper Canada, at least a fortnight sooner. Sow it broad cast about one bushel to the acre (for hemp grown for rope making, which is the only kind, I think, that can be advantageously raised, for the present in Canada). Harrow before sowing, and harrow and cross-harrow lightly after sowing.

Never sow seed older than the preceding summer's growth, for it is admitted by every one that hemp seed loses its vitality rapidly. The seed must be plump and full, and rather dark in colour. Whitish and greenish seeds are always bad.

Last year I imported seed from Piedmont, north of Italy. It came to an absurd price, but with proper management, it ought to be got here for four or five dollars a bushel. This year I import Kentucky or Missouri seed (I think it is

the same), for which I expect to pay, delivered in Quebec, from three dollars to three dollars and a quarter per bushel. Mr. Wm. Evans, of the Agricultural Warehouse, Montreal, imports all my seed. From experiments made last year, I am, so far, inclined to give the preference to the Missouri seed over the Piedmontese. Some of the plants from the latter are, it is true, much taller than any produced by the former; but the crop yielded by the Missouri seed was a good average length, and much more equal in height and thickness than that from the Piedmontese seed.

There is no cultivation whatever required between seed-time and maturity; the rapid growth of hemp chokes up all weeds; in fact, it weeds itself.

HARVESTING.

I have now reached the point at which the European and Kentuckian modes of treating hemp begin to differ from one another—I mean the harvesting—and I will proceed to show in what that difference consists.

THE MALE PLANT.

In Europe when the male hemp has become ripe, it is pulled by hand, plant by plant, allowing the female plant to stand, in order that her seed may ripen, which takes about three weeks from the time the male is pulled. After being pulled, the male plants are laid out to rot, or, as it is more generally called in the country, to rot, either on the ground, or in water, like flax. The same process of retting is followed both in the European and Kentuckian treatment of hemp. When destined to be retted in water, hemp is put up in bundles, which must not exceed ten inches in diameter or thereabouts, at the thickest part, so that the water may act easily on the centre of the bundle. Five or six days in stagnant water, when the weather is still warm, is generally sufficient. It takes much longer in running water. When the water is cold, owing to the lateness of the season, it is better to ret on the ground. It takes from one month to six weeks to ret on the ground, the time depending completely upon the greater or lesser frequency of rain.

When the bark which contains the fibre can be easily detached from the wood, in long strips uninterrupted, from the root to the top of the plant, the retting is completed. Hemp ought not to be spread upon the field to dry the moment it is taken out of the water, for it is then soft and brittle, and might be injured. The bundles must be put up standing along a fence, or wall, or, if neither be quite convenient to the pond, some light scaffolding erected for the purpose, after slackening the ties, which can be readily done by pushing them up towards the thinner part of the bundles.

They are left standing for a day or two, until the water has run out of them. The plants are then fit to spread on the ground, in thin layers. When dried on one side, turn them over, and a few hours of sunshine will complete the operation. Do not take them in unless thoroughly dried.

THE FEMALE PLANT.

When the seeds harden, the female plants ought to be pulled. It would not do to wait until the seed is quite ripe, because the bags containing it will then burst, and the seed drops on the ground and is lost. The seed is allowed to ripen for a few days on the field, care being taken to prevent the head of the plant, which contains the seed, from resting on the ground. It must not be beaten out with the flail. It is too soft for that, and would be crushed. The best plan is to bring barrels or boxes to the field, hold the handful of hemp with one hand, the heads of the plant placed inside the barrel or box, and with the other hand, armed with a small stick, beat the heads until the seed drops, after which operation the female plants are retted in the same way as the male plant.

When the seed is extracted, it is taken under shelter and laid in very thin layers, not more than a couple of inches thick, for it is very apt to heat when not thoroughly dry. It is well to turn it over from time to time. After a month or so, when well dried, the seed is winnowed and put up into bags or barrels.

Such is the European mode of harvesting. The Kentuckian method will be described next month.

ENTERPRISE, INDUSTRY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY.

At a recent meeting of the London Farmers' Club, Mr. James Howard, M. P., read an elaborate paper on the existing systems of farming in European countries,—from which we extract the following instructive description of an amateur's farm in France. If some Halifax hardware man would clear 3800 acres of bog and wood, and cultivate it as M. Cail does, we might then have some hope that our farmers would arouse themselves. A few emigrants like M. Cail would soon make our country prosper:—

"I now refer to the large farm of M. Cail, which is situated at La Briche, near Tours, 200 miles south-west of Paris. M. Cail is proprietor of one of the largest engineering establishments in France—a great builder of locomotives; his farm of La Briche consists of about 3800 acres, which he has reclaimed from waste land—bog and wood. Being a thorough utilitarian, not a tree or a fence of any kind has been left: the whole is laid out in

large fields, some nearly a mile across, which have been drained, and good hard roads made through the whole property. One good central homestead and eight minor ones have been erected. It requires but a glance to be convinced that the proprietor of such a place is a man with an iron will. The central homestead, the most wonderful place of the kind I have ever seen, is worth making the journey to see. The corn barn, with a triple roof like a railway station, is 366 feet long and 130 feet wide, and 32 feet high in the walls. It will contain 1250 acres of unthreshed corn. A line of shafting with pulleys runs down the centre throughout the length. The threshing machine, a portable one, is drawn forward as the threshing is accomplished. Everything is on the same scale—sheds for 600 bullocks, a covered fold for 3000 sheep, a huge granary for threshed grain, tramways to every part, a large beetroot distillery at which the roots are made into sugar or spirit according to the prospect of the market. Every vehicle on entering and leaving the homestead passes over a weigh-bridge at the gates, and the weight of the load is recorded and charged to or credited to the respective fields. The farm is cultivated on the three-course shift:—1st, Wheat; 2nd, Beetroot; 3rd, Clover. I rode over 1250 acres of fine beetroot, beautifully cultivated. Little attention is given to the hoeing of corn by Sugar-Beet growers, as the land is supposed to be thoroughly cleaned when under the root crop.

"Boys sent to reformatories in France are employed in agriculture till their turn comes for conscription. The reformatories are called agricultural colonies, and are distributed over the rural districts. I found at La Briche 130 of these boys, from 14 to 18 years old: they work in gangs, under a superintendent sent with them from the Mettray Reformatory.—During the winter evenings they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic and measuring. The condition of the labourer in this part of France, as in most others is a very hard one. At each of the eight homesteads is a married couple, who supply food to the labourers employed in their division, the greater part of whom are unmarried. The team men sleep with the cattle, two in a bed, or rather in a box, on a sack of straw, a rude floor being put up at one end of the sheds. Up to that period I had never seen men so nearly reduced to a state of slavery. I arrived at the farm about daylight, and found all hands at work. The hours in summer, I learned, were from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and, mark you, till noon on Sundays. The wages, without perquisites for these long hours, are 1s. 8d. per day. A good crop of wheat was being cut, the men using a fagging-hook; 5s. was the price paid for cutting and binding an im-

perial acre; and the wages paid by M. Cail are higher than the current wages of the neighborhood. In spite of the rigid condition in which the labourers of La Briche work, I noticed a deal of apparent good feeling, as well as an approach to familiarity, between employer and employed. The men addressed M. Cail with a kindly salutation, whilst, to my astonishment and intense amusement, this gentleman, of polished exterior living in great style at one of the most elegant houses in Paris, saluted the various foremen by kissing them on both cheeks, receiving a corresponding salute in return. I managed to keep my risible faculties under restraint until arriving at the blacksmith's shop, when a similar scene between M. Cail and the foreman, a grimy son of Vulcan, proved irresistible. M. Cail is a shrewd man of the world, and, noticing my amusement, remarked that conforming in this way to the custom of the province had given him a hold upon the people he could not have obtained had he totally disregarded their notions of equality and fraternity."

BOTANY AND HORTICULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Nova Scotian JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE appears to think that because in our report of the York Agricultural Show, we did not feel disposed to give the botanical names of the plants and flowers on exhibition that the taste for Botany and Scientific Horticulture is, therefore, not increasing in our Province. That the very opposite of this is the case any one may satisfy himself by a visit to our gardens at the proper season of the year; and we do not think we are risking too much when we say that we believe they will compare favorably with any gardens in our highly-favored sister province. It is too bad that from an act of simple indifference on our part, the people of this Province should be subjected to a charge of want of good taste. We thank the JOURNAL for giving such prominence to our report of the York County Show, but we must venture to correct an impression which the heading of the article, as used in the JOURNAL, is calculated to convey, that the show was a Provincial one, the words "New Brunswick Agricultural Show" being used. The exhibition in question, as the few first lines of our article indicates, was merely a local affair, and did not even embrace a third of York County.

Next year the Provincial or "New Brunswick" Agricultural Show will take place, and is to be held in Fredericton. We hope the Editor of the JOURNAL will then find it convenient to be in our city, when, if we mistake not, he will entertain a better opinion of our tastes for Botany and Scientific Horticulture, and form a

good idea of the Agricultural capabilities of this province.—*Colonial Farmer.*

[We assure the editor of the *Colonial Farmer* that we had no intention of slighting the botanical and horticultural tastes of the people of New Brunswick; but we think there is great room for improvement all over the Dominion, and over a large portion of the Republic as well. When a gentleman expends a few thousand dollars in buying rare plants for his green-house, he might as well tell his gardener not to throw the tallies into the stove. Fifty or sixty years ago a distinguished young botanist used to swim out into the Thames to rescue the seed papers thrown over the garden wall of the Hammersmith Nursery, so as to secure the latest information respecting botanical novelties; and if readers take the trouble to swim their eyes through the Exhibition Reports of the *Colonial Farmer* or any other paper, they have a right to feel disappointed if the names of botanical novelties are ignored without a better reason being assigned than that they are not of sufficient interest to anybody.—Ed.]

THE FRUIT GROWERS' EXHIBITION

YARMOUTH, 9th Nov., '69.

I had the pleasure of attending the Fruit Growers' Exhibition at Somerset. The display was very fine, much exceeding the show at the Great Exhibition last year, the season having been much more favorable to the perfect development and full coloring of the fruit, than that of 1868. While we, in Yarmouth county, are making rapid progress in small fruits, all of which do well, I am afraid the number of varieties of apples that will succeed in our cool damp summers is exceedingly limited; as yet, it is matter for experiment, known varieties having been scarcely grown at all, in a few years we shall know all about it. I have myself distributed many thousands of scions all over the county.

CHARLES E. BROWN.

THE ROLLS OF HONOUR AND DISHONOUR.

In the States and New Brunswick, the Agricultural papers are publishing under the head "Roll of Honor," the names of such farmers as have raised sufficient wheat for themselves and families this year. A practice of this kind, must sound strangely in the ears of English farmers and labourers who are so strongly invited to cast in their lot with American farmers on "inexhaustible wheat land." We think that a Roll of Dishonour should be established for the names of all those farmers who do not raise grain enough to provide their families with a breakfast roll every morning.

GROUND BONES.

To Professor Lawson, Editor of the *Agricultural Journal.*

SIR,—I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject of ground bones for agricultural purposes. Owing to a train of unfortunate circumstances, to which you kindly and sympathetically referred, I think in your number of June last, the bone trade, hitherto, has been neither satisfactory nor remunerative. The introduction of a new business is generally attended with difficulties apart from the casualty I have alluded to, but if there were no losses, we should all grow rich.

From what I have said my prospect of profit is in the future, still I do not despair of establishing a self-sustaining branch of industry firmly identified with the agricultural interests of the Province, and it is pleasant to find my faith strengthened by the renewed applications for ground bones I am receiving from late and many new sources for the ensuing seasons.

I would state that I will continue to buy all the bones that offer at the mill, for which I pay fifty cents per hundred pounds, and that I have never sold an ounce for other than agricultural purposes, and that I have now a large quantity on hand for which I anticipate an increased demand. I would also state that I am adapting machinery for reducing raw bones to a finer state than hitherto, and also for manufacturing bone flour, (see advertisement), and finally that I could extend my notoriety by advertising extensively, which but for two reasons I would do, first is that the business will not pay for the luxury, and second that the *Agricultural Journal* opens to me a direct communication with every farmer in the Province, i. e. if it does not, it ought, as it is exclusively devoted to their interests; at the same time I have to thank the press of the city for its kindly notice of my efforts to connect my own interests with that of the farmers. Yours respectfully,

JAMES STANFORD.

Agricultural Bone Mill, Halifax.

ROUEN DUCKS.

DARTMOUTH, N. S., Nov. 1, '69.

Mr. Editor,

Dear Sir,—Can you inform me whether the pure Rouen Duck can be obtained in the province, and where, as I have, after long search and inquiry come to the conclusion that all that pass under that name round here are not the real Rouen; and, although I have a flock of perhaps as fine as can be produced of the dark duck—the drakes weigh 7 pounds and over,—yet they are not pure, and I should like to obtain them if to be had. Any of your readers who know of such

and will inform me through the columns of your valuable monthly, or by addressing:—Box 116, Post Office, Halifax, N. S., will greatly oblige, yours,

A POULTRY FANCIER.

CONDITION OF THE FLOODED DYKES.

We are glad to learn from John Northup, Esq., who has recently had an opportunity of inspecting the Dykes in King's county and Hants flooded by the great tidal wave, that although the expense of repairing the dykes will be very heavy and severely felt by the proprietors, yet the injury is not likely to be so great as was at one time expected. The rains which succeeded the incursion of the salt water have had a beneficial effect, and where the dykes will be effectually repaired this season, there is every prospect of a crop of hay next year. Indeed, at the end of October, the grass on some of the dykes was sending up green shoots, and animals were pasturing upon it.

Agriculturists throughout the Province naturally feel an interest in these great tracts of fertile land, and we trust that some of our correspondents in Cumberland, Kings, and Hants will furnish us with detailed information as to the real state of affairs, especially with reference to the steps taken to remedy the mischief. It is worth while, at the present time likewise, to discuss the possibility of adopting measures for lessening injury to the dyke lands in the event of similar catastrophes in the future. Every country has its maritime or seashore plants. The use of these in binding shifting sands is very well known and extensively taken advantage of throughout Europe and Asia, and to a sparing extent on the American coast; but the employment of such plants as a defence against the action of the waves and in binding dykes, is as yet in its infancy in English speaking countries; we commend the subject to the consideration of those interested in dyke lands, as one well worthy of investigation and experiment. If some of the strong-growing maritime hedge plants of Europe would withstand our winters, they might be made available by a little ingenuity, but we are not aware of any experiments in this direction. There are several maritime shrubs and herbaceous plants along our own coasts which might likewise be tried.

We invite our readers to make suggestions or afford information on this subject, and any inquiries that may reach us will be replied to as fully as available information can warrant.

THE "EARLY ROSE" IN YARMOUTH.

It is well that so much attention is being paid to the selection of the best varieties of potato. We observe that Mr. John Killam of Roberts' Island, like many of our rearers, has been growing the "Early Rose." In order the more clearly to bring out its qualities, good or bad, he pitted several sorts against it. The result appears to be a fair victory for the "Early Rose." The details are given in the *Yarmouth Herald*, from which we extract the following:—

"We cannot well judge of the merits of potatoes, nor indeed of any vegetable, when, in the propagation of them, we put them in some choice spot and pet them, as persons generally do when they obtain specimens of newly introduced sorts. Now I have been doing a little farming out-of-school-hours, during the past season, and, among other things, have been experimenting with some small samples of the various kinds of potatoes lately introduced to the farmers of Yarmouth, the result of which I give below. I also planted a pound of "Jackson's" with them by way of comparison. The soil, in its virgin state, may be said to have been a good sandy loam, covered with a growth principally of hard wood; but has been for thirty years or upwards in tillage and grass; and last spring was "old run out mowing land." The land was manured in the ordinary way, with an ordinary quantity of stable manure, the crop had only ordinary care, and the situation was a dry and airy one. I planted the potatoes on the 11th day of May last. They produced as follows:—

Description.	Ozs.	Produce.	Mult.	Size.	Qual.
The Owens	17	33 lbs.	31	small	fair
Early Rose	6	29 "	77	large	superior
Patterson Blue	3½	10 "	46	"	poor
Gleasons	11	42 "	61	medm	"
Early Hansw'rh	16	64 "	64	small	good
Jacksons	16	54 "	54	medm	"
Nameless	16	67 "	67	large	supr.

The "nameless" potato comes out well, and we should be glad to hear what kind of a potato it is. If an obscure sort, known only in Mr. Killam's patch, the Yarmouth Society could not do better than encourage its increase, with a view to further experiment.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

GREAT ANNUAL FAIR AT YARMOUTH.

The second annual Exhibition of the Yarmouth County Agricultural Society was held on the Parade Ground and in the Court House, on Thursday, 7th Oct., favored with the finest possible weather, and with neither incident nor accident to mar the general enjoyment. There was a large assemblage throughout the day, the Court House for several hours being filled to its utmost capacity, mostly with ladies.

THE CHAIRMEN AT FAULT.

It was slightly aggravating to the Secretary, after several hours of hard work, while waiting patiently for 11 books to be returned to him, that he might find out and write down between 300 and 400 names, corresponding to numbers, to learn that several of the Chairmen, after completing their work, had put their books into their pockets, and complacently departed for dinner or for business.

A POLICEMAN WANTED.

It was slightly aggravating also, when the names were at length ready for announcement, to find that the respected President of the Society could not compel quiet in the Court.

ENTRIES.

The number of Exhibitors—70—although not in proportion to the greatly increased number of members—156—and the number of entries—413—were both in excess of last year; smaller quantities being required, there was less table room occupied, the show of vegetables did not look large by comparison.

HORSES.

The committee report that the exhibition of Horses is much inferior with regard to number and appearance to that of last year. The number entered was 18, while the premiums offered were 21. In awarding premiums the committee were guided by the freedom from blemish, soundness, good points and supposed general usefulness of the animals, rather than by their style or beauty of appearance. The committee would particularly recommend that more attention be paid by exhibitors to the grooming of horses intended for future exhibitions.

NEAT STOCK.

Of female neat stock, the committee report "the stock, upon the whole, much the same as last year." There were 39 entries and 15 premiums. In regard to male animals of which there were 49 entries and 33 premiums, the committee report that although the show was not so large as desirable, there was a large proportion of superior animals, particularly among the young stock. They recommend that exhibitors should be more careful to give age and breed; also, that the Premium List should make more distinctions as to age—a four year old heifer not competing fairly with cows of seven years and upwards which have attained full growth and development.

SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY.

Number of entries in this class 79, and the number of premiums 42. In this class, the committee report a great improvement, 79 entries against 34 last year. They commend the Southdown as a very fine sheep, showing the best points for fineness of wool and for size. They recommend that in future,

exhibitors should be required to mark the age and breed of sheep with the number. The show of pigs attracted general admiration, and could probably not be beaten in the province; one lot, a sow and litter of 11, was sold at \$74.00. In these also they recommend that age, breed and weight should be marked with the number. The show of poultry, much in advance of last year, although small compared to what it ought to be and will be hereafter. White Leghorn took first prize, some of these—spring chickens—were sold at \$1.00 per pair. In poultry, also, age should be marked upon the coops.

GRAIN, SEEDS, IMPLEMENTS, PEAT, CLAY.

The number of entries was 32, premiums 48. The best implement for household use was presented by Mr. Calvin Wyman, in the shape of a very ingenious Foot Warmer and Lantern combined, for which, in the United States, a patent would be taken out. The committee carefully examined the various articles submitted, some of them being the best samples ever exhibited before the Society; and while they would not be understood to predicate absolute perfection of any of them, they unanimously agreed that the Beans and Peas were decidedly the best Agricultural specimens coming under their investigation, and that the various kinds of grain presented far exceeded the samples exhibited last year. The committee recommend a Premium on the specimen of Drain Tile presented, being well made, of good material, and perfectly burned. They also recommend a greater variety of household and agricultural implements—the collection being so small this year that it afforded no chance for choice.

VEGETABLES.

There were 80 entries, and 69 premiums. On the whole the Exhibition in this department surpassed both in variety and excellence that of last year. It is recommended that in future no article be admitted for competition unless with its name attached. No prize was awarded for the best show of vegetables, there being "no entries, or collections dispersed, exhibitors not looking after them." It is the same at all our shows, provincial or local. There are to be found exhibitors who bring an armsfull of garden stuff, throw it down on the tables, and run away, leaving it to be cared for by officials who have their own work to attend to, and more than they can accomplish. In other countries stuff thrown into an exhibition in that slovenly way would, however meritorious in other respects, be at once consigned to an adjoining pig pen to make way for legitimate exhibitors.

FRUIT AND FLOWERS.

There were 12 entries for 15 premiums. One of the great difficulties that Prize

Committees have to contend with, in making their awards at Agricultural Exhibitions, is in trying to show exhibitors that success is to be sought for more in quality, than in quantity or mere size.

The committee especially recommend the varieties of apple named "Holley" and "Reynard."

Of the pears, the "Duchess D'Angoulême" was well grown, smooth, and of good size. The "Bartlett" was rather small, but in other respects fair looking.

The plums exhibited were an improvement on last year, and the two first varieties shown—"Magnum" and "Purple Gage"—prove that good plums can be as easily grown as poor ones.—Wm. H. Moody, sr., sent a sample of his "Bradshaw" plum, some three weeks since; 6 weighed 14½ ozs. Being an early variety, they would not keep for exhibition.—C. E. B. The deficiency in flowers the committee hope will be remedied in future.

BUTTER, CHEESE.

Premiums 9. Number of entries 25. The Chairman of the committee in this class, having been much occupied with his business, had not found time to make any report. While the number of entries was much less than last year, the prices at which several lots of butter and cheese were sold, do not indicate a deterioration in quality. The former selling at 27 to 30 cents per lb., the latter at 15 to 17 cents. The season has not been favorable for the productions of the dairy, both butter and cheese being largely short of the demand for home consumption.—To make up for the chairman apparently not having given the ladies sufficient attention in this laborious department, we print the list of premiums in detail. There is no department of our exhibitions that deserves more encouragement, or in which success is more creditable, and we should like to see followed the example of some of the district shows in Western Canada, where gold watches, gold bracelets, brooches and melodeons are given as prizes.

Best Crock or Tub Butter, 40 lbs., Mrs. Henry Burrill	\$3.00
2nd do. do. do. Mrs. Eben Rose	2.00
3rd do. do. do. Mrs. J. Lyons Hatfield	1.00
Best 5 lbs. Butter in rolls, Mrs. Alvin Churchill	2.00
2nd do. do. do. Mrs. Angus Walker	1.00
3rd do. do. do. Mrs. Zachariah Corning	50
Best Cheese, not less than 20 lbs., Mrs. James Kelley Rose, jr.	3.00
2nd do. do. do. Mrs. Stephen Churchill	2.00
3rd do. do. do. Mrs. Eben Rose	1.00

BREAD, PRESERVES, PICKLES.

6 entries for 15 premiums. The tea table department seems, from the report, to have been a wretched concern. "The committee regret that in this somewhat important department there was but little display, only three lots of wheat bread—one of which did not comply with the

regulations—one lot of rye and indian bread, one collection of pickles and one jar of preserves;" there was "No premium awarded for preserves, as one jar was not considered a collection, as required by the regulations."

THE LADIES ARE NOT TO BLAME.

The Secretary remarks that several ladies explained the absence of competition in this class, from their ignorance of its being included in the list of premiums—they had never seen any premium list. Two hundred lists were printed, and one was addressed and delivered to each member of the Society. If the members conceal or secrete them from their better halves, what can the Secretary do? and what can be expected but a lamentable deficiency in a department wherein skill is not only promotive of health, but directly conducive to the well being of every family in the community. Let us hope to see infinite amendment next year.

PAINTINGS, PENCIL SKETCHES.

There were 28 entries for 9 premiums. The committee report that they were highly gratified with the very marked improvement made in this department since last year, both in the quality and number of works exhibited, and they hope that at future exhibitions this branch of the Fine Arts will continue to receive that high regard it so justly merits. for

"Art is the world's interpreter,
It speaks to ev'ry land the same,
And Art can higher fame confer
And higher fix the Painter's name,
Than all the poetry of mind,
To land and language strict confined."

CARPETS, MATS, FURS, YARNS, &C.

There were 43 entries for 39 premiums. The general excellence of the various articles in this department is commended by the committee, and if this acknowledgment would suffice, their duty would have been an easy and a very pleasing one, while possibly the majority of exhibitors would have been better content with it than with the fuller and more critical report, which it seems you require from them. But when you ask them to decide which were the best, the second and the third of articles, each of which possessed its own peculiar merit, here they found the real work—the trouble commenced.

The committee invite the wives and daughters of the members of the Yarmouth County Agricultural Society to ornament the Court House with a larger display of their handiwork at the annual exhibition of 1870, for if each one would contribute some article of her industry or skill, the large number of visitors at every Agricultural Exhibition would the better enjoy their annual holiday.

The Prize List, an elaborate document prepared with much care by Charles E. Brown, Esq., the active Secretary, has

been published at length in the *Yarmouth Herald*, and we should transfer it to our pages, but the smallness of our sheet prevents.

ANNAPOLIS AGRICULTURAL SOC'Y.

Annapolis, Nov. 8, 1869.

Having already sent you a list of officers elected at the annual meeting in December last, together with a copy of the bye-laws, and also a list of members with the amounts paid, certified by the Secretary,—I felt that it was unnecessary to send any other report until after the next annual meeting. But in accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Board of Agriculture requiring County Societies to make report to the Secretary of the Board before the 15th November, at which time the Provincial grant would be divided among County Societies,—we beg to report, that at the time appointed in the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture for the election of officers of County Societies, a meeting was held at the school house, Saw Mill Creek, when, after having obtained the signatures of between forty and fifty to the declaration to become members of a new society, to be called the "Annapolis Agricultural Society," the following persons were elected officers for the present year, viz.: *Pres.*, George Whitman; *Vice-Pres.*, James Hoyt, J. M. Harris; *Treas.*, Alexander Harris; *Sec'y*, George Wells; *Directors*, F. Saunders, D. Whitman, Wm. Dargie, J. Copeland, G. LeCain.

A committee was then appointed to prepare bye-laws for the society, a copy of which was submitted and approved at a general meeting of the society held in March for that purpose; at which time it was decided to purchase some seed grain, which was purchased in the county of Pictou, and forwarded by rail to Windsor, thence by steamer to Annapolis, through the kindness of Jesse Hoyt, Esq., viz.: one bbl. wheat, two bbls. barley, and two bbls. oats, which were sold at auction to members of the society in small lots, which was all sown, and proved a superior article.

After the concurrence of the Board of Agriculture was obtained, the bye-laws were printed and distributed among the members. Enclosed please find a copy.

At the quarterly meeting in June, the committee decided to hold an Exhibition of stock, roots, and fruits, in October, and prepared a prize list, (a copy of which is also enclosed,) the place and time to be fixed at the quarterly meeting in September; which was held at the County Court House, on Wednesday the thirteenth day of October.

The show of roots was excellent, and in the opinion of the judges (who were members of other societies) could not be surpassed in the County, if in the Pro-

vince, and were, decidedly, the best exhibited in this locality.

In oxen we had nothing more than ordinary. The young stock showed very great improvement in breed compared with former exhibitions, and a large number was on the ground. In cows not many were shown,—a few very good milkers. Although the show of horses was not what might be desired, yet some colts shown had marks of good roadsters, and others for good farm horses. Not many sheep on the ground; a few fine Cotswold, but most of them inferior breeds. Some kinds of apples shown were very good, viz., Nonpareils, R. I. Greenings, Gravesteins and Baldwins, but of most other kinds a better show was made at the exhibitions at Bridgetown and Paradise.

Taking our exhibition as a whole, it was very good, and the premiums awarded by the judges seemed to give general satisfaction when they were announced by the President at the close of the exhibition, which will be paid to those entitled to receive, at the annual meeting in Dec.

The accompanying account will show the receipt and expenditure for the year. All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. WHITMAN, *Pres.*

YARMOUTH COUNTY SOCIETY.

The Managing Committee of the Yarmouth Agricultural Society, herewith submit the Treasurer's account for the year 1869, showing receipts . . . \$1108.06
Expenditure \$961.48
Cash on hand 146.58

1108.06
\$146.58

Also, on hand, 5 bbls. Russian Seed Wheat 51.67
15 bushels Barley 22.42
From 77 lbs. say 30 bushels Early Rose Potatoes at \$2.50 67.50
From 29 lbs. say 25 bushels Norway Oats, at \$5.62½ 140.62

\$428.79

Estimating last two items at prices charged this fall by the parties from whom we bought the seed, large and reliable dealers. After the experience of this season in both of these, we need not recommend their further trial.

We are persuaded that, under favorable conditions, there would be annually profitable crops from grain, and we hope the seed now on hand particularly the Russian Wheat, will be all used in the spring.

The importation of the Ayrshire stock gives us now representatives of the four leading breeds of neat stock in the township. The young stock at the Exhibition showed the improvement already effected, and must have been satisfactory and encouraging to the friends of good

stock. With more liberal subscriptions, there is ample room for more stock; one or two good horses would be of great service; the funds on hand will determine what can be done in this direction.

The few Hay Tedders and Horse Rakes imported, served to establish their value and adaptability even to rough ground, and we recommend them without reservation on the score of economy and superior quality of crop.

The attendance at the Exhibition enforces the maintenance of this annual comparison of progress.

While we have a large increase of members, and a proportionate increase in the amount subscribed for 1869, that amount falls very far short of what all the friends of Agriculture should annually raise in the county of Yarmouth, to promote their own interests. We, therefore, in closing these few brief paragraphs, again urge liberality of subscription, regularity and prompt attendance at meetings, and active and hearty co-operation in all kinds of improvements throughout the county.

WM. BUSKIRK, *Pres.*
FRANK KILLAM, *V. Pres.*
CHAS. E. BROWN, *Sec'y.*

Yarmouth. 2d Nov. 1869.

Quarterly meeting. The President in the chair—forty members present. A question as to the award of premiums at the Exhibition was raised by an Exhibitor, who claimed that he should have received a premium, inasmuch as, there being no other competitor, there was nothing better. A vote being taken, the decision of the Committee was confirmed by a unanimous vote.

Premiums were then paid out. Out of eighty successful exhibitors, only twenty complied with the request to hand in a statement in reference to stock, cultivation or manufactures; there being no rule to enforce it, the omission was overlooked for this year.

A statement in reference to the cultivation of onions, caused a discussion as to the comparative merit of seed, sets, and potato onions; one member affirmed, that he was uniformly successful in growing a good crop from seed, another was pleased to report a very large yield from this year's experiments in sets, while a third was successful only with the old fashioned potato onion. In a very warm sheltered situation, or in a warm, dry season, onions may be grown from seed; in moist ground and with average seasons they will not attain an edible size.

The Early Rose potatoes and the Norway oats grown for the Society, had not been all brought; the yield, so far as ascertained, was very satisfactory. At the yearly meeting, the report will show the full value of seed on hand.

CHARLES E. BROWN, *Sec'y.*

Miscellaneous.

SMALL TALK—FLYING STRAWS.

In consequence of recent changes in the Railway Tariff the old road between Windsor and Halifax has become lively again with countrymen's teams from the western counties; wayside taverns are being established, and it is expected the Half Way House will be rebuilt.—In Orillia, bears are prowling around the houses, and affording the inmates a supply of hams.—The Canada Fruit Growers' Association held their meeting, this year, at Brantford. Next year they will meet at Hamilton.—The papers announce that the Rev. Chas. Rogers is opening a subscription for the erection of a monument to Adam, the father of mankind.—Bales of prairie grass are being sent to England for the manufacture of paper.—Ottawa city has held her first Agricultural Show; a two bushel basket would have held all the fruit exhibited, and in several departments there was great room for improvement.—At the Brantford Fruit Gathering, the Rev. Mr. Burnett, of Hamilton, exhibited a grape called the "Hungarian Princess," the bunches of which weighed 1 lb. each, and Mr. Sanders showed "Pond's Seedling Plums," 6 inches in circumference.—In the Regent's Park Garden one floating leaf of the Victoria Water Lily has borne a weight of 426 lbs., and the eight leaves now on the plant are equal to 1½ tons burden; no Queen's ship ever before drew so little water in proportion to her cargo.—A theft case in London has disclosed the history of Dutch butter; it appears that there is a factory at Bromley in Kent, where fat is manufactured by the ton and sent to Holland, where it is mixed with butter, and re-exported to England as the best Dutch butter.—At a trial of potato-diggers at Manchester, the prize of ten pounds was gained by the digger No. 573, of Coleman & Morton.—Beet culture for the manufacture of sugar, and distillation, is exciting much interest on Continental Europe and in England.—The dykes in Cumberland are being repaired, at a very heavy expense to the proprietors; it is expected the work will be completed before approach of winter.—Farm rents are still rising in the South of Scotland.—The demand for thorough-bred stock in Nova Scotia is increasing.—Fall bearing raspberries were shown at the Canada Fruit Show.—Brahms are found to be as useful for improving common poultry, as Short Horns are for common cattle.—The Foot and Mouth disease is not decreasing in Europe.—At St. Catherine's, Ont., the apple trees were in full blossom last month.—Several men have already been frozen on Lake Ontario this season.—This fall the Halifax fish market has been poorly supplied.

HORSE BEANS.

The *Canada Farmer* supplement of the *Globe*, states that at the Agricultural show of the township of Howard, held at Ridgetown on the 12th October, Mr. Wright showed a box of English Horse Beans, "said to be the first grown in Canada" In that case "Canada" is fifty years at least behind Nova Scotia, where Horse Beans have been grown from an early period. It is only within the last two or three years, however, that their culture has been revived and extended through the efforts of the Board of Agriculture, who imported a large quantity of new seed from England. The great secret of their culture is to sow early; they are not touched by early frosts like other beans.

GREENLAND.

The *Panther*, has just returned from a summer trip to Labrador and Greenland. Among the objects of interest visited by the party was the Norse ruin at Krakatoek or Gardar in South Greenland, at which place there once flourished an extensive colony founded in the year 986, a son of the founder named Thorwald, being, in 1001, the first discoverer of Newfoundland; the party discovered the walls of an old cathedral in a tolerable state of preservation. They produce many evidences that the climate of Greenland—since the Norse occupation—has grown much colder. They paid a visit to the famous Kryolite mine at Ivigtut, the only place in the world where that valuable mineral—which is almost pure soda—has been discovered. The annual production of the mine is about 12,000 tons, the half of which is shipped to the United States. The party finally reached as far north as the middle of Melville Bay. The season has been very unfavorable for ice navigation in the upper waters of Baffin's Bay. Many polar bears were seen, and they were lucky enough to shoot six. The bears were literally run down by their powerful steamer, ploughing through and tearing up the ice, driving the game from field to field, until they were brought to bay. A curious incident of this novel chase was that while pursuing the bears, the photographers, stationed on the top-gallant-forecastle, took the portraits while they ran. The party visited, surveyed, and photographed immense glaciers; and in one instance, made a considerable journey upon the great ice sea or *mer de glace* which covers the interior of Greenland. From one of the glaciers they had a narrow escape; its disruption sent the waters rolling in gigantic waves down fiord, and it seems almost a miracle, that in the fearful crash and disturbance they were not dashed to pieces. The photographing party was on the shore and barely

escaped by climbing the rocks, while all their implements were crushed to atoms by the force of the waves, one of which is represented to have been thirty feet high. Those Greenland glaciers are the source of all the icebergs which reach our shores. Besides polar bears, they found abundance of game, in the shape of birds, many of which were shot, especially eider ducks. The Greenland coast, like that of Labrador, abounds in bird life, during the summer, many varieties of water-fowl migrating there to breed. Among the most interesting places visited was Upernavik, in latitude 92° 55' the most northern point of Christian occupation on the globe, where they fell in with Dr. Hayes' old interpreter and dog manager—Peter Jensen, the only white man in the settlement, and who has now for many years lived, hunted and prospered within a thousand miles of the pole. The party was most hospitably received by the Danish officials and people in Greenland, which is owned by Denmark, and trading stations, much after the manner of the Hudson Bay Company, are numerous along the coast. All trading with foreigners is, however, forbidden as the Government holds a monopoly of it. Nothing could, however, exceed their kindness in rendering assistance to the voyagers whenever required—*Church Herald*.

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do LaFleche and Black Spanish.
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do Large Dark do. (weigh 13 lbs. a pair)
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The BRIDGETOWN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY wishes to purchase a

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JAMES STANFORD.

Halifax, N.S., June, 1868.

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PRICES: Apple Trees, 5 years old, 30 cts. each.
Pears, Plums, and Cherry Trees, 50 cts. each.

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WILLIAM FERGUSON.

Noel, Hants Co., November, 1869.

AGENTS: Oliver Fillmore, River Philip; Henry Heather, Little River, River Philip; Daniel Hill, Lower Economy; Daniel McLaughlin, Upper Economy; Allan Spencer, Great Village, Londonderry; Thos. B. Chisholm, Onslow; A. J. Walker, Truro; Andrew Kirkpatrick, Shubenacadie; Archibald Grant, Hardwoodland; Rodk. McKenzie, Nine Mile River; John Fisher, Elmsdale; Henry Murphy, Rawdon; Benj. McPhee, Upper Rawdon; Simon McDonald, Five Mile River.

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