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Agriculture.

KINCARDINE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

During the last six weeks there has been hardly a paper that did not contain a notice of some agricultural exhibition. The season of shows and fairs is now over. The last, but not least in interest, which we shall have occasion to record is that held in the Kincardine Settlement on the 15th of October. The ambition of our energetic and industrious Scotch settlers, who, it may be said, are just emerging from the wilderness not to be behind hand than other more advanced places is to be admired, and should be encouraged. A correspondent writing to us about the exhibition on the 15th, says: "The weather was fine and a large number of people visited it during the day. There were 406 entries. The varieties of potatoes as shown, were not of so large sizes as those of former years, but other roots and the grains, were above the average. The cattle and horses were improved over those shown on similar occasions in former years.

We subjoin the Prize List:

CLASS 1.—CATTLE.

- Cow in Milk.—1st, W. H. Squiers; 2nd, George Morehouse; 3rd, John Jackson. Heifer 2 years old.—1st, James Hutchin; 2nd, Robert Watson; 3rd, John McRobert. Heifer 1 year old.—1st, 2nd and 3rd, Robert Stewart. Heifer calf.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, William Low; 3rd, Thos. Watt. Bull 2 years and upwards.—1st, Jas. Kelman; 2nd, John McRobert. Bull 1 year and upwards.—1st and 2nd, Robert Stewart. Bull calf.—1st, John Morrison; 2nd, John McKenzie. Working Oxen, 4 years and upwards.—1st, Arthur Robertson; 2nd, J. A. Hallett. Working Oxen under 4 years.—1st, William Duncan. Steer, 2 years old.—1st, W. H. Squiers; 2nd, James Hutchin. Steer, 1 year old.—1st, James Kelman; 2nd, Robert Watson.

CLASS 2.—HORSES.

- Breeding Mare.—1st, Samuel Coughie; 2nd, Alex. Thompson. Best Pair Working Horses.—1st, Charles Pickett; 2nd, C. Tompkins. Colt, 2 years old.—1st, Elisha Whorton; 2nd, Robert Stewart. Colt, 1 year old.—1st, Samuel Coughie; 2nd, Robert Stewart.

CLASS 3.—SHEEP.

- 2 Ewes.—1st, Peter Ledingham; 2nd, John Miller. Ewe Lamb.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Peter Ledingham. Ram, 1 year and upwards.—1st, Peter Ledingham; 2nd, Charles Inman. Ram Lamb.—1st, Robert Stewart.

CLASS 4.—SWINE.

- Boar.—1st, Robert Stewart. Breeding Sow.—1st, David Watt. Pig, under 1 year.—1st, W. S. Smith; 2nd, George Morehouse; 3rd, David Watt.

CLASS 5.—POULTRY.

- Cock and 2 Hens.—1st, Thos. Cumming; 2nd, W. H. Squiers; 3rd, W. S. Smith. Cocker and 2 Pullets.—1st, W. H. Squiers; 2nd, Thomas Cumming; 3rd, Robert Stewart. Drake and 2 Ducks.—1st, William Bruce; 2nd, James Kelman. Drake and 2 Ducklings.—1st, David Watt; 2nd, Thos. Watt. Turkey Cocker and Pullets.—1st, John Jackson. Gander and Goose.—1st, Charles Inman; 2nd, John Ledingham. Gander and 2 Goslings.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Charles Inman.

CLASS 6.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

- Fresh Butter.—1st, James Kelman; 2nd, Alex. Cocker; 3rd, D. Low. Salt Butter.—1st, John Kilburn; 2nd, James McNeil; 3rd, D. Low. Cheese.—1st, John Kilburn; 2nd, W. H. Squiers; 3rd, Alex. Cocker.

CLASS 7.—SEEDS.

- Timothy.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Robert Stewart. Wheat.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Henry Carter; 3rd, John Ledingham. Russian Oats.—1st, Wm. McKenzie; 2nd, Samuel Brown; 3rd, John Ledingham. Oats, any sort.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, John Connon. Barley.—1st, William Philip; 2nd, Mrs. Stratton. Buckwheat.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Alex. Hunter; 3rd, John Webster. White Field Beans.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Alex. Thompson. Beans any variety.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, John Jackson. Peas.—1st, Alex. Thompson; 2nd, William Bruce. Corn.—1st, Elisha Whorton; 2nd, Charles Inman.

CLASS 8.—ROOTS.

- Potatoes, Chries.—1st, Robert Watson; 2nd, James Kelman; 3rd, John McRobert. Early Rose Potatoes.—1st, Alex. Thompson; 2nd, Mrs. Stratton; 3rd, James Kelman. Potatoes any variety.—1st, James McNeil; 2nd, James Kelman; 3rd, Arthur Robertson. Sliced Turnip.—1st, Robert Watson; 2nd, Robert Stewart. Yellow Turnips.—1st and 2nd, Rob. Stewart. Green Globe Turnips.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, Samuel Brown.

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

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher. "AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH." ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

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Early Horn Carrots.—1st, Robert Watson; 2nd, John Ledingham. Late Carrots.—1st, Alex. Thompson; 2nd, Robert Watson. Long Root Beet.—1st, Alexander Thompson; 2nd, C. Tompkins. Pumpkins.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, A. Hawthorn. Cucumbers.—1st, Robert Stewart; 2nd, John Ledingham. Onions from Seed.—1st, William Phillips; 2nd, Robert Stewart. Early Cabbage.—1st, D. Low; 2nd, John Jackson. Late Cabbage.—1st, Henry Carter; 2nd, Samuel Coughie. Green Kail.—1st, Alex. Cocker; 2nd, D. Low. Basket Vegetables.—1st, John Ledingham; 2nd, Thos. Watt. Homespun, all Wool.—1st, W. H. Squiers; 2nd, Elisha Whorton. Mitts.—1st, W. H. Squiers; 2nd, James Aitken. Plain Socks.—1st, Charles Inman; 2nd, John Miller.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

The New England Farmer appears to be quite discontented with Agricultural Fairs as now conducted in the New England States. Last Saturday, in a long article, it asks if it pays to hold Agricultural Fairs? do Fairs answer their object in promoting agriculture and improving those engaged in it, and it answers in a pretty decided negative—they do not pay or answer their object as at present conducted. The New England Farmer passes in review all the trouble, and expenses that managers of the New England Fair are put to, the extravagant parade they indulge in, and the shifts and dodges they have resort to in getting them up; it is particularly severe in the way the judges are appointed and act, and asserts that people have lost confidence in their reports, and believe them in many instances to be biased and bought. The Farmer then begins to ask questions.—Our question is, What shall be the object of our fairs? Shall it be to determine which of all the horses, cows, oxen, sheep and swine in the country are most worthy of propagation? Shall it be to learn which animals of a breed are most desirable as breeders? Shall it be to give dealers and breeders an opportunity to advertise their goods? Shall it be to please the populace, on the same principle that cock and bull fights are gotten up in other countries? Shall it be solely to give the public holiday at the public's expense, and with a small personal gain to the managers? Are not these questions pertinent?

Again—Shall our fairs be held to give a few of the leading politicians an opportunity to exhibit their candidates before the voters? Shall we make an annual display of our farm stock and products, that some aspiring citizen may gratify himself by displaying his horsemanship or knowledge of military manoeuvres? Shall we hold an annual fair in the interest of the railroads, the hotels, or the livery stables? Shall we maintain our societies for the purpose of improving and purifying the trotting and gambling fraternity, and if so, how long will it take at the rate we have progressed for the past twenty-five years? Shall we hold our fairs to give breeders, dealers, manufacturers, inventors, or peddlers an opportunity to dispose of their wares, or to advertise them at a cheaper rate than would be possible under any other arrangement known? Or shall our exhibition days be made purely and simply holidays? For holidays are needed, and farmers as a class have none too many. What- ever they are to be, let us have a clear understanding in the matter. If they are to be holidays only, then let us call them holidays. If they are to be chiefly beneficial to aspiring politicians, inventors, or salesmen, then let us consider them in that light; but if their object shall be to improve our stock, to disseminate valuable information and to increase our knowledge of the better methods of cultivating the earth, then let us see to it that these objects are kept uppermost in the minds of those whom we select to fill the offices, and let us all, in his individual capacity, do all in our power to make these organizations, as promoters of agriculture, more and more useful, as the years roll round.

We quote the opinions of the Editor of the New England Farmer on agricultural fairs not because we think them particularly applicable to such exhibitions in New Brunswick, but in order to show the way that an intelligent and influential journalist looks on such affairs, and on what passes in them under his personal observations. Still some of his shafts do fly and hit in this direction. When he speaks of the remissness of the judges in the performance of their duties, their want of discrimination in making their awards, in pointing out the particular merits of articles coming under their eye, and in stating the reasons that cause them to class articles, second or third or as unworthy of notice, he does hit some of our judges at our provincial exhibition. Nothing is gained or learned from most of the reports. We conclude our excerpts from the New England Farmer's article with its remarks, bearing on this point, on dairy exhibits:—Coming down to the minor matter of the dairy exhibit, who ever learned from the committee's report on but-

AN EXHIBITION OF BEES.

The N. Y. Observer says:—Among the interesting exhibitions abroad, the present season has been one of Bees and their Hives, held last month, under the auspices of the British Bee-keepers' Association, in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at South Kensington. We find an account of it in one of our English papers, and there are so many interesting features in it and so much information, enlivened too by classical allusions, that we copy it entire:—Among the most interesting exhibits, the report says, were those of glass, or "observatory" hives, which were mostly in one of the band pagodas. Among these, that shown by Mr. Bruce Wilson, of Newbury, attracted great attention, its chief feature being its folding and revolving construction, with a tunnel for the queen bee to pass through when the compartments are close together. The "Sibertswold" hive, invented and exhibited by the Rev. T. F. Scott of Hartlip Vicarage, Sittingbourne was also an object of great interest. In one of the glass hives at the time of visit the queen bee was busy laying eggs in the cells, an operation which she performs in the height of summer at the rate of two thousand eggs per day. A swarm of Hungarian bees were the admired tenants of one of the observatory hives. Another interesting hive was that shown by Mr. John Hunter, the well known apiculturist. In this was a Ligurian queen bee (worth about 10s. at this time of the year) the hive is known as the "Cheshire" or "Frame" hive, which won the first prize at the Crystal Palace in 1874. It is so arranged that any number, say from ten to fourteen, of bars can be suspended across it. To these sheets of wax are attached, rolled out by machines with the impression of hexagonal worker cells on them. On these the bees work according to the pattern set them, and thus is prevented the raising of useless quantities of drones—the igne pennis of Virgil—the bees being only able to breed "workers" in the sized cells as marked out for them. This art is allowed to improve upon nature, and the most educated of insects are themselves educated. Guard by the pagoda is the "bee tent," only recently constructed by the direction of the Committee of the Association for the purpose of giving spectators a full view of the operation of "driving," "transferring," &c., by which means the destruction of the bees is avoided. Inside the outer tent there is an inner one made of thin netting, round which the spectators stand and see the manipulation of the bees without any real or supposed danger of being stung. The exhibitions of the above process were most conclusive, and showed in the most interesting manner that the old fashion of stifling bees in order to secure the honey is based on ignorance, and indeed cruelty. Bees when alarmed have a strange habit of filling themselves with food. This they do when the hive is tapped with a piece of wood a few times, and when they are replete with food they never sting. Hence their transference from one hive to another only requires a little coyness or self possession on the part of the operator. Indeed, when bees are not alarmed, and when replete with food, they have no natural inclination to sting human beings. Thousands were flitting about and alighting on visitors without doing them any harm, while the beekeepers handled them with as much impunity as a boy would marbles. The exhibition of hives is a very complete one, and it is evident that the "bar frame" principle is thoroughly accepted. The "super" system has also been greatly improved, especially by American beekeepers. Years ago the "supers" were all large, and as they consequently contained a large weight of honeycomb, they were to a great extent unsaleable, as the cutting of the comb caused the honey to run out. The American principle is to have a large number of what are called "sensational" "supers," holding one or two pounds of honey each. These can be taken from the hives as required, and retailers are enabled to sell to their customers small quantities without loss. Mr. Hunter has imported large quantities of these "sensational" "supers" from America, and distributed them at cost price for the sake of agriculture. They consist simply of four sides of thin wood, which dovetail into one another, and they cost less than one halfpenny each. In the honey classes every variety of form of comb may be seen in the "supers," where the bees have no "guide-comb" to direct their work. The run honey shown in

another class exhibits the variations of color, differing according to the localities and the different flowers utilized by the bees, and differing in flavor, too. In class 22 the honey extractors are worth notice, being cylinders in which the comb, placed on wire frames, is made to revolve by the working of cog wheels and a handle, the revolution forcing out the honey by centrifugal force.

A Portuguese hive of bark will remind classical visitors of Virgil's description of these hives in the thirty-fourth line of the Fourth Georgie. The machines for making the wax foundations of the cells next attract attention, and is simple enough, consisting of two rollers impressed with the hexagonal figures. Last, but not least in this collection is a Scotch hive, called "Stewarton." Its feature is that it swarms in the "stock," and on this shallow "supers" are placed from time to time as the bees require more room for work. Sometimes they each fill as many as six or seven of these, each containing about 18lb. of honey. The Scotch are very shrewd beekeepers, far better managers than we are generally; but in many districts they have this advantage over us in that when the bees are done all the work they can do at the home the hives are moved to the moors. Thus they can manage to get a second harvest. The exhibition was enlivened on the first day by a discussion, opened by the Rev. J. D. Glennie, on questions interesting to beekeepers. One of these was, "How far is the process which leads to swarming initiated by and carried out with the goodwill of the old queen?" The prevalent opinion was that the queen did not leave the hive willingly; one opinion indeed, had seen her forcibly led out between two resolute advisers. The President of the Society, Lady Burdett-Coutts, was present during the day.

A MODEL FARM.

Why should farming not be scientific? Because the manufacturer labors in a scientific way, his profits are greater and surer than those of the agriculturist who has neither machinery nor system; but it is the unreasonable custom of many to sneer at all innovations, and to look at all methods variations upon old usage as the fanciful and unprofitable schemes of visionaries with more money than common sense. It is the people who sneer that are usually most deficient in the latter quality, however; and had they a little more of it they might perceive that careful book-keeping and the adoption of improved methods and implements are as necessary in farming as in any other business. In a side hollow of that hill from which Litchfield first became visible to us, several very distinct echoes can be obtained, and this responsiveness of the "purple glens" gave a name to this farm. It is Echo Farm—a pretty and poetically suggestive name, indeed which conjures up visions of loveliness, and sets one to dreaming of intertwining vines knitting their plant tendrils and sweet-scented leaves through the hospitable porch and open lattice; the checkered orchard of fruity abundance; the garrulous brook that never tires of its own monody; the reverberant hills that append life's turmoil with their easy undulations; lofty barns, mossy with age; and clattering mills down in the seclusion of grassy hollows. But, alas! dear reader, model farming is not idyllic or Arcadian; it is inflexibly utilitarian; it keeps all its buildings in a perfect state of repair; it subordinates the picturesque, if it ever recognizes it; it pulls down the old mill because that venerable is in the way of the rectangular new dairy; it diverts the brook from its ferny course into the most commonplace of earthen pipes; it tears away the vines obscuring the light, and it looks upon everything with a pair of the most practical eyes set in a head that weighs, measures, audits, and analyzes with chemical exactness. The proprietor of Echo Farm conducts it as a manufactory. A record is kept of the milk and butter produced by each cow for each day, each month, each year; all the feed is weighed, and the quantity entered upon books, both that purchased and that produced; and a separate account is kept of the yield of each field. Nothing is wasted, nothing done by guessing, and nothing passes unrecorded. The implements are of the latest or most approved model. Three sets of "horse" hay-forks are in use, by which hay is unloaded at the rate of a ton by four forkfalls and in four minutes, including in some instances the carriage of the hay 150 feet. The other machines also embody some novel labor-saving principles. No manure or fertilizers are found

LIME AS A MANURE.

It is singular that there should be such a diversity of opinion among practical farmers in regard to the use of lime as a manure or fertilizer for their lands. Brand, in his "Dictionary of Science," says: "It is a curious fact that the use of the lime as a manure is entirely a European practice, its employment in this way having never been so much dreamed of by the nations of Asia and Africa. From Europe it was introduced into America, and so far as our recollection can possibly extend backward it has been in use here for that purpose, all of sixty years. It is nearly so long ago as that since we worked on a farm, and we can recall one occasion when we helped to 'spread lime.' Of course we know nothing about the theory of its use, or whether it was applied intelligently or not. It, however, was generally conceded to be useful to the land, and 'lime stone land' was always made a point of excellence when it was advertised for sale, or when it was sought for as a local investment. It was entirely useless, or little or no benefit to the land, or did not 'pay' the farmers of Lancaster county were a dreadful long time in finding it out, and at a heavy cost. The barrenness of the 'gravel hills' of the 'Conewago Ridge,' and the 'Barrens of York' was attributed to their want of lime, and the farmer whose lands and forests produced 'white oak and limestone' was regarded as highly favored, if not a subject of envy. It is true they differed very much about the quantity that ought to be applied and perhaps they were generally unconscious of a difference in its quality. It was, however, considered good for the land as a general proposition, but the quantity ranged from fifty all the way up to three hundred bushels to the acre, without being able to tell why they differed. Presently, however, some

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to evince that it cannot be a very dangerous element, or it might have totally destroyed their crops instead of benefiting them. Without committing oneself either for or against lime, we think it will continue to be used as long as the question rests merely on opinion—it must be determined by a practical demonstration. —London Farmer.

THE HEALTH OF FARMERS AND OF THEIR WIVES.

The forehanded farmer does not wait an hour of half-fainting for his breakfast from motive of mere domestic courtesy, nor set moping in a hot room through a long, bright day to keep some old person company; nor resolve his dinner into "a cold snack," because he has come in late and is not willing to trouble the household; nor set up benches to accommodate anybody or to pour over books of his own satisfaction. At the forty years of good digestion, he is stalwart and hearty. Pretty much the reverse of this happens to the farmer's wife. Almost the first lesson an actual life was to check, control or conceal her want and miseries; and by the time she is fully initiated in matrimony, she has acquired the habit of postponing them to the convenience of her husband and the rest of the family. The more strain there is upon her strength, and there is enough by sickness in the house or any misfortune, the more completely she effaces and forgets herself and her physical wants, recklessly relinquishing sleep and neglecting food. When the pressure is revealed, and the nervous tension which supported her is relaxed, the woman breaks down as a matter of course, perhaps never to enjoy health again. The melancholy contrast between the health of American farmers and their wives, should awaken the former to their duties. They should be careful how they impose burdens upon their helpmates. Remember it is the last feather which breaks the camel's back. —Farmers Friend.

Plants seem to alternate with each other on the same soil.

Burn down a forest of pines in Sweden, and one of birch takes its place for a while. The pines after a time again spring up, and alternately supersede the birch. On the shores of the Rhine are seen ancient forests of oak, from two to four centuries old, gradually giving place at present to a natural growth of beech; and others where the pine is succeeding to both. In the Palatinate, the ancient oak-woods are followed by natural pines; and in the Jura, the Tyrol, and Bohemia, the pines alternate with the beech.

Bean straw, says a writer in the Ruralist, is an excellent food for sheep.

When fed with beans or other grain, it makes a very rich warm manure, quite as good as if not better than clover. I know a farmer who every winter fattens a considerable number of sheep, who finds profit in feeding not only his own bean straw but as much more as he can buy at low rates from farmers who grow beans but, keeping no sheep, have no use for the straw.

To show that oats cannot be converted into barley, but that each seed bringeth forth after its kind, the Bedfordshire Field Club of England made a careful experiment, and discovered at the very outset one way in which the erroneous impression may be generated. Taking an average sample of white oats and looking at them very carefully, they found that "quite ten per cent. consisted of barley and other grains."

The Germantown Telegraph says that pumpkins for domestic use may be kept in a good cellar, where they will not freeze, for from six to nine months, by being put on a scaffolding. Potatoes should be kept in the dark as much as possible, but should not be excluded from the air. A good covering for bins, boxes, barrels, etc., are two or three layers of old newspapers pinned or stitched together.

An idea of the importance of the potatoe crop in Maine may be obtained from the fact that the farmers in Aroostook county realize from \$165,000 to \$170,000 yearly from that crop. The grain crop in Aroostook was probably never larger than this year, especially the wheat crop.

English farm laborers receive as pay from \$2 to \$3 per week, including beer. Wages have advanced 10 per cent within the last five years, and living and clothing 25 to 30 per cent.

An honest farmer, being asked why he did not subscribe for a newspaper, replied, "Because my father, when he died, left me a good many newspapers, and I have not read them through yet."