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Agricultural.

CIRCULAR.

FREDERICTON, 30th May, 1852.

SIR,—The Legislature having granted £200 to each of the County Agricultural Societies on condition of £50 more being subscribed for the importation of improved breeding horses, it is to be hoped that the Societies will not allow the matter to sleep without making some exertion towards working out the objects of the grant. The fact that New Brunswick, with all her meadows and pastures, does not produce horses enough, nor of sufficient quality, for her own use, without sending to the neighboring Provinces for her best ones, ought to be sufficient inducement to improvement, without advertising to her proximity to the States as a profitable outlet for extra stock if they could be raised, or the increased demand certain to follow in the track of railways.

The chief points in which improvement is needed are weight and substance. Take them as a whole the horses of New Brunswick are far too light for many of the purposes for which they are required, and even for such work as they are weight for, they want substance to enable them to go through it unhurt. The lumberman, the wagoner, the ship-builder, and even the farmer who would cultivate his farm deeply and thoroughly, can all of them bear testimony to the difficulty of getting horses sufficiently heavy, while the number of crippled and used up animals everywhere betoken the want of bone and substance needful to sustain the exertions they are called upon and otherwise willing to undergo. The Canadian and the Vermont horse have both of them been spoken of as likely sources from which to improve those of New Brunswick, and both have numerous points indicating what experience proves them to be possessed of, namely, activity and endurance; but both are objectionable for want of weight. Take them by themselves (even the best and heaviest of them) they would be too light for a number of the purposes needed in this Province, and, coupled with its still lighter mares, and the deteriorating treatment to which many of the colts are likely to be subjected, no great permanent improvement could be expected from their introduction among us.

The only two British breeds, combining the necessary additional strength and weight which New Brunswick would need, without diminution of endurance and activity, are the English Suffolk and the Scotch Clydesdale, and in any combined scheme of selection for the good of the Province it would be advisable to have part of both. The Suffolk Punch is the Canadian horse, made in a larger mould, the average weight of the breed being nearly as one and a half to one. He can walk in the plough or on the road four miles an hour, is gentle, good constitutioned, and his truthfulness at a dead pull is proverbial the kingdom over. The Clydesdale horse has more of the proportions of the Vermont horse, but will be nearly twice the weight. He has great power, courage, and endurance, and is hardy and easy to keep. The Suffolk breed is of the two, the most uniform, and is found in greatest perfection in the midland counties along the east coast of England. The Clydesdale is now to be found in all parts of Scotland and in the north of England, and is the kind chiefly used for farming and draught. In consequence of greater variety of location the breed is less uniform than the Suffolk, the size and weight varying with the situation in which the individuals are propagated. The heavier kinds are to be found in Clydesdale

itself, the Lothians, parts of Fifeshire, the Carse, and the lower parts of Aberdeenshire. The lighter and hardier specimens in most of the Border counties, the upper part of Perth and Aberdeen shires, and along the whole of Banff and Moray.

In selecting from either of these breeds it would not be advisable to make choice of the largest specimens, as such are less likely to be of pure blood than those of more moderate size, the desire to increase the weight sometimes tempting the breeder to cross in a heavier male or female of inferior quality, trusting to breeding back again to the original stock for keeping the form right with an addition of size. Neither would it be prudent, though such were met with, to select the exact stamp of horse that is wished to be re-produced, as the deteriorating and diminishing effect of the class of mares to be used has to be also considered, and it is the medium animal likely to result from the union of the two, that is the standard from which to calculate back in making a choice. Neither would it be wise to take any horse unless of very superior promise, but such as had given proof of his capabilities, the number and quality of his stock. There is no rule of selection equal to this, although it is one involving trouble and acquaintance with the ways of the country to work it out.

The probable cost of good, not over large, animals of either of these breeds, would be somewhat where about £150 Sterling; if prize specimens at any of the principal agricultural shows, likely the amount of the prizes in addition, as these are forfeited when the winner leaves the district. The best time to select, in fact the only time when a number could be selected, is the last half of July and month of August, as then the County, District, and General Shows, are held; and these being previously known, a person acquainted with the country, by arranging his track so as to take in the greatest number of these, would have more opportunities of seeing and comparing than he would have again by running after individual animals till that time twelvemonth.

The sum of £200 currency, even augmented by £50 subscribed, would fall considerably short of meeting the charges incurred by any individual county in sending an agent to purchase, with the additional cost of freight and other items; but, should any of the societies wish to go into the scheme alone, means will be found of putting them in communication with parties in England or Scotland, for whose confidence and fidelity in selecting, a guarantee can be given. The safer way, however, would be for a few of the counties to join, when a small amount from the funds of each, would admit of an agent, knowing the exact thing needed, and acquainted with the Scotch and English markets and breeds of horses, going over to make the selection, and coming back in personal attendance on the animals bought. An agent thus specially appointed, and knowing that he was liable every day to be confronted with his purchases, would have a care and responsibility on him in selecting that would not be felt by even the most trustworthy person who was to part with them on the other side of the Atlantic.

If, on consideration of the foregoing details, it should be determined to co-operate in the way above suggested, it might be found possible to secure the services of Mr. Cuming, Veterinary Surgeon, St. John, for the undertaking. In this way, we have no doubt, the business would be well done, and the greatest benefit secured at the lowest rate to the country. Mr. Cuming, from whom we have derived most of the information in connection with this subject, considers that the agent for England should be at work no later than the end of July, and consequently an early decision on the subject is most desirable.

Should circumstances make it impossible to go thus favorably into the English market, the same mode of conjoint action on the part of New Brunswick Agricultural Societies would apply to an agency in the United States or Canada.

The foregoing considerations are earnestly pressed upon the attention of the officers and members of agricultural societies and farmers in general, and the favor of a reply is respectfully requested by

Your very faithful servant,

J. ROBB.

Secretary New Brunswick Society.

The good effects of Gardening.

Gardening is a civilizing and improving occupation in itself; its influences are all beneficial; it usually makes people more industrious, and more amiable. Persuade a careless, indolent man to take an interest in his garden, and his reformation has begun. Let an idle woman honestly watch over her own flower-beds, and she will naturally become more active. There is always work to be done in a garden, some little job to be added to yesterday's task without which it is incomplete; books may be closed with a mark where one left off, needlework may be thrown aside and resumed again; a sketch may be left half finished, a piece of music half practised; even attention to household matters may relax in some measure for a while; but regularity and method are constantly required, are absolutely indispensable to the well being of a garden. The occupation itself is so engaging, that one commences readily, and the interest increases so naturally, that no great share of perseverance is needed to continue the employment, and thus labor becomes a pleasure, and the dangerous habit of idleness is checked. Of all faults of character, there is not one, perhaps, depending so entirely upon habit as indolence; and nowhere can one learn a lesson of order and diligence more prettily and more pleasantly than from a flower-garden.

But another common instance of the good effect of gardening may be mentioned—it naturally inclines one to be open-handed. The bountiful returns which are bestowed, year after year, upon our feeble labors, shame us into liberality. Among all the misers who have lived on earth, probably few have been gardeners. Some cross-grained churl may set out, perhaps, with a determination to be niggardly with the fruits and flowers of his portion; but gradually his feelings soften, his views change, and before he has housed his fruits of many summers, he sees that these good things are but the free gifts of Providence to himself, and he learns at last that it is a pleasure, as well as a duty, to give. This head of cabbage shall be sent to a poor neighbor; that basket of refreshing fruit is reserved for the sick; he has pretty nosegays for his female friends; he has apples or peaches for little people; nay, perhaps in the course of years he at length achieves the highest act of generosity—he bestows on some friendly rival a portion of his rarest seed, a shoot from his most precious root! Such deeds are done by gardeners.—Miss Cooper's "Rural Hours."

SPENT TAN BARK.—The Pennsylvania Farm Journal tells of a successful application of tan bark, made by mistake to a portion of the editor's garden. He ordered a certain part to be well spaded and manured for beans, but the gardener dug up another plot and applied a heavy coating of pretty well decomposed tan bark. The soil was a stiff clay, and no other manure was applied or had been applied for several years past. The beans were planted and were the most thrifty and vigorous in the neighborhood, and the stiff soil has become quite mellow, and appears to retain its warmth and moisture much better than any other in the garden.

Miscellaneous Extracts.

Condensed History of Steam.

About 280 years B. C, Hero of Alexandria formed a toy which exhibited some of the powers of steam, and which was moved by its power.

A. D. 429, Anthemius, an architect, arranged several cauldrons of water, each covered with the wide bottom of a leathern tube, which rose to a narrow top, with pipes extended to the rafters of the adjoining building. A fire was kindled beneath the cauldrons, and the house was shaken by the efforts of the steam ascending the tubes. This is the first notice of the power of steam recorded.

In 1543, June 18, Blasco D. Garoy tried a steamboat of 200 tons with tolerable success at Barcelona, Spain. It consisted of a cauldron of boiling water, and a moveable wheel on each side of the ship. It was laid aside as impracticable. A present, however, was made to Garoy.

In 1650 the first railroad was constructed at Newcastle on Tyne.

The first idea of a steam-engine in England was in the Marquis of Worcester's History of inventions, A. D. 1663.

In 1710 Newcomen made the first steam-engine in England.

In 1717 patents were granted to Savary for the first application of the steam-engine.

In 1764 James Watt made the first perfect steam-engine in England.

In 1736 Jonathan Hulls set forth the idea of steam navigation.

In 1778 Thomas Paine first proposed this application in America.

In 1781 Marquis Jouffroy constructed one on the Saone.

In 1785 two Americans published a work on it.

In 1780 William Syntington made a voyage in one on the Forth and Clyde canal.

In 1802 this experiment was repeated.

In 1782 Ramsey propelled a boat by steam in New York.

In 1787 John Fitch, of Philadelphia, navigated a boat by a steam-engine on the Delaware.

In 1793 Robert Fulton first began to apply his attention to steam.

In 1793 Oliver Evans, a native of Philadelphia, constructed a locomotive steam-engine to travel on a turnpike road.

The first steam vessel that crossed the Atlantic was the Savannah, in the month of June, 1819, from Charleston to Liverpool.—Hunt's Merchants Magazine.

The first law of nature is marriage, and yet man is the only creature that resists it. Who ever saw an old bachelor robin, or a female blue bird with strong thoughts of dying an old maid? No one. Every created thing becomes a parent, and this is just what the Lord intended they should become. People who sleep on single beadsteads as much war against the commandments as if they lived on the products of murder. Pause and reflect.

CHURCH—A place where women go to worship God and criticise the fashions.