

# THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. 1: *Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* No. 22.

Miramichi, Tuesday Morning, February 21, 1842.

## THE GLEANER.

### Agricultural Journal.

From the Sussex Express.  
WESTFIRE FARMER'S CLUB.  
*Comparative merits of working Horses and Oxen.*—On Monday evening last the members of this club held their two-monthly meeting at the Ram Inn, as usual, John Ellman, Esq. in the chair. The subject selected for the consideration of the meeting was 'the comparative merits of Working Oxen and Horses,' adjourned from the previous meeting. The subject is one of the greatest importance to the breeders of Sussex, Hereford, Scots, and other stock, and it has hence engaged the attention of farmers for years, and has created considerable prejudices in the minds of those who from local situation or from custom have been in the habit of using horses only. Perhaps there is no county in England in which this prejudice prevails to a greater degree than in Leicester, and the neighbourhoods in which Lord Althorpe's favorite 'short horns' graze. Here they know they possess a fine stock of neat cattle, and horses only are used; and with this limited amount of information they fancy that all other agricultural counties are like their own, full of rich and fruitful lands. Speaking from experience and the means they possess, we believe there is scarcely so bad cultivated a county in England as Leicester. It is true they have some good judges of stock there, but scarcely a single husbandman who could cultivate with any credit to himself the poorer lands of other counties, and yet these men set themselves up as judges of the merits of working oxen which they do not use, and of lands of which they have no knowledge. Upon ordinary occasions we would leave these prejudiced men to the full indulgence of their ignorance, without noticing them, if their ignorance did not greatly injure their superior in preventing the working oxen from having fair play at Smithfield, where no prize is offered for oxen above five years old. The regulation was framed by the breeders of short horns, who in a great measure are alone competent to compete for the same. It is our opinion that upon some lands it is better to keep horses, on others teams of horses and yokes of oxen, and upon others oxen alone can profitably do the business of the farm. Entertaining these views, we were much interested in the subject canvassed at the present meeting; which was opened by the following comparative scale of expenses, furnished by a farmer of great experience:

| Cost of one Horse per year.   |  | £.  | s. | d. |
|---|--|-----|----|----|
| Prime cost of a horse at 3 year's old                                 |  | 30  | 0  | 0  |
| Keep, shoeing, attendance, harness, &c. for 10 years at 25l. per year |  | 250 | 0  | 0  |
|   |  | 280 | 0  | 0  |
| Deduct value of horse at 8 years of age                               |  | 10  | 0  | 0  |

|   |     |   |   |
|---|-----|---|---|
| Cost of horse annually                        | 270 | 0 | 0 |
| Cost of one pair of Oxen per year.            | 27  | 0 | 0 |
| Prime cost of one pair of three year old oxen | 30  | 0 | 0 |
| Keep, &c., five years, at 16l. per year       | 80  | 0 | 0 |
|   | 110 | 0 | 0 |
| Deduct value of oxen at 8 years old           | 40  | 0 | 0 |
|   | 70  | 0 | 0 |
| Cost of one pair of oxen annually             | 14  | 0 | 0 |

Thus it will be seen that there is a decided advantage of 13l. per annum in favour of a pair of oxen. It should be remembered that it is a general calculation in Sussex, that the labour of one horse is equal to that of a pair of oxen, although for heavy draughts experience has proved that the power of one horse is very inferior to that of a pair of oxen; and the author of the 'Annals of Agriculture,' has given evidence that one ox for a steady draught is equal to a horse. An instance was quoted at this meeting of a bull having shown superior strength to three horses, and it was maintained by the meeting that pairs of oxen from four to seven years old were more than equal to single horses.

The Chairman stated that the calculation furnished was of considerable importance, and ought to be made known to the Smithfield committee who last year scouted his proposition, to award prizes to working oxen even without offering the slightest argument against the proposal. At their last Friele meeting several practical men concurred in the policy of using oxen either wholly or partially upon lands in general, but in wet summers and upon heavy lands they were less useful. Feeling therefore the advantages to be derived from their employment, he had asked at Smithfield what harm had been done, that after producing food for man they should be excluded? No answer was given, but one person said he thought it a question which concerned Sussex only. To this he (Mr Ellman) replied, that before parties made assertions they ought to know that they were well founded in fact, for where there was one pair of Sussex oxen worked, there were 10 of Devon or Welsh. One person from the Midland counties of great great influence, asserted that the ox which had won the prize had worked. He (Mr Ellman) had expressed great surprise that any grazier should have attempted to palm the ox off as having worked, which it could not have done otherwise than nominally, for it could not have been yoked under three years old and it had been fattening two years, and it was then only five years of age. Another objection was started, that it was very wrong to encourage the working of oxen—in fact, there was so much hostility and so few to hold up their hands in favor of his proposition that he was quite disheartened. He had argued that the Smithfield show had no right to discourage the use of oxen—he did not ask them to give it their support—he asked for argument and reason why they did not, but they offered none, but abruptly called for the vote. In

conclusion he would also mention that the Sussex subscribers did not intend to bring on the question again, still he would assist any other person who would.

*On Fining Maple Sugar.*—The Sweet obtained from the maple tree is undoubtedly the purest known; but from mismanagement in the manufacture of it, it frequently becomes very impure. Its value is lessened; while the expence of making it is increased. I am sensible that the method which I shall recommend is not altogether a new one, and that it is more by attending to some apparently minute and trivial circumstances in the operation, than to any new plan, that my sugar is so good. Much has been written upon, and many useful improvements have been made in that part of the process which relates to tapping the trees, and gathering and evaporating the sap, &c. but still if the final operation is not understood, there will be a deficiency in the quality of the sugar. I shall confine myself to that part of the operation which relates to reducing the syrup to sugar, as it is of the first importance. My process is this:—When the syrup is reduced to the consistence of West India molasses, I set it away till it is perfectly cold, and then mix with it the clarifying matter, which is milk or eggs. I prefer eggs to milk, because when beaten, the whole of it curdles; whereas milk produces only a small portion of curds, the eggs should be thoroughly beaten, and effectually mixed with the syrup while cold. The syrup should be heated till just before it would boil, when a curd rises, bringing with it every impurity, even the colouring matter, or a great part of it which it had received from the smoke, kettles, buckets or reservoirs. The boiling should be checked, and the scum carefully removed when the syrup should be slowly turned into a thick wollen strainer, and left to run at its leisure. I would remark, that a great portion of the sugar that is made in our country is not strained after cleansing. This is an error. If examined in a wine glass innumerable minute, and almost imperceptible particles of curd will be seen floating in it, which, if not removed, render it liable to burn, and otherwise injure the taste and colour of it. A flannel strainer does this much better than a linen one. It is indeed *indispensable*. As to the quantity of eggs necessary, one pint to a pailful of syrup is amply sufficient, and half as much will do very well. I now put my syrup into another kettle, which has been made perfectly clean and *bright*, when it is placed over a quick but solid fire, and soon rises, but is kept from overflowing by being laded with a long dipper. When it is sufficiently reduced, (I ascertain this by dropping it from the point of a knife, while hot, into one inch of cold water—if done, it will not immediately mix with the water, but lies at the bottom in a round flat drop,) it is taken from the fire, and the foaming allowed to subside. A thick white scum, which is useable, is removed, and the sugar turned into a cask

placed on an inclined platform, and left undisturbed for six weeks or longer, when it should be tapped in the bottom, and the molasses drawn off: it will drain perfectly dry in a few days.

The sugar made in this manner is very nearly as white as lump sugar, and beautifully grained. We have always sold ours at the highest price of Muscovadoes; and even when these sugars have sold at eighteen cents, ours found a ready market at twenty. Two hands will sugar off 250 lbs. in a day. From the scum taken off in cleansing, I usually make, by diluting, and re-cleansing, one sixth as much sugar as I had at first, and of an equal quality.

It is not of much consequence as it regards the quality of the sugar, whether care be taken to keep the sap clean or not. The points in which the greatest error is committed are, neglecting to use a flannel strainer, to strain after cleansing—to have the sugaring kettle properly cleaned—and to remove the white scum from the sugar.—*E. W. Clark, of Oswego.*

From the Pictou Mechanic & Farmer.

*How is Clover Seed cleaned?*—At a meeting of the committee of the Pictou Agricultural Society, held a short time since, the subject of raising clover seed was discussed. Several members present remarked that they found no difficulty in raising clover seed; but that they could not fall upon a plan of cleaning it properly. As this information would be generally useful, we would feel extremely obliged to any of our correspondents, either in this Province, P. E. Island, or elsewhere, to inform us how the article is cleaned, and rendered fit for market. We will send a paper for one year to any person who will give us the desired information.

*Wet Feet.*—Farmers often suffer much at this season from wet feet, we therefore request leave to recommend them to the Indian rubber application made as follows:—Melt one pound of tallow in an iron kettle, add from four to six ounces of india rubber cut small, and heat the melted tallow until the india rubber in it is dissolved. It will then be fit for greasing boots or shoes and will render them perfectly impervious to water, though in it all day. During the preparation of this mixture it will boil up in foam, and send off copious pugnacious fumes, but does not injure it. One twentieth part of bees wax improves it. Old worn out India rubber over shoes may be used in the manufacture.

As system and looking ahead is indispensable to success in farming, we advise our friends to provide a small blank book with a flexible leather cover, that it may be conveniently carried in the pocket, and appropriate one page to each week in the season; set down every thing on its proper page, which is to be done at the time denoted. By having this book constantly in the pocket, many things may be noted down the moment they occur to the mind, either during reading or otherwise, which without this would be forgotten and neglected. Further, provide another similar book