

## Agricultural Journal.

London Pictorial Times, July 27.

## SPEED THE PLOUGH.

The associative spirit which has influenced to such a large extent the success of our industrial enterprises, is assuredly one of the most marked and desirable features of this present time. It has given a security to speculation unknown before, and rendered possible the attainment of purposes otherwise beyond the reach of human ingenuity.

This spirit is daily manifesting itself more and more generally amongst us, and, in its results, is daily more and more approving itself fruitful of good. By it, the vast river is spanned with the mighty arch. By it, from the bowels of the earth, is brought its mineral wealth; it has bridged the Atlantic with steam-boats and by its railroads it has half annihilated time and distance, carrying the civilisation of cities to the remotest parts of the country.

Till frighted Skiddaw hears afar

The rattlings of the unseathed car.

Such are some of its fruits; and having proved its capacity to acquire so many unexpected triumphs, it is hard to say what will be the bounds of its future success.

It is not, however, in conquering physical difficulties that, in all probability, we shall find the most decisive evidence of the value of the associative spirit. Its moral and intellectual consequences are those which entitle it the most obviously to our grateful appreciation. Rightly considered, it is as much the cause as the effect of civilisation; and, without its influence, civilisation cannot exist in any very high degree. You must bring men together if you would refine their sympathies and educate their minds. "He who lives apart from his species," says a scholastic aphorism, "is either an angel or a devil." Union is strength, and a great deal besides.

A perception of these truths has begun to dawn upon our agriculturists; they have at length discovered that their real strength will be increased and their true interests consulted by their mutual co-operation. The associative spirit which created towns and cities has, until lately, dwelt in them too exclusively, and we truly rejoice to see that its beneficent operation has begun already to extend itself beyond their walls. It has begun to pervade classes who have not hitherto been subject to its influence; it has crowded the streets of Southampton with the farmers and landowners of the southern and midland counties of England, and brought into desirable contact the various interests occupied in the production of wealth. The result cannot fail to be beneficial, not only to those immediately interested in agricultural operations, but even to the public at large. The stimulus which all such assemblies communicate to the public mind, is of itself worth much; but this is by no means the most valuable fruit reasonably to be counted on. The Royal Agricultural Society of England propose to themselves objects as admirable as any to which human labours have been directed.

With as much justice as eloquence has it been observed, that Cæsar benefitted Italy by introducing the chestnut from Sardis, far more than ever he did by his conquests. Without acceding to all the consequences that Quesnai and his school—the French economists—deduced from their great principle there is no reason to doubt that that principle is, in the main, true and sound—"The soil is the source of all wealth." We know well the fate of all mere trading nations—those nations who produce nothing, but exhaust their skill and enterprises in commercial pursuits. Carthage in the ancient times, and Holland, the Carthage of the modern world, are striking instances of the insufficient basis on which rests the greatness and prosperity of the greatest and most prosperous of "carrying" nations.

Seeing, then, the inadequacy of trade by itself to sustain the fabric of political greatness, it behoves us, in every way, to the extent of our power, to encourage and support the productive industry of the country, and most especially that which assures us the due enjoyment of fruits of the earth. We hail with gladness the exertions of the Royal Agricultural Society, because we hail in them the commencement of a new era in the annals of British agriculture.

The great want hitherto has been the lack of intercommunication amongst the farmers. They have known too little and seen too little of each other. They have not enjoyed the benefit of that communication of experience, which in every other pursuit so signally benefits its

prosecutors. The Royal Agricultural Society is rapidly redressing this evil, and the result of its exertions cannot fail to exalt to a yet higher degree of excellence than it has hitherto attained, the character of the British farmer.

Considered politically, socially, and morally, it is impossible to over-rate the benefits derivable from the exertions of this excellent society. We can appeal to the exhibitions now open at Southampton, to prove that it has borne fruits—that it has contributed materially to the accomplishment of the purposes it was intended to accomplish.

No loftier object could the most ambitious of politicians propose to himself than the augmentation of those resources, which agricultural pursuits can yield us.

"Speed the plough" then is our motto. The shuttle is a mighty implement. The fortunes of the world have been changed by the steam-engine; but still it is the plough that feeds the man—the plough is the true bread-winner—it has been the plough that has been the conqueror, whenever those foul fiends that haunt the unhappy, famine, destitution, nakedness, and their hideous sisters, have been conquered. We say then "speed the plough"—with it you are great—without it feeble. With it, now you may, as you have always done as yet, defy the world. Once surrender this right arm of your power will speedily desert you. "He who wants bread," says Harrington, "is his servant who will feed him." Wanting this, in vain will be all other things you may possess, and which may have contributed to your glory, or added to your strength—in vain, may you approve yourself skilful in war and prudent in peace—in vain, may your manufacturers command every market from the Baltic to Indian seas—in vain, will be even that upon which you have so long and so justly prided yourselves—that spirit of industrious enterprise which has circled the world with its navies, and whitened the seas with the sails of a prosperous commerce.

## ROT IN SHEEP.

The first symptoms attending this disease are by no means strongly marked; there is no loss of condition, but rather apparently the contrary: indeed, sheep intended for the butcher have been purposely ethed or rotted in order to increase their fattening properties for a few weeks, a practice which was adopted by the celebrated Bakley. A want of liveliness and paleness of the membranes, generally, may be considered as the first symptoms of the disease, to which may be added a yellowness of the caruncle at the corner of the eye. Dr. Harrison observes, "when in warm, sultry, and rainy weather, sheep that are grazing on low and moist lands feed rapidly, and some of them die suddenly, there is fear that they have contracted the rot." The sheep should be removed from the unsound pasture as soon as possible, either to a salt marsh or the driest pasture that can be found; as much salt may be given as the animals will take with their food; to this the sulphate of iron may be joined. Half a drachm daily for each sheep, with the same quantity of ginger, may be given in nourishing gruel. An aperient should be given once or twice during the treatment, and may consist of one or two ounces of sulphate of magnesia, or a large table spoonful of common salt dissolved in warm gruel or water. Food should be given in as nutritious a form as possible; and a pint of beans daily will be an excellent diet with good hay on sound pasture. Though turnips cannot be considered as a cause of rot, yet from the superabundance of water they contain, they are highly prejudicial to sheep that are affected with the disease, particularly if taken whilst a hoar-frost is on them. Calomel has been strongly advised, but the recommendation, as far as I am aware, has not been backed by any successful cases. If tried by way of experiment, about five grains daily, with four of opium, suspended in thick gruel, may be repeated once a day the space of a week at a time.

IMPORTANCE OF CHEMISTRY TO AGRICULTURE.—If we strew the floors of our stables with gypsum from time to time, they will lose all their offensive smell, and none of the ammonia which forms can be lost, but will be retained in a condition serviceable as manure.

Pastures act a most important part in returning to the soil a supply of nitrogen in place of that taken away in the hay and grain. In large farms, where each field in rotation is in grazing, the nitrogen is completely replaced, and where the manures made on a farm are carefully returned to the soil, the quantity of this important ingredient must increase

every year. When the night soil of cities shall be converted into poudrette, as it now is in some places, no nitrogen of consequence will be lost, as the quantities used in the shape of corn and cattle will be returned to the country, and made available for new crops and the feeding of new animals. The following extract will show the loss farmers sustain from not attending to these powerful manures:—

"When it is considered that with every pound of ammonia which evaporates, a loss of 60 pounds of corn, (grain) is sustained, and that with every pound of urine, a pound of wheat might be produced, the difference with which these liquid excrements are regarded is quite incomprehensible. In most places only the solid excrements impregnated with the liquid are used, and the dunghills containing them are protected neither from evaporation or from rain. The solid excrements contain the insoluble, the liquid all the soluble phosphates, and the latter contain likewise all the potash which existed as organic salts in the consumed by the animals."

HOW TO MAKE AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS PLEASANT AS WELL AS PROFITABLE.—For ages the employment of the husbandman has been looked upon as dull, uninteresting work. It has been thought to be a dull plodding occupation of the hands, and not of the head. And there has been too much foundation for such an impression. The agriculturists of years not long by-gone, did little with the head to dignify or enliven the work of the hands. A change for the better is now near at hand. Perhaps in our day farmers may be more intellectual, more intelligent, and more able to bring the truths of science to benefit them in their manual labors, and to give them interest and delight in their occupations. But what others do, I hope you at least will take such measures as will convince yourself if not others, that agricultural employments are as interesting, intellectual and pleasing pursuits as any which there may be put in comparison. I know of no method by which you more effectually render them so, than by employing your mind upon your work. Most assuredly the more your mind is employed upon your work—in tracing effects to their causes, in recounting for failure and disappointment, in understanding the operations of nature, in devising improvements, &c.—The more interest you will take in your employments, and the pleasure and gratification you derive from them. Moreover this is not the only way to make your pursuits pleasant, but it is the way to make them profitable also.

Your mental operations must be wrongsided and injudicious indeed if they do not lead you to the discovery of means whereby you can induce more produce out of any certain amount of labour and expenditure. The most intelligent farmers, you may easily convince yourself, if industry is not wanting, generally succeeded in making their farms the most profitable. But what I wish especially to inculcate upon you at this time, is, that you will feel more interest, more pleasure, more conscious dignity in your pursuits the more you occupy your mind on the subject.

Agricultural Schools would aid in thus elevating Agriculture.—*Albany Cultivator.*

## CUTTING WHEAT EARLY.

From our own experience, and from the experiments made by others, particularly the ably conducted ones of Mr. Hannam, of England, of which an account has been given in a former volume of the Cultivator, we have been convinced that farmers much more frequently err by allowing their wheat to stand too long before cutting, than by harvesting too early. We have never known an instance where loss was sustained from early cutting, but there is not a year passes in which more or less is not suffered by standing too long. Cut early, the berry is whiter, the skin thinner, and the flour better. The following, which we find in the Michigan Farmer, will add to the proofs already given in the Cultivator, that our position is correct. It is part of a letter from Dr. Eldridge.

"Amasa Andrews, Esq., of this town, harvested sixty acres of wheat last season, while it was so green and unripe, that every farmer in the neighbourhood thought, and did not hesitate to declare him mad. He commenced cutting ten days before any other person thought of beginning, and finished before others had begun. The berry when cut was soft, and in that state known as being in the milk." He has now threshed it; and being somewhat curious to learn the result of the experiment, I to-day went,

in company with Mr. Andrews to the mill, and examined the wheat. I found it plump, with a peculiar transparency of the berry, I never before saw—which is to be attributed to the very thin coating of the bran. We weighed some and found it weighed just sixty-three lbs. to the measured bushel; and the experienced miller informed me, that it made more flour and less bran than any wheat he ever saw."

LIME AS MANURE.—Much labour has been exhausted in trying to ascertain the best method to enrich and prepare the ground so as to produce the best crop. After using various kinds of dressing, none have proved better than lime, for land on which corn is planted.

Lime has in itself many valuable properties. It gives a suitable degree of heat to cause immediate vegetation, it guards it from worms and insects that often destroy one-half of the first planting; it causes an early and rapid growth, that ripens the grain before the frost appears. When lime is used for other kind of grain it has the same effect as on corn: has also the voluntary quality of guarding it against mildew. No grain sown on land so prepared, will suffer from this great evil, by which so many valuable fields have been destroyed.

The best method of using lime is, to mix one eighth part with old barn manure, then to be placed in the hole with the corn. When used for other kinds of grain, it should be spread on the top of the ground after it is ploughed, and harrowed in with the grain.—No one can fully estimate the value of lime for this purpose, unless they try the experiment. The average difference in a crop is from one-third to one-half more by using the lime.

It is also almost the only sure preventative of vermin on fruit trees in this section of the country. Lime placed about the body of trees early in the spring, will prevent their increase. Slacked lime mixed with soap & water, used as a wash on the parts of the tree where insects have deposited their eggs will destroy them entirely. This has been proved by the writer.

In many parts of England, they estimate the value of their land, in some proportion, to its nearness to lime kilns, on account of the valuable properties of lime for dressing. Our farmers should turn their attention to the subject.

## Colonial News.

## Canada.

St. Thomas, Canada, Standard.

THE NEW CAPITAL.—The Capital of Canada is no longer a subject for speculation. The Seat of Government may now be considered permanently fixed at Montreal, so long, at least, as Canada shall continue to be one united Province. Whatever difference of opinion there might have been as to the wisdom of establishing it there, there ought to be now but one wish in the hearts of all true friends of the country, that is—that British principles and British practice may extend themselves in the new Capital; and that the races of every origin may be fused into one prosperous community.

Montreal is not only the capital of the united Province—she is also the great emporium of trade—the focus of all mercantile operations. In this latter respect, she will, in our humble opinion, ever stand without a rival within the limits of British North America, beyond the reach of envy. No person, who visits Montreal, can avoid being struck with the superiority of her situation as a commercial city, and with the magnificence of the scenery by which she is surrounded. The situation of Montreal is beautiful beyond description.

In front of the city flows the mighty St. Lawrence, and in the rear, the mountains commanding height, affords a delightful prospect of the rich and varied scenery which expands itself downwards from its summit to the opposite shores of the river where the view is only terminated by the Chambly mountains, or the distant hills of Vermont. The great objection to Montreal, is the narrowness of the principal streets; but this is an objection which lay equally strong at one time, within our recollection, against the great capital of the British Empire. London, many of whose streets were nearly, if not quite as narrow as those of Montreal.

The Harbour of Montreal is an excellent piece of workmanship and adds greatly to the beauty of the city. Indeed, we can conceive nothing of the kind finer, or