

THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE.

COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. III

Nec araneurum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

No. 21.

Miramichi, Tuesday Afternoon, March 4, 1845.

Agricultural Journal.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESTIGOUCHE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

January 7th, 1845.

On entering upon the duties of their office at the commencement of the year, your Committee, in furtherance of the recommendation of their predecessors, ordered the Secretary to import three Ayrshire Cattle, and an additional supply of Sheep; but in doing so, they considered it advisable to suspend the usual Premiums offered at the Annual Grain Show, for the past year, lest the cost of these animals might exceed the funds of the Society. They arrived safe, and were sold at public auction, leaving together with the sales of Seeds, and this year's Subscriptions, a surplus, after paying all subsequent Premiums and expenses, of £33 1s. 8d. as appears by the Treasurer's accounts; consequently the necessity of withholding those Premiums no longer exists.

The animals imported, were two Bulls and a Heifer, selected by our respected and worthy correspondent Mr. Alex. McCaw, Ayrshire, from the most approved stock, which with the West Highland cattle formerly imported and the Durham and Galloway cattle, previously in the country, brings within the reach of our agriculturists a choice that but few countries in the Province afford. The present celebrated short-horned Durham, being the result of a successful cross of the old Durham and Galloway, first effected by Mr. C Colling, in England. The most favoured Ayrshires having much of the West Highland blood in them, and the West Highlanders the easiest fed, and most hardy cattle known in Britain, and producing the finest flavoured meat; by judiciously crossing them with the best milkers, the symmetry and hardy skin of the sire, with the good milking qualities of the dam will be obtained, and thus a breed of animals produced, best adapted to our pastures and cold climate; at least, such is the well-known result of crosses in other animals, and what may rationally be expected here.

Mr McCaw had not been able to procure in time, the Cheviot Sheep ordered, of such a stock as he could recommend, but the South-down, Teeswater, and Leicesters received, are superior animals, and afford equal facilities for advantageous crosses, as well with each other, as with the old stock of the country. The Teeswaters and the Leicesters are preferred for long wool, and aptitude to fatten, and will be found to thrive well in this dry cold climate where all sheep are housed during the winter months; but they cannot endure heavy rains followed by intense cold. The South-downs are preferred for short wool and delicious mutton, will endure much more cold and fatigue, and will cross to the best advantage with the Teeswater or Leicester. Many err by keeping their sheep too warm during the winter, all they require is to be protected from heavy falls of snow and drift, but their house should be well ventilated, and they, especially the ewes should have a good supply of turps daily with a portion of salt, and an occasional smearing of their trough with tar, will conduce to health.

Your Committee subscribed for *The British American Cultivator*, which together with *The Farmer's Manual* have been distributed among the Members of the Society; and they have also imported an extensive assortment of Seeds, which are on hand for sale to Subscribers, at cost and charges.

The Annual Cattle Show took place on the 1st of October, when the following Prizes were awarded.

- Donald Fraser, for best 3 year old Bull, £1 17s. 6d.
- James Menzies, best 2 year old ditto, £1 2s. 6d.
- Walter Blair, best year old ditto, 15s.
- Wm. McGregor, best 2 year old Heifer, 15s.
- Walter Blair, best year old ditto, 11s. 3d.
- D. R. Carter, best Calf, 7s. 6d.

William Craig, best 3 year old Ram, 15s.

John Douglas, best year old ditto, 7s. 6d.

John Douglas, for the best Lamb Ram, 7s. 5d.

Dugald Stewart, best 3 year old Ewe, 15s.

Walter Blair, best 2 year old ditto, 11s. 3d.

Dugald Stewart, best year old ditto, 7s. 6d.

John Barberie, best Lamb, 7s. 6d.

John U. Campbell, best brood Sow, 15s.

Dugald Stewart, best Boar, 15s.

Dugald Stewart, second best Sow, 11s. 3d.

And on the 3rd of the same month, the PLOUGHING MATCH took place; the first Prize was awarded to John Douglas, £1, 17s. 6d.—William Miller, (second) £1, 10s.—John Robertson, (third) £1 2s. 9d.

Immediately afterwards, the Ploughmen, Judges, Office-Bearers, and as many of the Members of the Society as were in attendance, sat down to a sumptuous dinner, prepared for the occasion, by Mr. Michaud in his usual good style; and thus terminated the business of the season.

In conclusion, your Committee most heartily congratulate the Society in the increased and abundant crops harvested this year, and the marked improvement that the face of the occupied part of the country every where presents. The county of Restigouche is now generally admitted to have a fertile soil, satisfactorily tested as to its capabilities to remunerate the farmer for his labour, in either white or green crops. And if the impulse already given to the agriculture of this fine county is fostered and encouraged, the best results are sure to follow.

Your committee avail themselves of this opportunity, to convey to the Members of the Society, their earnest recommendation of a more extensive use of compost manure, and suggest the necessity of preserving the winter's stable dung under cover, free from a mixture of snow or rain, in order that it may be made use of in forming a compost heap the following summer, when it should be mixed with at least an equal quantity of surface earth or swamp mud, and occasional layers of weeds, thistles, creek mud, sea weed, kelp, caplin, or fish offal, together with ashes, night soil, soap suds, and the contents of the kitchen sink-hole; all or any of these will be found of the greatest utility, and the heap so formed, should be spaded thoroughly the next spring, before carting it on the land. Those who have mussel mud within their reach, will find it a superior ingredient to mix in alternate layers with soil and stable dung, in a compost to lay over a season. Lime in cold soils will prove advantageous, but will not have the desired effect, when applied alone to dry exhausted land; it requires vegetable matter to act upon, then deeper ploughing should be resorted to, and the farmer should bear in mind, that two cart-loads of manure applied in the spring, are worth three applied in the fall or winter. To prevent the escape of ammonia from the over heating of the stable dung until used in the compost heap, a little refuse, salt, fish or otherwise useless pickle should be scattered over it weekly as it accumulates during the winter, in about the same proportion that would be required to save damp hay or green oats.

Ordered.—That the above Report be received and published.

Resolved.—That the thanks of this Meeting are due, and are hereby given to the Office-Bearers of this Society for the past year.

Resolved.—That Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, be elected Vice-President, in lieu of the Hon. John Montgomery; and that the remainder of the Office Bearers be re-elected, viz.

President.—Andrew Barbarie, Esq.

* One hundred and eight bushels of Wheat have been threshed this fall here, from two acres of land, that were under green crop the previous year, manured with a compost formed as above.

Vice Presidents.—Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, and Mr Walter Blair.

Committee.—Donald Stewart, John U. Campbell, James M'Pherson, John Douglas, Esquire.

Secretary and Treasurer.—Dugald Stewart.

From the Boston Cultivator. A RECEIPT FOR STEEPING WHEAT.

Put a false bottom and top into a tub; then put in two bushels of seed wheat, on this, pour on one pail full of hot water in which 1 lb. of saltpetre has been dissolved, then throw on a pail of water wherein 4 quarts of stone lime has been quenched; directly after this, put in as much mudgel hole water as will swim four or six inches on the top of the grain; add 2 quarts of common salt, and let the wheat soak in this liquor from six in the evening to six of the clock in the morning—if you have time, it will be rather better if you put it in one evening, and take it out the next, and let it be all night on the floor. Next morning, slacked lime must be by degrees sifted in and mixed with the wheat, and then it is fit to sow directly. Our usual way is to stir the grain well about in this tub just before we take it out, that the light kernels may swim on the top, and with the seeds of weeds (if any) be skimmed off. The great profit and convenience then, of this imbibition of the grain is manifested in its curing and preventing smut, fertilizing and causing the seed to branch into many stalks, forcing it almost at once, bringing it forward for early reaping, and makes the crop of grain more spirituous by impregnating its farina, with a more vital quality. Extract of a letter from Sir John Dalrymple to Wm. Elias, dated Edinburgh, November 16th 1742. "I think the method for deepening the soil by one plough followed by another is good."

BLACK SEA SPRING WHEAT.

Messrs. Gaylord and Tucker:—Believing it will be beneficial to the public to have this wheat reserved for seed, I make this communication. It is believed in this quarter, to be superior for seed to any other spring wheat. First, because it requires but about two thirds the usual quantity to sow an acre,—2nd, it yields better in a good season. If it lodges, it generally fills well—but its great superiority consists in its hardness to withstand the rust.

Our thresher, Mr. G. Farnum, of this town, says he threshed in Cornwall, about 500 bushels of this wheat, of 1842 crop, and did not have a rusty bundle; whereas, three fourths of the other wheat was very materially damaged by rust. Of the 1843 crop, he threshed about 3000 bushels of this wheat and found its yield superior to any other spring wheat; and also, that it filled well where it lodged.

I learn that the wheat raised in Cornwall, came from a peck of seed, procured near Boston in 1839 or '40. Some suppose there are two kinds, and that the red chaff is the best. It is dark colored, hard and heavy. Until our millers learned how to grind it, it was supposed to make inferior flour.

Homer Wright, of this town, got 41 bushels from 1 1/2 bu. of seed; Mr. Elmore, 26 from 1 bu.; Orval Smith, 29 from 1 bu. of seed; Hiram Foster, of Whitney, 42 from 1 1/2 bu.; B. Simonds, 41 from 1 1/2 bu. of seed.

I am surprised that our farmers should send so much of this wheat to the mill to be ground, considering the estimation in which it is held, and that there is not more of it than ought to be sown in two counties.

CLARK RICH.

Shoreham, Vt. 1844.

MAKING AND SAVING MANNURES.

Several interesting and useful volumes have been written on the management and application of farm yard manure. I can say little more on this subject at this time, than give the opinion, that we manage the whole affair in a most wasteful and unscientific manner generally. Instead of saving carefully every solid and

liquid substance about our premises, and by combining them with bog muck, the sediments of bogs and ditches, parings from the roadside, loam from wood lands, and decaying vegetables, making them *teapen* the whole lump, with the addition of ashes, soot, plaster, lime, salt, &c., we suffer thousands of loads to lie exposed to sun and rains, which dissipate the most valuable portions, and impoverish our means of prosperity.

Every family who uses a barrel of soft soap in a year, may saturate two cords or four ox cart loads of loam with suds and filth of the wash room, which would be a good top-dressing to an acre of grass land, or half an acre of wheat. I could speak of other wastes which happen about every house, which if they were saved, and properly composted, would manure in the State of Maine, 100,000 acres of wheat. In China, almost no cattle are kept, and no dependence placed on barn yard manure.—There sole resort is, to the composts formed from the refuse matter about human dwellings, and the most of that land which sustains 300,000,000 human beings is a garden. [Dr. Bates' Address.]

Rust in Wheat.—This seems to take place when it is nearly ripe, after a heavy shower of rain, succeeded by an intensely warm sun. The straw then bursts, and the sap exudes. This is the cause of rust.—Steeping the seed in strong brine twelve hours, and then sifting lime over it, is the best preventive.

PRESERVATION OF IRON.

As iron enters so extensively into the construction of nearly all the implements of agriculture, as well as almost every tool used in the arts, the preservation of the metal from the injurious effects of rust or corrosion in water, has for a long time received the attention of scientific and practical men. It was found by experience, that the ordinary paints and varnishes, gave only a temporary preservation, and when once the paint began to decay, it assisted rather than retarded the progress of decay. In the tenth volume of Reports of the British Association, it is stated that by the direction of the Association, Dr. Mallet, of Dublin, has superintended a series of experiments, in which every kind of paint and varnish, was applied to every kind of iron, immersed in various kinds of running water, for two years, the results of which prove that coal tar boiled, and laid on the iron while hot has a very decided advantage over all other preparations. This discovery is of much consequence, as iron vessels are so rapidly and extensively coming into use.

AN OLD FALLACY EXPOSED.

Some people tell us that "education won't fill people's bellies," and trash of that sort.—Why, they might just as well complain of the baker or the butcher, because with their bread or bread they don't fill people's minds. But every man knows that "man lives not by bread alone,"—that knowledge leads to skill, that skill leads to useful and lucrative occupation, and that the gain derived from lucrative occupation enables men to get the staff of this mortal life, after getting the staff of that immortal life which improves and strengthens his better part—the mind. Therefore it is not true to say that learning does not fill people's bellies, as some grossly and stupidly say; for it puts the staff of common animal life within our reach; so the bread and beef got through its means, ultimately tend to support the mind, inasmuch as without the support of the animal part of our nature would have but a small chance of surviving."

Cranberries.—Cultivated cranberries were exhibited by S. Bates, Billingham, Norfolk Co., Mass., grown on his own land. He states that "low meadow land is best for them, prepared in the first instance in the same manner as for grain. The wild cranberry is transplanted into this in rows 20 inches apart. At first they require a slight hoving, afterwards they spread and cover the field, producing crops, annually thereafter