

THE GLEANER:

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

OLD SERIES] *Nec araneam sane textus ideo melior, quia ea se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ea alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 28, 1848.

[NUMBER 5.

Agricultural Journal.

From the St. John Courier.

ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,
FOR 1848.

APPENDIX, No. 1.

MR. INGLEDREW'S REPORT ON THE CULTIVATION OF TURNIPS.

Marsh, October 21, 1848.

To the President of the St. John Agricultural Society.

Sir—I enclose a certificate, from Messrs. Bowes and Ayers, of the quantities of turnips and carrots raised by me this year, as measured by them amounting to 840 bushels of turnips, and 500 bushels of carrots.

As carrots are a root I would highly recommend to the notice of farmers, I will state my mode of cultivation.

I take a piece light, loamy land, which I have had in green crop, and I plough it in the fall as deep as I can. In the spring I put on thirty loads of well rotted manure to the acre, and spread it. I then cross-plough, and harrow, repeating the operation if the soil is not well pulverized. I then strike out drills two feet apart, and strike off the top of the drills with an iron rake—then sow the seed, after which, I rake as light as possible. Carrot seed should be in the ground not later than 20th May. As soon as weeds appear, I pass the cultivator between the drills, and also apply the hoe, and fingers. The large Belgian carrot ought to be thinned to 6 inches apart; the early horn carrot to 3 inches.

I mix the seed with fine earth ten days before sowing, dash a little water on top, and set it away in a moderately warm place, until next day. Then, I break the crust, mix the whole, and dash water as before. I repeat this operation daily, for the time above mentioned, taking care not to make the seed too wet, but keeping it so, that it can at any time be separated with the fingers.

The following is a statement of the cost and value of my carrot crop:—

COST.	
Ploughing and labor for one acre,	£4 10 0
Manure 30 loads, at 5s per load,	7 10 0
	£12 0 0
VALUE.	
Five hundred bushels of carrots, which I estimate as worth 2s 6d per bushel,	62 10 0
Profit on the acre,	£50 10 0

Last year, I furnished an account of my way of cultivating turnips, which I cannot better, further than to say, that this season I sold 22 perches of yellow turnips as they stood in the ground, for the sum of £4 10s. being at the rate of £33 per acre.

I wish to explain why my crop was not so heavy this year as it was the last. My land was a cold, wet, clay loam, and the season being very wet, the crop is not half what it might have been in a drier season. When farming in England, I was extensively engaged in raising turnips, and commonly could count upon 600 to 1200 bushels the acre. I should say, that the climate here suits turnips very well, the summer being warm, and the autumn long and mild; but turnips must have a very mellow soil, and that we cannot have without thorough draining, which my limited means have not yet allowed me to have done. I believe that the want of draining is the only reason why I do not raise the same weight of crop here, as I used to do in England.

It has surprised me very much, to see some people taking delight, in trying to discourage farmers from doing anything to improve their condition; such people will neither go ahead themselves, nor allow others to pass them. I feel called upon to make these remarks, in consequence of an attack made upon me last

year, by John Gillies, Esquire, in the Colonial advocate. He found fault with me, because I recommended that the earth should be taken from about the young plant when thinning turnips to prevent its throwing out side roots, which make the turnip stringy and bitter, and throw it into fingers and toes. He reasoned very learnedly against this theory of mine, as he called it, and proved, to his own satisfaction at least, that I must be quite wrong, seeing that I acted against nature, which never makes anything superfluous—moreover, that he had never followed that mode, and therefore, it could not be right.

Now, a short answer to this is, that by my plan I raised 640 bushels to the acre, and he could never get more than 400! In my country they think "Best is that best does." But the truth is, it was no theory, or discovery of mine at all. As every farmer knows, it is the plan followed all over England; and in Scotland too, as I have been told.

Mr. Gillies says, that when I have had as much experience in farming as he has had, I will come into his views. I beg to inform him, that I have farmed practically in England, and in this country, now going on fifty years; and from what I have heard and seen of Mr. Gillies, I do not think I could gain much by following either his theory or practice, in farming.—And it is to be regretted, that such a man can do a great deal of harm. He says—"I have tried farming with all the advantages of skill, capital, and good land, and could not make a living at it—therefore, it cannot be done." Now the secret was, that Mr. Gillies went to farming with his head full of theories, but without practical knowledge; and thinking himself perfection, as a matter of course, he lost both his time and his money.

It is with reluctance I make these remarks, but as Mr. Gillies always quotes the course of his own farming, as the end of all argument, I feel it my duty to warn my brother farmers against being led astray by his foolish theories. I am sir your obedient servant,

JAMES INGLEDREW.

No. 2.

REPORT OF WILLIAM HAWKES ESQ., ON TURNIPS.

Black River, October 9, 1848.

To the President of the St. John Agricultural Society.

Sir—I was induced, the year before last, by the reports and recommendation of your Society, to try the cultivation of turnips. The land was well prepared and manured, but still, the crop did not come up to my expectation, and I had almost made up my mind, that you were too sanguine as to what might be done in the way of turnip raising. In your last year's report, I noticed Mr. Ingledrew's directions, that unless the young plants were thinned out to the extent of 6 inches, and the earth well cleared away from the remaining plants, there would not be half a crop; and seeing this, I thought I would try again. I am happy to tell you, that I have followed Mr. Ingledrew's directions, and would not exchange the acre of turnips I now have, for any three acres of any other crop, I have on my farm.

The produce of this acre is six hundred bushels, of which I will send you a certificate.

600 bushels of turnips, worth to me for family use, and feeding my Stock, 1s. per bushel, £20 0 0

Deduct—
Expense of cultivation, £4 10 0
Manure, 3 0 0
7 10 0

Profit on the acre, £22 10 0

As I am satisfied that when we become better acquainted with the cultivation of the turnip, we will be able to obtain a much greater yield, I intend to follow it up, in a great measure, instead of the potato, which has become so very

uncertain, and I would like to see all farmers to do the same. Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HAWKES.

No. 3.

REPORT OF WILLIAM HAWKES, ESQ. ON MAKING AND SAVING MANURE.

Black River, October 11, 1848.

To the President of the St. John Agricultural Society.

Sir—As your Society has offered a premium for the best report on the making and saving manure, I will tell you my own experience in the matter, not to get the premiums, but for the purpose of assisting you in your efforts for the improvement of farming among us, of which I must say, there is great need. I have often been filled with pain at seeing the poor cattle shivering in their stalls, in barns where they were exposed to every wind that blew, and the manure thrown out of a hole in the wall, there to lie, and have all the good washed out of it, not only by the rain, but by the dripping from the roof; and this, I am sorry to say, is a true picture of nine out of ten of all the barns in the country which I have seen.

Now, I will venture to say, that no farmer, however humble his circumstances, but might keep his cattle on far less feed and double the value of his manure, by merely placing the cattle, with their heads inwards, on the south side of his barn, with close boarding before and over them, and then, throwing over the manure a shed, ten feet wide, covered with slabs, or spruce bark, if shingles cannot be afforded.

I followed the fashion of the country when I first began farming, but found that my cattle took the horn distemper, and would not thrive as I thought they should. My manure was also mixed in winter with layers of snow, and all the substance was washed out of in the Spring, so I did not perceive the land to be much the better for it. I tired of this, and saw that I must either change my plan, or give up farming.

I therefore built a barn on the following plan. It measures 36 by 26 feet, and fronts to the South, with large doors at both ends, and a passage running along the south side. On that side the land falls away, so I brought the roof close down to the ground. By doing this I got breadth enough for a cow house, and a manure house behind. The cows stand with their heads to the barn, and I feed them from the thrashing floor. I sank the floor of the manure house considerably, and left it open at each end, so that I can drive a team right through. My manure never freezes now, and my cattle being made comfortable, thrive in a way they never did before.

As I have found that turnips and carrots can be raised to advantage in this country, I intend to make a root-cellar in the middle of my barn, about five feet deep. I think the turnips will keep there if well covered with straw, and they will be at hand for feeding the cattle.

I have this year a compost heap of the following dimensions—51-7-six feet long, thirty-three feet broad, and five feet high. It is composed of 136 loads of green seaweed, with about the same quantity of black bog-earth, and as much good vegetable mould; the two last mentioned I mixed together. I placed this and the seaweed, in alternate layers, of eighteen inches, and find that it heated, until the whole became one mass of very beneficial manure.

Wishing the Society the success it so well deserves; I am your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HAWES.

No. 4.

MR. INGLEDREW'S REPORT ON TURNIP CULTIVATION.

Reprinted from the Report of 1847, by special order of the Society.

The mode which I adopt in the cultivation of turnips is as follows:—I take land from which I had previously taken a crop of oats, without manure, from sward; this I plough over in the Fall. In

Spring, I plough across, and harrow thoroughly. I then run out drills two feet apart, into which I put thirty double horse loads of barn manure to the acre; this I cover about two inches by opening new drills. On the top of these drills after being a little flattened, I sow about 1½ lbs. per acre, with a seed sower,—if by hand, a small opening must be made for the seed with a hoe. The seed should be sown when the land is dry, and shortly before rain, if possible. I have found the best time of sowing to be from 5th to 20th of June. The best remedy I have found for the fly is thick sowing, although I understand that if bran be sown on the young turnips when wet with dew, they will suffer less. So soon as weeds appear I pass a cultivator between each drill. When the plants put forth the rough leaf, which is generally about the tenth day after sowing, I pass along the drills with a hoe, striking out all but about two plants in each six inches. About ten days after, I thin to six inches, filling up vacancies with the plants thus drawn. On the last thinning depends much of the future growth. It is done with both hoe and hand, the tops of the drills being nearly levelled, and the soil being well cleared away from the plant, leaving the tap-root only in the ground. If the earth was not well cleared away from the turnip, it would not attain half its size, besides being more liable to be injured by grubs and worms. After this operation, the young plants will fall down and appear to wilt, but the inexperienced need not be discouraged, as in a few days they will start again with fresh vigour.

They may now be left to themselves for some weeks, until they begin to crowd, when they should be thinned to twelve inches apart—the drawn turnips affording an excellent food for cows, hogs, &c., as well as for market purposes. The hoe should then be drawn through between every plant and the cultivator passed up the drills. A light furrow might also be opened with a plough to carry off the water. They will seldom require more.

The expense of cultivating an acre of turnips after this mode, may be summed up thus:—

Ploughing, harrowing and Drilling—4 days, at 15s.	£3 0 0
Manure, carting & spreading,	9 0 0
Cultivator, one day in all,	0 10 0
Hoeing and weeding,	0 15 0
	£13 5 0

I estimate the turnips as worth, on the ground, 1s. per bushel, which is, 640 bushels, £32 0 0

—leaving nett profits, £18 15 0

—besides having two months' valuable feeding from the drawn turnips and tops.

Carrots are cultivated much after the same manner, with the exception that the land ought to have another ploughing, and about ten loads more of manure. The hand is also to be used instead of the hoe in weeding and thinning.

All which is respectfully submitted by
JAMES INGLEDREW.

AGRICULTURE.

On a farm of one or two hundred acres, a certain amount of labour must be done by the owner and his family, or they cannot meet the necessary expenses of a comfortable maintenance. The main chance must be minded by themselves. At certain periods of the year every boy that can spread hay, or carry a sheaf, or rake after a cart must work. All the boys who can hoe half a row must work most part of the summer. The work must all be done; and then the boys may go to school.

Whoever was a farmer's boy thirty years ago, sees now a vast change in favor of leisure for education, and the facilities for gaining knowledge. At that time, the hard, delving toil on the farm seemed to have no end. If their came a rainy day, there was no rest from toil, the clumsy tools of husbandry were to be mended or ground; the thrashing flail, and hand-fan were to be swung till our eyes were filled with dust, and our hands