

THE GLEANER:

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COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

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

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

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MIRAMICHI, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1849.

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Agricultural Journal.

St. John Courier, Nov. 3.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

If dairying is meant to pay, cows should be warmly housed from November to May, and only out to drink, fed with turnips and straw or hay in winter. In summer they should have for pasture the best hay field on the farm, which can be afforded to them if turnips and straw are fed, and the manure saved from the cows being kept in, will raise all the turnips.

With such treatment the improved breeds will show their superiority.

We trust we will be excused for our want of method in putting together these hurried remarks. We are too much engaged in the active business of life to find time to round periods and construct learned sentences; and, unfortunately, many, who ought to take the lead, who have most interest in the improvement of the country, and most spare time at their disposal, stand coldly aloof, and afford us neither their time, money, nor countenance.

We offer no apology for speaking of Provincial agriculture generally, we being only a local society.—in pressing danger, no one can be blamed for calling "fire!" And if ever a country needed the utmost exertions of every one who can aid in rousing her from a state of almost hopeless asphyxia, this is the one.

With our timber nearly exhausted—without another article of export, and following a mode of agriculture that is fast destroying the ability of the soil to produce food—what but poverty and ruin can overtake us!

But we think we can discern symptoms of better things to come. The public mind is becoming alive to the necessity for giving that attention and encouragement to agriculture to which its importance entitles it.

The idea is gaining ground, that probably this may be a farming country after all!

Such being the case, we have full faith in the result, and trust we shall live to see prosperity and happiness, as the reward of intelligent industry, taking the place of our present poverty and despondency.

By order of the Board.

R. JARDINE, President.

D. B. STEVENS, Secretary.

St. John, Oct. 25, 1849.

APPENDIX.

THOMAS DAVIDSON'S STATEMENT OF

TURNIP CROP.

LITTLE RIVER, Oct. 16, 1849.

To the President of the Agricultural Society.

SIR,—The way in which I cultivated my field of turnips was thus:—The extent is nine acres; it is a hillside, and the soil is gravelly loam, naturally poor, and had never been in crop. The year before last, I ploughed it in the fall, after pulling the bushes out. In the following spring I sowed oats and had a fair crop. After the oats were out I drained it with stone drains three feet deep, I then ploughed it deep. This spring I ploughed it twice, and put on 45 single horse loads of the acre of well rotted manure in drills 30 inches apart. I sowed on the top of the manure 3 cwt. of guano to the acre, then closed the drills and sowed turnip seed, about 5 lb. to the acre, from 5th to 30th June. The fleas were numerous, but left enough for a crop. I thinned or singled them to about 10 inches apart, by hand, removing the earth from each plant so that it fell over. During the next month I passed through them with the hoe, levelling the drills and destroying all weeds; I ran through them twice afterwards with the drill harrow, and to finish, ran a light furrow with the drill plough to carry off the water. The produce of a square rod in different parts of the field, measured in a flour barrel, estimated at 2½ bushels, was 3 bushels,

which shows a produce of 1280 bushels per acre. I have sold about 2000 bushels—1s. 3d. per bushel—and what I can not sell I intend to feed with straw to my dairy cows, and boiled with chaff to my horses and pigs. I think a bushel of turnips boiled with chaff will go as far as a bushel of bran, and at that rate could be worth from 9d. to 1s. per bushel.

I cannot well estimate the value, however, for feeding, but consider them indispensable. I consider that an acre of turnips would keep five cows through the winter, as well as an acre of hay would keep one.

The cost of cultivation I consider to be:

For ploughing, &c.	£2 10 0
" thinning and weeding,	0 12 6
" lifting,	0 10 0
" manure,	7 5 0

1200 bushels Turnips, at 9d. 45 0 0

Profit, £34 2 6

—Or, in other words, they stand me in about 2d. per bushel. My field of Carrots was cultivated in the same manner. It contained two acres—was sown about the 1st of May with seed prepared as recommended by Mr Ingledew, and thinned to about four inches. The produce is five and a quarter bushels to the rod, or 840 bushels to the acre. I can sell a considerable quantity at 2s. 6d. per bushel, the rest I will feed to my horses and pigs.

I remain your obedient servant,

THOMAS DAVIDSON.

DR. PETERS' STATEMENT.

LANCASTER, Oct. 22d, 1849.

SIR,—My mode of cultivating carrots and turnips is to spread the manure upon the ground at the rate of thirty tons to the acre, and plough it in, then harrow well, and run the drills with a double mould board plough. My man, with a pair of horses, will plough, harrow, drill and sow an acre in two days with ease, which at 12s. 6d. per day is 25s. I weed chiefly with a drill plough and cultivator. My turnips averaged 8 bushels to the square rod. My carrots were all housed before I got your note, so that I cannot say how many bushels I had in a square rod, but the circumference of most of them was from eight to ten inches, and the Belgian were from eighteen inches to two feet long. I always sow Carrots upon potato land, and Turnips upon oat stubble. I sell carrots at 2s. 6d. and 3s. per bushel, and turnips at 1s. 3. to 1s. 4d. I think the White Belgian Carrot the most profitable crop that can be put in the ground.

I remain your obedient servant,

G. P. PETERS.

STATEMENT OF MR. FRED. J. AYERS.

COLDBROOK, Oct. 22d, 1849.

To the President of the Agricultural Society.

SIR,—I send you a certificate of the quantity of turnips to the square rod, which is 8 bushels, or at the rate of 1280 bushels to the acre.

I cultivated this season about an acre of turnips. The season being dry and my land laying high, it had a very unpromising appearance until 1st September.—Since then the growth has been most rapid. I adopted Mr Ingledew's mode of culture, as far as thinning and taking the earth from the plants, leaving nothing but the tap root in the ground, except in a very few instances, to test the principle, as laid down by some writers, but in no instance did it succeed, the turnip being much better when the earth was taken from the plants. The land is a dark loam with a little marl on a gravelly subsoil, which, two years ago, was broken up from very rough pasture and planted with potatoes. I ploughed it last fall, and four times this spring, harrowing well in a day or two after each ploughing, until it was very fine. After the third ploughing, I spread on eighteen double loads of manure, a mixture of horse, cow, and pig dung and ploughed it in. After harrow-

ing, I run drills twenty four inches apart, raking them down and sowing the seed as fast as the drills were made. Part sown on the 20th June, and the rest on 1st July—the last sowing stood the fly best; and some portion sown on 20th July are as good as any of the field, and have a fine flavor. The past season on account of the draught, has been a very unfavorable one for the cultivation of the turnip, and I take much pleasure in presenting for competition such a crop,—but as good as the yield is, I think it would have been increased materially had I not committed the very common error of leaving the plants too thick, and having the drills too near each other; but as I am only a novice in agriculture, I will not trouble you with any more remarks, further than to state that the cultivation of an acre of turnips in this vicinity may be stated at from £12 to £15, and when the crop is properly cultivated, 1000 bushels to the acre is nothing more than an average crop; and if we put them down at 1s. per bushel—and they are seldom sold at so low a price—it would leave the profit on an acre at £35.

I am your obt' servant,

FREDERICK J. AYERS.

[The above were accompanied by proper certificates.]

Mr Thomas Dewar, Gardner's Creek, furnishes certificates that he has raised from fifteen acres, 507 bushels of oats.—Six acres of buckwheat yielding 143½ bushels, and 4½ acres of potatoes yielding 746 bushels.

Mr Robert Bowes furnishes a certificate that he has raised 114 bushels of buckwheat.

The following is Mr Robert Bowes' statement of his plan of saving manure, to which the premium was awarded:—

To the President of the St. John Agricultural Society.

SIR,—As your Society has offered a Premium to the Farmer who has displayed the most intelligence and economy in saving and making manure, and as I am convinced that upon this depends in a great measure the successful prosecution of Agriculture in this County, I am induced to lay before you my experience in this matter. The exhausting process of farming hitherto carried on in this Province, cannot be improved, save by the production of a larger quantity of manure than heretofore. Convinced of this, I, in the month of July, three years since, hauled out of a bog eighty cart loads of bog earth to the end of the land where I intended to apply it, mixed it with eight hogsheads of quick lime, and let it remain until the following Spring, when I spread it broadcast, on about two and a half acres of land, which had been ploughed about the time I hauled out the bog earth. I sowed it with Oats, Timothy, and Red Clover, and harrowed it properly. I had a good crop of Oats that year, and an excellent crop of Hay the next year. I did not, however, like the look of the heap; when I turned it over, the lime seemed dead and the bog wet and cloggy. There was about thirteen or fourteen loads of the bog earth left, with which I had not sufficient lime to mix, and it laid over winter. I determined to try how barn manure would do to mix with it.—I accordingly put six cart loads of the barn manure to the bog and let it stand for four or five days, when I found it in a complete state of fermentation. I applied it to a piece ground alongside the other, and I found the crops to be superior on the latter. The next year, I hauled one hundred and seventy loads of peat to the field where I intended to apply it and to every seventh load I added one of earth. I turned the heap over twice in the summer, which I found improved it very much. As soon as the frost left in the spring, I had the barn manure admixed, one load to two of the peat, with the latter finely pulverized, and thrown loosely in a compost heap, ten feet in width and five feet in height, triangle shaped. I then left the heap to do for itself. I then harrowed the ground, picked off the stones, and struck out drills two feet apart, and left the ground prepared for the reception of the manure. In four

days I found the compost in a proper state of fermentation. (It is necessary to have a few loads of earth convenient, lest the heap would overheat, to throw on the top two or three inches, to prevent the escape of the ammonia or gas.) In a few days the compost packed down eight or ten inches, into a solid mass of fertilizing matter. I let it stand for four days then hauled it out upon the land, thirty four single horse-load to the acre, and covered it up with the plough in the drills. I put in carrot seed; the day following, I found the manure had warmed the ground, and, notwithstanding the dry weather, the seed germinated, and in four days they appeared above the ground. I planted in the same acre of ground, potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, cabbage, and corn, all of which grew abundantly which will appear more fully in the accompanying certificate. So Sir, like the Irish bog, there is something very extraordinary in the peat if properly manufactured, and I would strongly recommend that in all classes the peat should go through a thorough course of fermentation, and, if possible, be applied through the ground when warm. It may be asked, why not add more earth to the heap? I answer it would prevent fermentation. The manure that I mixed with the muck was that of six cows and two horses, which was evenly mixed through the winter in the barn yard. But, sir, our farmers will think very hard to quit their old method, which was to haul out their manure and apply it to the ground cold, wet, and unmixed, which, if it never was to be put with a compost, it would improve it very much to turn it over, and let it stand for a few days to warm a little before being put in the ground. In our cold spring weather, care should be taken not to put any lime in the same compost with barn manure, as they never agree; the one is sure to eat up the other. It may be asked also would not quick lime do to mix with the peat; and I think it would, by preparing the peat the same as above described and in the spring, break the lime into small pieces and put it through the peat till it slacks; then turn it over and let it stand four or five days—say put one load of lime to six loads of muck,—this, I think, when put on the ground warm, would be a very good manure. But this is not the method followed by the farmers of this locality; they commonly mix the lime with the wet sour muck, without turning it over in the summer, or soaking it, or waiting for the required power of the atmosphere to manufacture it; in the spring the lime is dead, and, I think, can be very little service to the land. Charcoal would be another excellent ingredient to make manure, especially to the farmers in the interior parts of the country, who cut so much wood-land down annually and burn it on the ground. If the farmers would make charcoal of the wood they burn up, they would find it very much to their benefit. I think that sea-weed would be a very good ingredient to mix with peat for compost; but this article is only to be obtained along the sea board of this Province, and could not apply to the interest or benefit of the farmers generally, but only to those farmers who reside along the coast. Neither can the lime be had except in particular places in this Province, and then it must be purchased at a very dear rate, placing it entirely out of the reach of small farmers, or of those living in back settlements and interior parts of the Province. I think the simple method of making manure that I found out by experiment, would tend to the general good as well as in the most remote parts of the Province as in these localities, as the article can be got almost on every farm, with no other cost than that of manufacturing it, and it is within the reach of the poor farmer as well as the rich; and although simple as this mode of making manure may appear, any farmer who will add to his manure heap twice the quantity he makes at his barn yard, and follows it up annually, together with rotation cropping, may rest assured his farm would soon have a different appearance to that which it has this day. I have one hun-