

# THE GLEANER:

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

Old Series]

*Nec aranturum 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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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Halifax Guardian.

### THE SEASONS AND THEIR OCCUPATIONS.

Spring comes. The husbandman goes forth  
The smiling fields to till,  
And rosy children laughing seek,  
The flowers on vale and hill;  
The architect renews his craft,  
And rears the stately pile;  
And Nature's worshipper is seen,  
Where streams and sunbeams smile.  
As prisoners freed from iron thrall,  
Earth's million children seem,  
New hopes, new thoughts, new duties come  
With Spring's reviving beam.

The Summer wakes. The scene is changed.  
True loveliness is round,  
And through the green rejoicing woods  
Glad, laughing tones resound.  
To gather berries, red and ripe,  
Young footsteps break the air,  
The hearthstone is deserted now,  
For sunset ramble fair,  
Or pic-nics in some leafy shade,  
Or sailing on the lake,  
Nature and nature's subjects seem  
To live for pleasure's sake.

Then Autumn steals serenely on—  
New pleasures wait the heart,  
The huntsman seeks his subtle game  
In tangled woods apart;  
The roads resound with noisy wheels—  
The traveller's choicest time,  
When o'er the quivering leaves is traced  
A pencilling sublime.  
The farmer stores his harvest now,  
The merchant's ships return,  
And gay pedestrians make the tour  
Of dingle, hill, and burn.

And winter comes, with curtains drawn,  
And bright hearths blazing free,  
With Christmas cheer and New Year games  
With revelry and glee,  
With dance and song, and music gay,  
With sleighing, skating, ball,  
With literary clubs for some,  
With books and cheer for all.  
So seasons roll serenely on,  
Bringing new scenes to each,  
A kind creator placing thus  
All things within our reach.

St. John Courier, November 9.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAINT JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The principal points established are:  
1st. That of the eighteen millions of acres in this Province, thirteen are capable of being cultivated, and five waste. To judge by comparison, Scotland contains 19 millions of acres, only five of which are capable of being cultivated.

2nd. That of this land, the Professor, from his own observation and researches, pronounces eight millions of acres to be very good in quality, and capable of producing on an average two tons of hay or forty bushels of oats per acre, and that the thirteen millions of acres of available land are capable of producing, even with the present method of cultivation, one and a half tons of hay, or 27 bushels of oats per acre.

3rd. That the climate is exceedingly healthy and that it does not prevent the soil from producing crops, which, other things being equal, are not inferior either in quantity or quality to those of average soils in England.

4th. That, as compared with Canada, New York and Ohio, the produce per acre of grain and vegetables of all kinds, is greater, in New Brunswick.

5th. That better prices are obtained for grain, vegetables and meat in New Brunswick than in Canada, New York, or Ohio.

6th. That "all the circumstances which have had an influence in rendering the agricultural body less prosperous, the agricultural interest less influential, and the agricultural capabilities of the soil less appreciated in New Brunswick, are independent of, and extrinsic to, the natural capabilities of the soil itself, and that they do not in reality determine, nor permanently interfere with,

the natural adaptation of the Province as a field for agricultural exertion."

And finally, "That those who have confined themselves to their farming operations alone, and have been ordinarily skilful, industrious and prudent, have in no case, failed to do well."

The Directors will only notice and endeavor to refute one objection which has been frequently made to the correctness of this Report, and on which much of its value depends.

It is, "that much of the information furnished is obtained from farmers who either had better land and better crops than their neighbors, or were desirous of making things appear better than they are."

To the first part of this objection it is replied, that there are included in the other returns seven from agricultural Societies—that it may be presumed that these gave the general produce of the county or district which they represented.

The Directors beg distinctly to state, that the return furnished for this county was made up at a full meeting by unanimous consent; that the meeting consisted mainly of practical farmers, and of others well acquainted with the produce of the county; and that the returns were given as the *general average produce* of the county.

Now, on comparing the returns of those seven Societies with those from individuals, it will be found that they do not, in any material point, vary.

To the second part of the objection it may be answered, that of the fifty farmers who gave in the returns, twenty five are of opinion that farming *will not pay*. It may be assumed that they, at least, would not wish to represent matters in too favorable a light, and yet their returns give no less favorable a view of produce and prices than do those of the 25 who say that farming *will pay*.

As to the prices given, the returns are more than confirmed by a price current running over five years, made up from the Colonial Advocate Newspaper, and likewise published in the Report.

It is important to know, that the statistics with which these are compared were made up in precisely the same manner, namely, by returns from Agricultural Societies and farmers.

No one in this Province will presume to say that more authentic or trustworthy information could be obtained in any country than from such men as Walton, Mowat and Farmer, of Charlotte County; Gibert, Chapman, Crane and Trenholm, of Westmorland; Otty, Hayward, Aiton and McLeod, of King's; Coster, Robertson, Perkins and Smith, of Queen's; Hubbard, Clowes, Harrison and Simonds, of York; Rankin and Pickett, of Carleton; Steves, Lewis, Wallace and McLatchey of Albert; Layton and Wheton of Kent; Porter and Hea, of Northumberland; Baldwin and Lockhart, of Gloucester; and Stewart, of Restigouche.

There are many, however, who from having made up their minds that this is not a farming country, or from being naturally predisposed to criticise, grumble, and find fault, will continue to assail this, as they do every effort at improvement, with sneers, doubts and ridicule. It is not expected that evidence or arguments can have any effect upon such.

It did not surprise those who were familiar with the produce of the Northern States and New Brunswick, to be told, that the grain, vegetables and grass of New Brunswick surpassed those of New England in quantity and quality. All who had travelled with their eyes open had seen it, and those who had thought at all upon the subject must have been aware that prices of provisions must needs be higher in the importing than in the exporting country, by at least, the charges of transport and merchants' profit.

As compared with Great Britain, to those who knew that it is not the annual average temperature, but the quantity of heat distributed through the summer months, that effects the growth and maturity of grain and vegetable, it needed only to be told, that while in Great Britain the temperature barely reaches the required standard, in New Brunswick it considerably exceeds it, to expect it to follow, that while in Great Britain a fall of one or two degrees in the summer temperature spreads dismay over the land, causes a certain and serious deficiency, and in many localities hinders the ripening of wheat and even oats; in New Brunswick, on the contrary, wheat, oats and barley have never failed to ripen when sown in good season, and in favorable circumstances, and that Indian Corn, which in England, can scarcely be grown, is here a productive, and generally a sure crop.

The Directors understand, that in addition to the 1000 copies of Professor Johnston's Report already published, another edition of 10,000 copies is being printed. It is expected that these will be distributed for sale at a cheap rate through every town and village in great Britain and Ireland, and that a copy will be placed in every agricultural library. Thus will a knowledge of our advantages, as a field for emigration be communicated to thousands in the older countries, who are seeking to escape from the evils incidental to excessive competition, and to find a home where an honest living may be obtained by patient industry.

If, in addition to this, the report be read, and the directions contained in it be, to any extent, put into practice by the farmers of the Province, evidence will soon be furnished in the increased productiveness of the soil and consequent prosperity of all connected with agriculture, that to increase knowledge is to increase power, and that all that has been judiciously expended in obtaining this knowledge has been well laid out.

In conclusion, the Directors are gratified to be able to record, that a desire for information and a spirit of improvement have arisen, and are spreading over the land; agricultural Societies are formed, or forming, in almost every county and parish in the Province; Shows are held; improved stock, seeds and implements, are sought after and appreciated; a much larger quantity of provisions is now raised in the country, to the exclusion of the imported wheat, flour and meal, and the great truth is coming nearer and nearer to men's minds, that on the ability to furnish food to its inhabitants, on the substitution of an *improving* for an *exhausting* system of husbandry, must depend the future prosperity, independence, and well-being of this country.

Respectfully submitted,

R. JARDINE, President.

D. B. STEVENS, Secretary.

St. John Oct. 31, 1850.

### APPENDIX.

#### METHOD OF FLAX CULTIVATION.

From the Transactions of the New York State Society, for 1849.

The importance of this crop to the farmer has just begun to be appreciated, and as it has some peculiarities in its culture, I shall give the results of my experience for the last 17 years.

The soil best adapted to its culture is a rich loam, but it will succeed on almost any soil except sand, provided it be high or hilly land. It will not grow well on low lands, on borders of streams or rivers; it is there subject to mildew. The seed being small, it must not be placed deep in the ground. The ground should be well ploughed, harrowed before sowing, and very lightly harrowed or bushed after sowing. The earlier sown in spring after the ground is fit to work, the better. One bushel of seed to the acre is the best quantity to ensure a good

yield of seed and lint. Flax succeeds best after such crops as have been cultivated the previous year so as to destroy weeds. The ground cannot be too rich, but the manures should be applied with the crop of the previous year. A good mixture to sow with the Flax is one bushel each of plaster, salt, wood ashes and lime per acre.

The expense of a crop of Flax is about the same as oats. Pulling costs \$3 per acre; thrashing and cleaning the seed, \$1; dew rotting the lint, \$1, and dressing at the mills, \$2, per 100 lbs. of Flax. The average quantity of seed raised is eight bushels per acre, and the average quantity of Flax 250 lbs. per acre, although this has frequently been more than doubled both in seed and lint. The average price of seed is \$1.25, and of lint, 9½ cents per lb.

I have raised from ten acres up to fifty acres yearly. I copy from my book the results of one acre I surveyed in 1847, of about the average in yield and in price: Weight of flax and seed before thrashing, 3848 lbs.; weight of flax, 2664; quantity of clean seed, 13 bushels, but when dressed, 348 lbs.

Lint sold for 10 cents. per lb.	\$34.80
13 bushels seed,	16.27
1½ bushels yellow seed,	78
	51.85
Expenses of seed, labor, &c.	14.75
Profit,	\$37.10

#### WATER ROTTING.

There are two methods of rotting flax, one by spreading it thinly and evenly over meadows, which is called dew rotting. It is considered sufficiently rotted when, by rubbing the stem and breaking it with the hand, the lint easily separates from the woody portion. This is the common process, and requires but little judgment to do it properly. The other method is by immersing it in water; and as it has rotted, by this process, many hundred thousand pounds, I may be excused for being particular, as it is a process which enhances the value of the lint when properly done.—Cloth from water-rotted lint will withstand the mildew or rotting which dew rotted cloth is subject to.

In water rotting flax, it must be entirely covered by the water, and kept under by weights, and must not remain after it is sufficiently rotted.

It is rotted much better in still water or vats than in the running stream. I cannot do better than describe my own vat or pit which about sixty feet long by twenty wide and five feet deep, which will contain twenty tons of flax in the stem, with a gate at the lower part of the pit to draw off the water from the flax, and a gate from the pond above to fill the pit with water.

The flax is placed on poles laid on the ground regularly, as it would be in the barn, and when the pit is filled and the weights placed I let on sufficient water to cover the flax. In warm weather from the 6th to the 10th day, fermentation will take place, the flax will rise above the water and remain a few hours, after which it sinks, and the process of rotting is then finished.

But this process is retarded when new water is added, and then the only way to determine is by the stem. When the lint slips freely from the stem, by drawing it through the fingers, leaving the stem free from the fibre, it is sufficiently rotted; the water is then let off, the flax drawn out and spread for drying. All flax, before being immersed, is bound in bundles with strong bands, the sheaf not too large. With all the directions that can be given, constant watching is necessary, and some experience before it can be done safely and with certainty. The Flax crop I consider less exhausting to the land than any of the cereal grains. It is true that crops do not succeed well sown in succession, but all other crops succeed well after Flax, and it is my favorite crop to lay down