

# THE GLEANER:

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the New Brunswick Agricultural Journal.

### QUESTIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF FARMS.

(OF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY FIVE ACRES.)

The following were the questions required to be answered by competitors for Premiums:

#### SOILS.

1 Of how much land does your farm consist, and how much wood, waste, and improved land, respectively?

2 What is the nature of your soil and subsoil? Is there limestone in it? What rocks are found in it?

3 What do you consider the best mode of improving the different kinds of soil found on your farm? Of clay soil—if you have it—of sandy soil and of gravelly soil? Answer separately.

4 What depth do you plough? What effect has deep ploughing had on various soils?

5 Have you made any experiments to test the difference in a succeeding crop, between shallow, common and deep ploughing?

6 Have you used the subsoil plough, and what have been its effects on different soils and crops?

7 What trees and plants were indigenous to your soil? Give their names separately.

#### MANURES.

8 How many loads of manure (thirty bushels per load) do you usually apply per acre? How do you manage your manure? Is it kept under cover; or are there cellars under your barns for receiving it?

9 What are your means, and what your method of making and collecting manures?

How many loads of manure do you manufacture annually? How many do you apply?

10 How is your manure applied; whether in its long or green state or in compost? For what crops, or under what circumstances do you prefer using it, either in a fresh or rotten state?

11 Could you not cheaply, essentially increase your supply of manure by extra labor?

12 Have you used lime, plaster, guano, salt, or any substance not in common use as manure? In what manner were they used, and with what results?

#### TILLAGE CROPS.

13 How many acres of land do you till, and with what crops are they occupied, and how much of each crop?

14 What is the amount of seed sown or planted for each crop, the time of sowing, the mode of cultivating and of harvesting, and the produce per acre? Have any insects been found injurious to your crops? If so, describe them, and the remedies you have adopted.

15 What kind and quantity of manure do you prefer for each, and at what times and in what manner do you apply it?

16 How deep do you have manure covered in the earth, for different crops and different soils?

17 Have your potatoes been affected with any particular defect or disease, and have you been able to discover any clearly-proved cause for it, or found out any remedy?

#### GRASS LANDS.

18 What kinds of grasses do you use? How much seed of clover, or the various kinds of grass do you sow to the acre? At what season of the year do you sow, and what is your manner of seeding?

19 How many acres do you mow for hay, and what is the average product? At what stage do you cut grass, and what is your mode of making hay?

20 Is any of your mowing land unsuitable for the plough, and what is your mode of managing such land?

21 Have you practised irrigating or watering meadows or other lands, and with what effect? What is your particular mode of irrigation, and how is it performed?

22 Have you reclaimed any low, bog or peat lands? What was the mode pursued, the crop raised, and with what success? What length of drains have you on the farm, and how are they constructed?

#### DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

23 How many oxen, cows, young cattle and horses do you keep, and of what breeds are they?

24 Have you made any experiments to show the relative value of different breeds of cattle or other animals for particular purposes, and with what results?

25 What do you consider the best and cheapest manner of wintering your cattle, as to feed, watering and shelter?

26 How much butter and cheese do you make annually, from what number of cows, and what is your mode of manufacture?

27 How many sheep do you keep? Of what breed or breeds are they? How much do they yield per fleece, and what price does the wool bring? How many of your sheep usually produce lambs, and what number of lambs are annually reared? How much will your sheep or lambs sell at per head to the butcher?

28 What do you consider the best and cheapest manner of wintering your sheep, as to food, watering and shelter? How many in proportion to your flock (if any) do you lose during the winter? What difference (if any) between fine and coarse woolled sheep in these respects?

29 How many swine do you keep; of what breed are they; how do you feed them; at what age do you kill them; and what do they weigh when dressed?

30 What experiments have you made to show the relative value of potatoes, turnips and other roots, compared with Indian corn, or other grain, for feeding animals, or fattening, or for milk?

#### FRUIT.

31 What is the number of your apple trees? Are they of natural or grafted fruits, and chiefly of what varieties are they?

32 What number and kind of fruit exclusive of apples, have you, and what are among the best of each kind?

33 What insects have attacked your trees, and what methods do you use to prevent their attacks?

34 What is your general management of fruit trees?

35 What other experiments or farm operations have produced interesting or valuable results?

#### FENCES, BUILDINGS, &c.

36 What is the number, size and general mode of construction of your farm buildings, and their uses?

37 What kind of fences do you construct? What is the amount and length of each kind? And their cost and condition?

38 To what extent are your various farming operations guided by accurate weighing and measuring? And to what degree of minuteness are they registered by daily accounts?

39 Do you keep regular farm accounts? Can you state the annual expense in improving your farm, and the income from it, with such precision that you can at the end of the year, strike an accurate balance of the debt and credit? Would not this practice conduce very much to close observation, careful farming, and in the end much improve your system, as well as better your fortune.

From the same.

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

BY GEORGE P. PETERS, M. D., LANCASTER, ST. JOHN.

No 1 My farm consists of one hundred and fifty acres, thirty six have been under the plough, the remainder is fit for cultivation when stumped. I have no woodland.

2 The upland is a light gravelly loam; the side hill loamy, with a clay bottom, and the valley a deep loam with clay bottom; but a portion of it clay, with a mixture of fine sand, and a few acres of what may be called marsh, which has been formed by the wash of the hills for ages, and is a deep bed of rich vegetable and earthy matter, (and as it is irrigated every spring and autumn) capable of pro-

ducing grass for ages without the aid of any manure. There is no limestone on the farm; the only rocks are about four acres of granite boulders which I have found of great benefit in enabling me to build cellar walls under my barns, (which are situated on a side hill) also under my house.

3 The best mode of improving clay soil is to drain it, plough it well in the fall and lime it. I plough mine into nine feet ridges, and apply four hogsheads of lime, fresh slacked, to the acre, immediately after ploughing; this is sufficient for the first crop (oats.) Open drains are bad, they are always filling up, and likewise interfere with ploughing. I have therefore piped a portion of my land with condemned hachmatac railroad sleepers (which cost about four pence each,) laid about three feet deep, and I find them answer well; but I believe no drain is so cheap as one made of stones as big as your fist or even larger, when they can be conveniently procured. I have tried them on a limited scale, and am so satisfied of their efficiency that hereafter I shall use them alone. I may also add that I have tried pipes and soles, which seem to answer well, but the stone I find the cheapest. I dig my drains three feet deep, and about nine or ten inches wide at the bottom, and put in a foot of stones, then cover the stones with small spruce boughs and plough the earth in to fill up. The above method will procure a good crop of oats the first year, after which the land will be in a condition to be cultivated properly. The higher portion of my farm, which is a light gravelly loam, I plough about six inches deep, and manure with a compost made of two parts of black mud and one of manure, thoroughly rotted, and from this I get good crops. I believe this compost is better than manure alone; it lasts longer in the ground, and appears to supply the vegetable matter of which the soil is deficient.

4 On my light soil I plough six inches deep; on the lower portions, with the clay bottom, as deep as a pair of horses can turn it. I was led to adopt this plan from observing that when I sunk my drains for piping in the fall, and had thrown up the clay which remained by the sides of the drain through the winter, and was sown with oats the next spring, that the best oats grew upon the top of the clay, or wherever the clay got scattered upon the surrounding ground.

5 None. I always plough as deep as I can, where I have a clay bottom below.

6 I have not but mean to do so.

7 The trees were nearly all poached off, or burnt off, when I purchased my farm, but from the stumps it is evident that large cedars grew upon the low land, and hachmatac, yellow birch, black spruce, fir and some white maple, with large alders, upon the other portions.

8 I never apply less than thirty one horse loads of manure to the acre—generally forty, but this depends upon the crop. For carrots I apply most, potatoes next, Swedes next, and Hybrids and yellow Aberdeens least. I manufacture my manure in the cellars under my barns. I have a cellar under my barns seventy feet long, thirty feet wide, and eleven feet high. Upon every six inches of manure, evenly spread, I put one foot of black mud; and although the latter is frequently put in thro' the hatches in the floor in a frozen state, it speedily thaws, undergoes fermentation, and in the spring comes out a uniform mass, and cuts like ole cheese. My cows and horses stand above these cellars, and all the liquid manure goes through the floor by openings arranged for the purpose, and is received in gutters which convey it to barrels, from which it is regularly distributed over the manure. All the slops from the house are likewise collected and hauled to the barn, and, through the traps spread over the contents of the cellar.

9 By the above means I last year put upon the land upwards of six hundred loads of manure, and as the hauling was all down hill, and my horses strong, they were of the largest description.

10 From what I have stated above, of course all my manure is applied in a thoroughly decomposed state. When used for potatoes I spread it upon the ground, and plough it in, dropping the seed in the furrow every third furrow. This is an ex-

peditious mode of planting, and potatoes raised in this way are best for eating. After they are well ploughed in, I roll the ground and harrow it, and when they are well through the ground I run a drill harrow between them to keep the earth loose. As soon as they are high enough I mould them with Wilkie's double mould-board plough, then in a little while give them a few more scrapes with a drill-harrow, after which I give them the second moulding with the double mould board, which does the work so effectually that they require little else before they are ploughed out. No man with a hoe can put earth up to potato vines so evenly and beautifully as a good double mould-board will do it. I can with four men including the ploughman put in an acre a day with ease, and with the double mould-board, the ploughman and a pair of horses, can mould three or four acres easily in the same time, so that the saving of labor is immense.

11 I could not in any way increase my supply of manure, as I even use all the weeds about the farm, which I haul to the barn and convert into manure. I am at present engaged in hauling ashes from a steam mill, the refuse stuff from which has been burnt for a number of years, and a large pile of ashes has accumulated. I expect to get about three hundred loads, for which I pay ten pence a load, and from the experience I have already had of its benefits as a top dressing for grass lands, I look for the best results.

12 I always use lime to new land upon breaking it up, and also upon wheat land after sowing, at the rate of four hogsheads to the acre, and with decided benefit. Plaster and common salt I apply to the manure as I manufacture it in my cellars. Guano I use to my turnips, at the rate of three cwt. to the acre, on top of the manure in the drills. This year I intend to use ashes instead, at the rate of thirty bushels to the acre.

[“Answers” to be continued.]

#### CONVICTION.

Deep in the foundations of his character, like the immovable blocks whereon great edifices repose, each man has to lay down for himself certain thoughts, sooner or later, of passing consequence, got out of secret and manifold communings regarding the vast mystery of here and hereafter: and on these thoughts again, and the more happily and grandly as these thoughts are strong, there will still base and pile themselves, in some loose order or other, conclusions, sentiments, and divers predilections, extracted painfully or otherwise out of the experience that is gone through of life and its ways, and then employed back again in the scrutiny and contemplation of all that the world presents.

#### POETRY RUN MAD AND PARODY PARODIED.

He wore a dandy waistcoat on the night when first we met, with a famous pair of whiskers and imperial of jet. His hair had all the haughtiness, his voice the manly tone, of a gentleman worth forty thousand dollars of his own. I saw him but a moment, but methinks I see him now, with a very dandy waistcoat and a beaver on his brow. And once again I saw that brow—no beaver hat was there, but a shocking bad one wore he now, and matted was his hair. He wore a brick within his hat, the change was all complete, and he was flanked by constables who marched him down the street. I saw him but a moment, yet methinks I see him now, charged by those worthy officers with kicking up a row.

#### CALAMITIES OF THE IMAGINATION.

“As if the natural calamities of life,” says Addison, “were not sufficient for it, we turn to the most indifferent circumstances into misfortunes, and suffer as much from trifling accidents as from real evils.—I have known the shooting of a star spoil a night's rest; and have seen a man in love grow pale and lose his appetite, upon the plucking of a merry thought. A screech-owl at midnight has alarmed a family more than a band of robbers; nay, the voice of a cricket hath struck more terror than the roaring of a lion. There is nothing so inconsiderable which may not