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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.

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE PRINCIPLES OF BREEDING.

#### THE HORSE.

So far as speed and endurance are concerned, the horses of the Province leave little to be desired, perhaps; but other qualities are wanting besides these. However desirable it may be for the farmer to be carried rapidly through the dust of summer and the snows of winter, it is fully as important surely that his fields should be well and deeply ploughed, and that cannot be done by the present breed of horses. The lumberman begins to find the value of bone and muscle in the horses he employs, and the farmer must come to the same conclusion very shortly. The sort of ploughing, or rather skinning, now practised, may do for the land just reclaimed from the forest, but it will never do for land already exhausted. The deficiency of the horse being admitted, the next question is, how is that deficiency to be repaired. It cannot be supposed that the present stock of horses can be swept away and their places supplied by others of a more serviceable description; that would be rather an expensive process. The only practicable way is to improve the breed by skilful crossing. In a process of this kind, the male animal will be employed in preference to the female, as he will stamp his image on fifty or sixty of a progeny in a season, while she can only stamp hers on one. The great difficulty is to select the proper kind of horses, and it may be necessary to try more than one breed before a satisfactory result is obtained. If the writer of this were to hazard an opinion, it would be in favor of the Clydesdale breed; he has long been acquainted with them, and can testify to their value as agricultural horses; but a better authority, the late Mr Youat, editor of the Veterinarian, in his work on the horse, says, "The Clydesdale is larger than the Suffolk, and has a better head, a longer neck, a lighter carcass, and deeper legs; strong, hardy, pulling true, and rarely restive." The southern parts of Scotland are principally supplied from this district, and many Clydesdales, not only for agricultural purposes, but for the coach and the saddle, find their way to the central, and even southern counties of England. Brood horses should be imported by societies; their high price, together with the expense and risk of a sea voyage, rendering it imprudent for individuals to embark in the business; once landed, they should be put under the charge of careful persons who would take an interest in the experiment, and only put to the best mares that offered.

#### SHEEP.

The sheep stock of the Province are very unequal, while the greater part perhaps are trashy enough; there are others, and of these not a few that are nearly as good as could be found anywhere else under the same circumstances of food, climate, &c. If farmers, instead of selling their best lambs to the butcher and breeding from the refuse, were to use their best lambs only for that purpose, and never put them to the ram before they were twelve months, or after they were four years old—select their rams from the best stock within their reach, and change them so as never to let them go to their own progeny, the sheep stock might soon be made nearly all that could be desired of them. The old country breeds most likely to answer in this Province, are the Cheviot and Southdown, and of these the latter is perhaps the best; equally hardy with the Cheviot, they are more symmetrical, their mutton is more highly flavoured, and what is of great importance in this country, they are gentler in their temper; their wool is quite equal to the Cheviot in quantity and quality, but it is of a dusky brown colour. The proper season of lambing should be a matter of serious consideration with the farmer:—where there is abundance of food and shelter it may take place any time, but if the shelter is deficient, and the food merely hay, it should never

happen before the middle of April; every one interested in the matter must have observed with pain the miserable appearance—the protruding bones and tucked up bellies with ewes, that have lambed early in the season, present in spring; the lambs, too, are stunted in their growth, owing to the scanty supply of milk, and are not better in the fall than others that came a month or six weeks later. In conclusion, the writer believes that there are worse places on the face of the earth than this same Province of New Brunswick, but he does not think it quite the *Goshen* it is sometimes represented to be by gentlemen whose knowledge of agricultural matters must have come by intuition; he has seldom seen a description of pasture where such high bred and high fed animals as the Durham cattle or Leicester sheep would thrive in summer, and he does not think the usual winter fare is calculated to mend the matter. For these reasons, he has confined his recommendations to what may be considered a humble class of stock, but which he believes will answer best in the present circumstances of the country.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT GRAY.

### A REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND AGENCIES.

To the Secretary of the New Brunswick Society.

SIR,—As I have had an opportunity of having but one brief conversation with Mr Boies, the gentleman with whom I was associated in the appointment of the Society at their meeting on 7th January last, and as the subject upon which we were required to report was at that time scarcely more than just referred to between us, I have not been able to avail myself of his larger experience and closer observation in coming to any conclusion on the matter in question. I have, therefore, only to offer a few suggestions as the result of my own limited observation and reflection.

There can be no doubt but that a market might be found within this Province for much larger quantities of agricultural commodities than have hitherto been produced—while at the same time it is equally a fact that our farmers are discouraged from producing those commodities for which a demand does actually exist, by the circumstances of not being able to find a ready and profitable sale for them.

This apparently anomalous state of things in this Province arises from the absence of those commercial facilities by which producers and consumers are brought into relation with each other through the means of intermediate parties and arrangements.

Up to the present time our merchants appear to have paid but little attention to the buying and selling of agricultural produce; what has been done by them in this way has been principally in the form of barter—as a sort of bye business and not as one from which they expected to derive their principal profits. The quantities thus disposed of have necessarily been small, while the farmer, in too many instances, has been made to feel that the purchase of his commodities was a favor to himself rather than a regular business transaction, the advantages of which were mutual, and placed neither party under an obligation to the other.

We had hitherto, so far as I have been able to learn, had no persons who have made it their principal or their exclusive business to buy and sell agricultural commodities, and to whom the farmers could look for a market for any quantities they might produce, and from whom consumers might expect to obtain supplies to any extent they might want. Thus consumers have been compelled to look abroad for articles which might have been produced on as good terms within the Province, and would have been produced, could our farmers have been certain that they could have disposed of them advantageously.

Without going more fully into consideration of the nature and extent of those disadvantages which arise from the fact that our agricultural capabilities, though sufficient for the purpose, yet supply only to a very limited extent our home consumption, I would beg the liberty of suggesting what has often appeared to me calculated,

in a considerable degree to remedy them.

The first thing I would propose then, in the way of accomplishing the object in view, is the establishment of agricultural agencies in the principal towns of the Province. These agencies should be conducted by persons who would take charge of all descriptions of country produce for the farmers, and sell it for them on commission. By an arrangement of this kind, the farmers would be saved much time and trouble in waiting or looking for purchasers, and as the agent would have constantly on hand a large supply of any one commodity belonging to the different farmers, persons wishing to make large purchases of such commodity would naturally apply to him.

A business of this sort would involve little or no risk to the parties engaged as agents, and require a capital of but very limited extent to carry it on. A commodious storehouse would be the principal thing wanted to commence with, and a good knowledge of the qualities of articles, diligence and activity in business, and tact in making bargains—the requisites to secure success. Grains of all kinds, butter and cheese, and various other articles of domestic manufacture, might thus be kept constantly in the market in such quantities as would attract the attention of wholesale dealers in these articles, and prevent them from looking abroad for a supply. In the winter season, too, dead meats might be brought in to form a part of their operations. There are three months in the winter season when these articles could be kept fresh and sweet in snow. The farmer might thus slaughter his animals in the early part of the winter and send them to the agent, who would dispose of them through the season as opportunity might offer, and a good price could be secured.

It will hardly be necessary for me to go more into detail as to the course to be pursued by each agency in the prosecution of the business which has been suggested, or to point out more fully their advantages to the farmer, or the prospect of their being a remunerative employment to the agent. All these questions can only be satisfactorily settled by experience; but it has long appeared to me to be an easy and practicable method of making the agricultural capabilities of our own country available for the supply of our home consumption to a much greater extent than has hitherto been the case.

I would suggest, in the next place, what appears to me a still better mode of proceeding, namely:—that persons should engage in the business in question on their own account. The buying up of country produce on a large scale for the purpose of selling it again for home consumption or for exportation, appears to me to offer as good inducements to persons wishing to go into business with a capital of £500, or upwards, as any that could be named. The salting and packing of beef and pork, the curing of hams, should form a considerable part of the operations of such persons, and experience would soon suggest the best and handiest modes of doing these, as well as many other particulars in reference to the management of the general business, which could hardly occur to a person until he became actually engaged in it.

I am satisfied that a few of these establishments in our principal towns would have a much better effect in stimulating the efforts of our farmers, and increasing the agricultural produce of the country, than any thing that may be done in the way of premiums and protective duties; they would in a little while cause farming to be regarded as a primary and principal business in the Province, instead of a mere subordinate one, a miserable dernier resort when everything else has failed, as has been the case heretofore; and they would further have the effect of both elevating the situation of the farmers in a social point of view, and increasing the profits of their labor.

Respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL W. BABBIT.

### TO JAPAN VARIOUS KINDS OF WOOD.

Provide yourself with a small muller and stone to grind any colour you may require; also with white hard varnish,

brown varnish, turpentine varnish, japan gold size, and spirit of turpentine, which you may keep in separate bottles until required; with flake white, red lead, vermilion, lake, Prussian blue, king's and patent yellow, orpiment, spruce and brown ochre, mineral green, verditer, burnt umber, and lamp-black. Prepare the wood to be japanned with size in order to fill up and harden the grain; then rub the surface smooth with glass paper when dry.—With the foregoing colours you may match the tint of any kind of wood, always observing to grind your colours smooth in spirit of turpentine; add a small quantity of turpentine and spirit varnish, and lay it carefully on with a camel hair brush, then varnish with brown or white spirit varnish, according to colour. For a black, mix up a little size and lamp black, and it will bear a good gloss without varnish. To imitate black rosewood, a black ground must be given to the wood, after which take some finely powdered red lead, mixed up as before directed, and lay on with a flat, stiff brush, in imitation of the streaks in the wood; after which take a small quantity of lake, ground fine, and mix it with brown spirit varnish, carefully observing not to have more colour in it than will just tinge the varnish; but should it happen on trial to be still to red, you may easily assist it with a little umber ground very fine, with which pass over the whole of the work intended to imitate black rosewood, and it will have the desired effect. If the work be done carefully, according to the foregoing rules, it will when varnished and polished, scarcely be distinguished from the real wood.

**FLEXIBLE VARNISH.**—Flexible varnish may be made of india-rubber shavings, dissolved with naphtha, at a gentle heat, in a close vessel.

**HARD VARNISH FOR JAPANING.**—Take of the best pale African copal seven pounds, fuse, add two quarts of clarified linseed-oil. Boil for a quarter of an hour, remove it into the open air, and add three gallons of boiling oil of turpentine. Mix well, then strain into the cistern, and cover up immediately.

**CEDAR WOOD RESIN.**—A peculiar resin was found to have exuded or evaporated, and attached itself to the polished surface of shells kept in a large new conchologist's cabinet, the interior wholly formed of cedar. It was washed off with spirits of wine, to which it imparted a most bitter flavor.

**TESTING BUILDING-STONES.** The varieties of red sandstone, and other building materials may be artificially tested in respect to the action of frost upon them, by immersing a small cubical block of each in a cold concentrated solution of soda, and then hanging them up by a string. Soft qualities will be disintegrated; hard suitable specimens will remain unaffected, after some days' exposure.

**RECIPE FOR A MOST EFFECTUAL RAZOR STROP.**—Spread the well known blue pill of the shops on buff-leather, smoothing it with the razor-back, and it is fit for use in the ordinary way. The blue-pill may be bought at any of the druggist shops.

**LINSEED-OIL VARNISH.**—Take eight pounds of linseed-oil, and boil for one hour, then add one pound of the best resin, previously powdered, and stir the mixture until the resin is dissolved. Now add half a pound of turpentine. Let the whole cool, and it is ready for use.

**TO HASTEN THE RIPENING OF WALE-FRUIT.**—Paint the wall with black paint, or lay a composition of the same color, and the tree will produce not only more in quantity, in the proportion of 5 to 3, but the quality is also superior in size and flavour to that which grows against walls of a natural color.

**ADVICE TO THE GIRLS.**—Girls, do you want to get married, and do you want good husbands? If so, cease to act like fools. Don't take pride in saying you never did housework—never cooked a pair of chickens—never made a bed—and so on. Don't turn up your pretty noses at honest industry—never tell your friend that you are not obliged to work. When you go a-shopping, never take your mother with you to carry the bundle.