

Royal Gazette, and Miscellany of the Island of Saint John.

CHARLOTTE TOWN: PRINTED BY WILLIAM A. RIND, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FROM A HALIFAX PAPER.

Method of preparing Seed Wheat to prevent Smut; in a letter from Mr. Arnold Shaw, of Newport, to the Secretary of the Agricultural Society for the County of Hants.

Sir,

IN compliance with the request of our society, I send you an account of the method I have for some time past pursued in preparing my wheat for seed; which is as follows—I take a bushel of my best wheat and pour it slowly into a wide vessel nearly filled with water,* then stir it and skim off whatever arises to the surface. The wheat being thus cleared of light grains and seeds of weeds, I pour off this water and put on fresh, leaving it to soak for twelve hours, except in very warm weather, when ten hours will answer.—After this I put the wheat into a pickle as strong as it can be made with salt dissolved in cold water;† in this situation I leave

* The Society are of opinion, that it would be an improvement on Mr. Shaw's method, to let the first washing of the seed be with brine, or strong pickle, instead of water, in order the better to float the light grains and seeds of weeds.

† The Society observe, that the salt and brine remaining in pork, beef, or fish barrels, will answer the purpose of brining wheat, as well as other salt.

it twelve hours. It is to be observed that in the above relation I am supposed to possess but one vessel, should I have more, more bushels of wheat might be under the operation at the same time. The wheat having stood in pickle for twelve hours as above, I then put it in baskets to drain for a few minutes, after this I spread it about three inches thick on a floor, sifting lime over and stirring it until each grain is coated over with lime; I then shovel it into a heap, in which situation I leave it for twenty four hours at least. It is now sufficiently prepared for sowing. Should any thing prevent its being sown for two days, I again spread and expose it to the air for about five minutes, heaping it immediately afterwards, as before; this I repeat every day until it is sown.

I have pursued this mode for eight years with the greatest success, previous to which my crops were as subject to smut as any of my neighbours. At the first time, not having any great faith in the method, from the bad success of those who had limed their seed but imperfectly, I prepared only half of my seed in this manner, the other half I sowed without any preparation; the result was that the limed seed produced a crop intirely free from smut, the unprepared, on the contrary, one smutty in a great degree. The year follow-

ing I intended to have limed all my seed, but at the close of my sowing (wanting some) I sowed a few ridges without previously preparing it, this produced some smut, the other was entirely free from it. Since this I have always prepared my seed in the abovementioned way, and to so good effect, that there has not been the appearance of smut in any of my crops, although it prevails to a great degree in the fields of my neighbours.

I have the honour to be, with my best wishes for the Society, your most obedient servant,

ARNOLD SHAW.

EXPERIMENTS

To determine whether it is best to plant large or small Cuttings of Potatoes; in a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Cochran to the Secretary of the Agricultural Society for the County of Hants, dated Windsor, Feb. 1791.

Sir,

IN the Nova Scotia Magazine for December, 1789, there appeared some extracts from an Essay on Potatoes, published in the papers of the Bath Agricultural Society, for 1788. In these a prodigious difference is noticed, between the produce from large cuttings and that from small, in favour of large ones, as nine to one.