

NEW HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURE.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

MAY 1, 1874.

PREPARED BY

PELHAM.

Dr. Amos Batchelder, of this town, gives in the accompanying statement :

“This town is bounded on the south by the Massachusetts state line. Dracut, a strip of territory three miles wide, lying north of the Merrimack river, separates it from the city of Lowell. The city is six miles distant from the centre of the town, and affords a fine market for all the surplus produce raised by the farmers of the town. Real estate, especially wood and timber lands, has been greatly increased in value by the growth and prosperity of the city, and has enriched the old settlers as well as the young. A range of high hills runs across the westerly part of the town, adjoining Hudson, and a lower one across the easterly part. There is a pond in the south-westerly part of the town, among the hills, which supplies a stream of water on which are located three saw-mills, one grist-mill, two cider-mills, and a wheelwright shop, and several fine farms of low and high interval lands. This brook runs in a south-easterly direction, and discharges into Beaver river. There are two ponds in the easterly part, neither of which supplies water-power for any manufacturing purpose. Beaver river enters the town in the north-westerly part, runs to the centre, thence in a southerly direction to the Merrimack, opposite Lowell. The interval lands on this stream are extensive and very valuable. The lands about the centre are light and sandy. There are several valuable and productive farms, where help is employed throughout the year. These are mostly milk-producing farms, the large herd of cows furnishing an abundant supply of manure, and keeping the land in excellent condition. There is the usual quantity of uncultivated and uncultivable lands,—lands that would require a large amount of *nitro-ingenuous* manure to make them productive. There are farms here, as well as almost everywhere in New England, that have

been turned out to pasture and woodland, and the buildings have disappeared. There are more acres of growing wood and uncultivated land in town than forty years ago. In 1840 there were 227 oxen taxed in the town. Now a few farmers keep one pair of oxen. Horses have taken their places almost exclusively.

"E. M. Marsh, Nathan Gage, and W. W. Butler are the principal milk-producers. Mr. Gage runs a team daily to Lawrence, the others to Lowell. F. A. Cutter, Esq., gives a good deal of attention to raising small early and late fruits, and early and late vegetables, for the Lowell market. There are others who do more or less in that line.

"A very small number of sheep in town. This is not a sheep-raising community. Horse-breeding is not much attended to. A small number are raised. Most of the farmers raise more or less cattle, to keep up their stock, and some to sell, occasionally. Farm buildings are very good throughout the town. Most of the farms have been handed down from father to son, or kept in the family name. There is no farmers' club in town.

"Swamp lands have been reclaimed in many parts of the town. Darius Stickney, now deceased, has done more than any one in that direction, and with good results while attended to.

"Farmers are largely dependent on the seasons for success in all their labors. They cannot raise fruit of any kind, large or small, without using the means, and, as every one knows, not always a supply then. So of hay and all other crops. Lands will produce more grass in a favorable season than in a preceding unfavorable one, if left entirely to the operations of nature alone.

"There are three cider-mills in town, run by water-power, where some *six thousand* barrels of *cider* are made, in a good fruit year. (*Remember, we have a good many neighbors!*)

"There is an immense amount of granite of fine quality in the easterly range of hills,—an inexhaustible supply. About forty hands are employed in quarrying and cutting for Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, and other places.

"David Butler & Sons sawed 800,000 feet of lumber last year;

Asa D. Butler, about the same quantity; R. B. Hillman and N. B. Seavey as much as either of the above, probably more."

Total of farm products :

Hay,	2,078 tons.
Corn,	1,628 bushels.
Oats,	656 "
Potatoes,	13,137 "
Other roots,	1,855 "
Pork,	67,560 lbs.
Eggs,	4,007 doz.
Butter,	21,300 lbs.
Apples,	814 bushels.
Beans,	191 "
Small fruits,	1,558 qts.
Wood, cut,	4,128 cords.
Lumber,	1,105,000 feet.
Poultry,	1,436 lbs.
Milk,	328,519 qts.
Rye,	242 bushels.
Cheese,	200 lbs.
Cucumbers, by one man,	120 bushels.