

BOSTON, April 12, 1787.

Messrs. Adams and Nourse, I am desired by the Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, upon Agriculture, to request that you will insert in your useful and extensive paper, the following and very interesting account of the manner of cultivating HEMP, as is now practised at Sudbury, and its neighbour-

Wm. ERVING, Rec. Sec'y.

Woburn, March 24, 1787.

DEAR SIR,

IF you think the following sketches can be of any use in cultivating Hemp, and are worth the attention of the Agricultural Committee, you are at liberty to communicate them. I have endeavoured to add to my own experience and knowledge in that branch of husbandry, the best practices of others that I have been able with much pains to collect. Perhaps they may be of some advantage in those places where the true method is not known.

I am, with esteem,

Your most obedient, and very humble servant,

LOAMMI BALDWIN.

William Erving, Esq. Rec. Sec. of the Agricultural Committee, Boston.

Directions for raising HEMP.

THE soil should be a warm, light loam, composed of a pure mould, and a little sand, manured in much the same proportion as for Indian corn; some compost manure is to be preferred, which has not any foul seeds among it (weeds are very prejudicial to a crop of hemp) better if the manure is applied and plowed in just before winter.

The land should have three plowings at least in the spring, and made very fine. The seed should be sowed on a well harrowed surface, early in May, if the season is dry and favourable; but if not, the sowing may be deferred a week or fortnight: in that case another plowing will be necessary, observing always that the seed should be sowed soon after the last plowing is performed, before the land settles and becomes stiff and heavy, then harrowed in with a fine iron tooth harrow.

The quantity of seed (if new) may vary from two bushels and a quarter, to three bushels per acre. If through necessity old seed is to be sowed, the quantity must be greater, and it should be deposited in a cellar two, three or four weeks previous to sowing. The time ought to be something in proportion to the age of the seed; the older it is the longer it should lay in the cellar, not exceeding three or four weeks (but old seed seldom answers well.) The land should be sowed twice over, the first passing in cross wise direction, the better to scatter the seed equally on the ground.

Some of the Sudbury people who have practised the growing of Hemp for a series of years, hold that to crop the land every year successively with Hemp, is better than to shift or vary the crop. This seems to be against the general principle in cropping land; however, by a little attention, the fact may be ascertained.

The time for pulling is when the simple or male hemp turns whitish, before it turns blackish, just at the time when the farina escapes, (this is known by its smoking when agitated by the wind, or any other cause) which commonly happens about the first of August.

There are two kinds of hemp, male and female: the female bears the seed; therefore some of the best plants should be reserved in the borders of the field, or other places, in order to produce seed for the

next year, and the rest is to be pulled up by the roots; and as it is pulled lay it about an inch thick on the ground where it grew, (or if thinner the better); and what that land will not receive must be carried off to other ground; and there spread in the same manner, taking care to turn it once or twice, and in two or three days, if the weather is good it will be fit to bind into bundle of about twelve or fifteen inches girth, in order to be hoisted; and the sooner it is dried, and got into the barn, the better. If the quantity be small, and can be placed under cover immediately upon pulling, so as to dry well without receiving any wet, it will be the heavier, and of a brighter greenish colour when dressed; better resembling foreign hemp. In short the attentive cultivator of this useful article neglects all other business to take care of his hemp at this stage of the business, if exposed when a shower or storm threatens, and get it secured under shelter, where it remains until about Indian harvest time, when it is taken out and removed to a proper place for water rotting: this should be a pond where the water can be drawn off and flowed again at pleasure. There bed it in circular heaps, with the top ends inward, lapping about two thirds the length of the stalk; add some weight to keep it from swimming, then raise the water high enough to cover it. There it may continue about three weeks, longer or shorter, according to the state of the weather, hotter or colder. When rotted enough, take it up, washing it at the same time, and remove it to dry ground, and set it with the but end downward, leaning against poles, arranged for the purpose, on croches about three feet high, placing a bundle on one side of the pole and another on the other side, alternately, until the whole is set up; or it may set against a rail fence in the same manner, running the top ends of the hemp through, between the upper and second rail, which will secure it from being blown down by the winds. There it is to remain, exposed to the action of all the varieties of the weather, until the spring following. Some attention should be paid to the situation of the ground, where it is thus to be placed, in order to have the hemp dry for dressing as early in the spring as possible. It would be well to invert the bundles, or place them horizontally on poles, disposed for that purpose, time enough for the but ends (which have stood on the ground all winter) to get thoroughly dry, previous to the dressing, or a great loss will take place; for if it be wet, the coat or bark on the but ends of the stalks, for seven or eight inches, (being the heaviest part in proportion to its length) will go to waste in the operation of the brake. It should first be broken in a very coarse brake, the floats or teeth of which should be three inches and an half, or four inches, asunder; then in a common flax brake.

The singling is performed much in the same manner as Flax, only applying a more driving (but not harder) stroke, continuing the knife down nearly to the end of the Hemp, sticking it as much as possible with the knife. A man will dress about thirty or forty pounds a day, according to the rot it gets, and its driness, and the driness of the weather at the time of dressing; this is very essential. I have been informed that Mr. Elisha Rice of Sudbury, has broke and singled ninety five pounds of Hemp in one day. The common produce of Hemp on an acre of Sudbury land, varies from nine to twelve hundred weight. I would recommend to the common farmers in general, to raise half an acre, or an acre of Hemp annually; but not to go so largely into the business, as to force them to neglect the other necessary affairs of their farms, or hire many labourers under disadvantages; for attempting more than can be accomplished with convenience, will increase the expence, consequently lessen the profit, and thereby lessen the work.

farmers in general, to raise half an acre, or an acre of Hemp annually; but not to go so largely into the business, as to force them to neglect the other necessary affairs of their farms, or hire many labourers under disadvantages; for attempting more than can be accomplished with convenience, will increase the expence, consequently lessen the profit, and thereby lessen the work.

L. B.

P. S. A quantity of fresh Hemp Seed may be had at Sudbury. Wm. ERVING, Rec. Sec'y.

LONDON, December 30.

A young woman in Coventry lately prevailed on her dying husband to make a will, and leave her such and such particular estates, as her dower; finally, however, enjoining the executors not to permit her to receive more out of the premises than 2000l. per annum. The husband died, and Celia put on weeds, never was woman more dejected—her grief forbade her to have relish for public amusements—and carriages and servants were but attendants on vanity, not worth the attention of a mortal. The pretty widow, with 2000l. a year, made some noise; however; and many a shoe was blackened and many a head powdered, to attract her notice. At length, one of her lovers having seriously proposed marriage to her, and the thinking, as the first months were out, the sign of indecorum could not be charged upon her, assured the gentleman he had no objection either to his person or manners, but she was greatly afraid he was under some mistake, and that it was her money, not herself, he wished to wed; if this was the case, he would be miserable indeed, as she had scarcely a competency wherewith to support herself. This the enamoured youth considered all this, for he had taken care to see the will before he saw her face; and clapping her in his arms, vowed he prized her charms more than gold; in short, they married, and speedily after, pretending to light upon the will by chance, tenderly upbraided her for not before entrusting him with the secret—the was unkind, she doubted his truth, his constancy, and was resolved to try it; however, she must be convinced now, that he married her for love, and love only; but as she had so much money, he would thank her for 6 or 600l. for a particular occasion.

The lady turning round, took his hand in hers—My dear, said she, remember I told you I had no fortune, and I told you true—my late loved Lord left a fortune for me on paper, but not a guinea in reality do I possess; on the contrary, I want a little money from you to pay a few debts I contracted while I was single. The astonished husband stood motionless a while, at length bounding out of the room, determined to cut short the pain of living with one he could not love, which he immediately effected by discharging a pistol through his head.

CASH given for LONG HUMAN HAIR by John Dorrison, as his shop next door to the Printing-Office, Northampton. April 1787.

When the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors of the estate of DAVID DAY late of Worthington, deceased, represented insolvent, and six months being allowed to the creditors to file their claims, from the third day of April, 1787, to the first day of October, 1787, the subscribers being informed that Mr. Elisha Rice of Sudbury, has broke and singled ninety five pounds of Hemp in one day.

JOHN STONE, ADAM CLAPP, Chelmsfield, April 3, 1787.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1787. NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the Year of our LORD, One Thousand seven Hundred and eighty-seven.

An Act for the due Regulation of licensed Houses.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no person who, as a common victualler, innholder, or seller of wine, beer, ale, cyder, brandy, rum, or any strong liquors by retail, or in a less quantity than twenty eight gallons, and that delivered and carried away all at one time, except such person be first duly licensed, according to law, by the Justices of the peace, of the same county, where such person lives, in General Sessions assembled, according to the regulations hereafter expressed, on pain of forfeiting the sum of twenty pounds; and if any person shall at any time sell any spirituous liquors, or any mixed liquors, part of which is spiritous, without licence thereto duly had and obtained, according to law, he shall forfeit and pay for each offence a sum not exceeding six pounds, nor less than forty shillings, which fine or forfeitures also the justice or justices aforesaid, shall examine and shall certify to the Justices of the peace in the county where such offence is committed.

BE it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all licences shall be yearly renewed; and that the Clerk of the peace in the respective counties, from time to time, annually, before the granting licences, shall transmit to the Selectmen of every town and district, within the county, a list of the names of the persons in such town or district, that were licensed the year before, and that licences shall not be renewed to any person born on such list, unless the Selectmen of such town or district shall have considered the same and made a return thereof to the Clerk of the Peace of the county to which they respectively belong, certifying thereon as follows, viz. We the subscribers, Selectmen of the town or district of — do hereby certify, that we have maturely considered the returned list of such persons as were licensed the year past, and the best of our knowledge, the following persons, named therein, have maintained good rule and order in their respective houses or shops, and have conformed to the laws and regulations respecting licensed persons, and are firmly attached to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

And no person shall have his licence renewed unless his name be inserted in such certificate, or in another of the same tenor. And no person, after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, shall be licensed to be a victualler, innholder, taverner or retailer of spirituous liquors, unless he has taken an oath in the following words. I, A. B. do swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that I will to the utmost of my power defend the constitution and Government thereof, against traitorous conspiracies and all hostile and violent attempts whatsoever.

Which oath may be administered by the Clerk of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, or by any Justice of the Peace, or any town or district Clerk, in such towns or districts wherein no Justice of the Peace dwells; and the Justice or Clerk who may administer such oath, shall make certificate thereof to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, which certificate shall be filed by the Clerk of the said Court, among the records of the same Court; and a certificate that such oath has been taken, shall be made and filed as aforesaid, in case where the Clerk of the said Court shall administer the said oath; and no certificate as aforesaid shall be required afterwards, upon a renewal of such person's licence: And no person shall be fitly or lawfully licensed, to be a victualler, innholder, taverner, or seller of wine, beer, ale, cyder, brandy, rum, or other strong liquors by retail, in any town or district where he lives, other than such person as shall be first duly licensed, according to the laws of this Commonwealth, recommending them as follows, viz. We the subscribers, Selectmen of the town or district of — do approve of — recommending the name of the person, and the employment for which he or she is approved; in the said town (or district) for the year ensuing,

and We do hereby recommend the said — as a person of sober life and conversation, suitably qualified and provided for the exercise of such an employment, and firmly attached to the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth.

And it shall be the duty of the Selectmen in the several towns, annually, to certify to the Court of the General Sessions of the Peace, at the beginning of their term for granting licences, what number of innholders and retailers in their respective towns, they judge to be necessary for the public good. And that no licence be renewed, to any persons who shall have been before licensed, against whom any presentment, complaint or information, shall be made, for misuse or disorder in such House, or for not being suitably provided as the law in such case requires, to entertain strangers and travellers at bed and board, before the matter complained of and informed against, be enquired into and judged of. Provided that no presentment or complaint be prosecuted to effect, as or before the same Court for granting such licences; unless the prosecution be delayed at the motion of the person applying for the licence.

BE it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all innholders, taverners and common victuallers, shall at times be furnished with suitable provisions and lodgings, for the refreshment and entertainment of strangers and travellers, pasturing and stable room, hay and provender (having that in populous sea-port towns, stable room hay and provender only are required) for their horses and cattle, on pain of being deprived of their licence. And every licensed victualler, innholder or taverner, shall at all times have a board or sign affixed to his or her house, or in some conspicuous place near the same, with his or her name for which he or she is licensed; and if any victualler, innholder or taverner, enjoying by law the privilege of being licensed, shall refuse to receive and entertain strangers, travellers or others as occasion may require, shall be convicted of refusing to make suitable provision when desired, for the receiving of strangers, travellers and their horses and cattle, or for any public entertainment, such person being convicted thereof before the Justices of the General Sessions of the peace, of the county to which such person belongs, shall by the said Justices be deprived of his or her licence; and the said Justices shall be and they are hereby empowered and directed to order the Sheriff of the same county, or his Deputy-Sheriff, to cause the sign of such convicted person to be taken down.

BE it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person except those who are licensed for common victuallers, taverners or innholders, may presume to sell strong liquors, as in this act mentioned, nor any mixed liquors part of which are spirituous, to be drunk in their houses, or any of the parts or dependencies of the same; and that any person licensed to sell wine, beer, ale, cyder, brandy, rum, or any strong liquors by retail, shall be convicted of entertaining or suffering any persons to drink such strong liquors or mixed liquors in their shops, houses or parts or dependencies of such shops or houses, he shall incur and suffer the like penalties and forfeitures as are inflicted by this law, upon persons selling without licence, to be recovered and appropriated in the same manner.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no taverner, innholder or victualler, shall have or keep in or about their houses, yards, gardens or dependencies, any dice, cards, bowls, billiards, quoits or any other implements used in gaming; nor shall suffer any person or persons resorting unto any of their houses, to use or exercise any of the said games or any other unlawful game or sport, within their said houses or any of their dependencies as aforesaid, or places to them belonging, on pain of forfeiting the sum of forty shillings, for every such offence, upon due conviction thereof, to be disposed of as is herein directed; and every person convicted of playing as aforesaid, in any such house or dependencies thereof, shall forfeit the sum of twenty shillings, to be disposed of as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no taverner, innkeeper or victualler, shall suffer any dancing or revelling in his house or the dependencies thereof, as aforesaid, on penalty of thirty shillings, to be paid by the master or keeper of the said house, who shall suffer the same, and the penalty of six shillings to be paid by each person offending, in any of the said particulars, to be disposed of as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no taverner, innholder or victualler shall suffer any person to drink to drunkenness, travellers excepted, or suffer any minor, there, or to have any strong drink there, without special allowance of their respective parents, guardians or masters, on pain of forfeiting the fine of twenty shillings for every offence of that kind, to be appropriated as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person after being duly convicted of any breach in this law, shall again break any part of this law, and thereof be duly convicted, he shall over and above suffering and the penalty set to such breach of this law, recognize for his good behaviour in the sum of twenty pounds, for one year, with two sufficient sureties, over and above his recognizance for good order, at the time of his licence. And if any person convicted of a second breach of this act as aforesaid, shall presume again to break any part of this law, over and above suffering the penalty of this law for such breach of it, he or she shall forfeit his or her licence, not to be renewed again for the space of three years next following.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person being duly convicted of any breach of this law, shall be unable or shall neglect to pay and satisfy the fine imposed, together with the costs of prosecution, and likewise give bond for his good behaviour, if it be on the second conviction, within twenty-four hours next after sentence declared in that respect, it shall and may be lawful for the Court, before whom such conviction may be, to order such offender to be openly whipped not exceeding fifteen stripes, for one offence, nor less than ten, and to restrain the offender in prison until the said fine and charges are paid and bond given as aforesaid, or the order for corporal punishment be executed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That before any person shall receive a licence to be an innholder, taverner, victualler, or retailer of spirituous liquors, every such person shall become bound by recognizance to the Commonwealth, in the sum of twenty pounds, as principal, with two sureties in ten pounds each, before one or more Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace, on the conditions following, viz.

The condition of this recognizance is such, that whereas the above bounden A. B. is admitted and allowed by the Justices of the General Sessions of the Peace, to keep a tavern, inn or victualling house, and to sell wine, beer, ale, cyder, brandy, rum, and mixed liquors, and other strong liquors by retail, for the space of one whole year next ensuing and no longer, in the now dwelling house of the said A. B. and no other; if therefore, the said A. B. during the time aforesaid, shall keep and maintain good order and rule, and shall suffer no disorder, nor unlawful games to be used in his said house, or in any of the dependencies thereof, and shall not break any of the laws for the regulation of such houses, then this recognizance to be void; otherwise, to remain in full force and virtue.

And before any person shall receive licence to be a retailer of strong liquors, to be sold out of his house, and not otherwise, such person shall become bound by recognizance, as aforesaid, on condition following, viz. The condition of this recognizance is such, that whereas the above bounden A. B. is licensed and allowed by the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to retail strong liquors, to be spent out of his now dwelling house, or shop, for the space of one year next ensuing and no longer, and not otherwise; if therefore, the said A. B. shall not break the law made for the regulation of such retailers, and shall not observe the directions of the law, relating to such licences, then this present recognizance to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.