

The “Colebrook” Column From August 22 1879

“We have no news to report; none at all. Even that ‘crow’ mentioned by our Norfolk brother at the reporters meeting has failed of late to ‘fly over’, or, doing so, we have failed to observe it. But we dislike seeing the space allocated to ‘Colebrook’ a blank, or otherwise filled, so in lieu of anything better we send this:”

“Our farmers are mostly through haying, and some of the first through are mowing the second crop. The wet season has been favorable to this last, and more will be cut and more ‘fall feed’ will result than usual.

The oat crop has been mostly harvested and stored and generally in good condition. In some instances these were mowed while the stalks were green and the grain in the ‘milk’, and eared for fodder. An excellent plan, the advantage will be seen next winter in the increased flow of milk.”

“Speaking of milk, we are told that in place of the once thriving business of shipping to New York when from 20 to 30 cans were carried daily to the depot by Lawrence’s transportation team, and nearly as many afterward by Hiram A. Smith’s, but 4 or 5 are sent now: only three dairymen sending any – Martin A. Phelps, Reuben Rockwell and Wm A. Smith. These few cans are carried now by Mr. Smith, the milk of Mr. L. P. and W.A.S. being shipped at the Colebrook Station on the Conn. Western, while that of Mr. Rockwell (a single man) is carried to the Naugatuck depot in Winsted and sent – cans locked – to a private customer.

While milk is at its lowest ebb, butter and other products of the dairy are no better. Owing to the over-stocked condition of the butter market, Mr. Terrell, at the Center, is handling but little and many of the butter dairies are forced into the Winsted market at prices varying from 12 ½ cents to a shilling, ‘store pay’ at that. Some families are packing their entire make. The cellar of the Phelps farm contains, we are told, fully 500 weight at the present time, of the choicest brand made by the ‘Cooley Process’. Mr. Phelps is the only user of the Cooley patent, we believe, in town. Mr. Preston, more fortunate than the rest, marketed his entire product early in the season at 18 cents, cash. This dairy is composed in part of grade Alderneys and the product is very fine. Mr. Preston keeps a thoroughbred Alderney bull and is introducing this improved butter into his neighborhood.”

“Corn, what little there is of it, taking into account the backwardness of the season, is looking well. With an average delay of frost, the ears will be fully matured. The question of changing seed is often discussed. Mr. Peter Corbin, one of the oldest farmers, has not only continued planting the same variety on his farm all his life, but the same his father raised upon the same ground. It is the ‘Canada’, eight-rowed kind, if we have been informed right, and yields as large ears and as abundantly as a half century ago. This argues against change of seed, certainly.”

“Those who had early potatoes realized a considerable profit. Eugene F. Marvin dug some 40 bushels last month that yielded him about \$40.00. The bugs that stuck by us all like a bad name for two or three years past, have damaged this year’s crop but little.”

Continuing on in the agricultural vein, we find in the September 12, 1879 edition of the Winsted Herald appears the obituary of Mr. Allen Greene, who had been a resident of Colebrook for some 50 years. It says in part: “During the years of his active life as a farmer, he introduced the once far-famed ‘Colebrook-seedling’ potato. It was procured

from the ball of the old Sandlake potato, a variety having its origin in the town of Sandlake, 10 miles east of Albany and Troy, N.Y. Mr. Greene's seedling was first named by him the 'Greene' potato, which name it bore until its excellent qualities and general cultivation won it a high place in the principal markets of the country, when it afterwards became known as the 'Colebrook-seedling'.

This potato had no rival in point of excellence or universal cultivation for more than 25 years; in fact, until the Early Rose, its final successor, had been proved and tried and found to excel the 'Colebrook' somewhat in productivity.