

THE  
NEW ORDER  
OF  
GOODING AND MANURING OF ALL SORTS OF  
FIELD LAND WITH COMMON SALTS,

WHEREBY THE SAME MAY BRING FORTH IN MORE ABUNDANCE, BOTH  
OF GRASS AND CORN OF ALL SORTS, AND FAR CHEAPER THAN BY  
THE COMMON WAY OF DUNGING USED HERETOFORE IN SCOTLAND.

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*Set forth by Archibald Napier, the apparent of Merchistown, conform to the Gift of Office given him by the King's Majesty, under the Privy Seal, with advice of the Lords of Council thereof, and made to him thereanent, of the date, at Holyrood-house, the 22d of June 1595 years.*

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AFTER the corns are win and put into the barn-yard, the piece land tilled, and the wheat seed ended, you shall till down the land whereon you intend to sow down your bear seed; and if the same be clay, or reasonable stiff, and not sandy land, you shall sow on every acre red land thereof one boll of common salt; and if it be sandy ground, one half boll will suffice. Do that upon even and level ground so soon as you can before every Martinmas, so that the land may have sufficient time to rot and digest the said salt in the winter season, that the salt may temper; make the land moury

and soft, and open the same before it be sown with any sort of seed; for the nature of earth being cold, and the nature of the salt being hot, will, with temperate moisture, in summer, with heat, accordingly bring forth, God willing, plenty of bear, and clean, without weeds. You must in due time till the said land over again once, or in some places twice, very near before the time you should sow your bear seed, according to your common use of two or three furrows, for the most part of our country. But if your land lie hanging or dipping down, you may before Martinmas sow the said salt upon the stubble land where you would make your bear; but immediately till the same down, least the substance of the salt descend over soon from the land by the great showers in winter; and in due time, before you sow, you must till the said land once or twice again, according to your custom of bear land, or as the stiffness of the ground requires, for sandy land needs but twice tilling.

When you have sown your white seed, you may sow for every boll of wheat upon reasonable stiff or clay land, one half boll of salt thereupon, and in sandy ground one firloft of salt; and let all be harrowed together, and hereby, God willing, you may have a good clean crop. In like manner, when you have sown your oat seed, you may sow three firlofts of salt upon every boll of oats sowing; but this must be done upon watery or laigh land only, as upon meadow or haugh land, whereupon the water stands commonly in winter, ye shall, God willing, find a rich crop. But upon dry ground, ye shall sow no salt when the oat seed is presently sown, but before Martinmas, except with wheat, as said is, else you shall rather lose as gain. You shall sow no salt with bear instantly, neither upon wet nor dry ground; but as long before Martinmas as you may, as said is.

The general rule of salt is, that the same be sown on all sort of land, four or five months space before the same be sown with any seed; and that according to the quantity above specified, more or less, as you shall find by experience your sort of ground may bear. For it is certain, if over much of common dung be laid upon land, or yet over little, [there will be little] or no increase of corn. The like happens in salt; and, therefore, I refer you to experience and the above quantities.

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Follows the order of Pasturage, and to increase the Grass, both in abundance and goodness, which, being rightly used, may enrich our countrymen wonderfully.

Set forth by the foresaid ARCHIBALD NAPIER.

LET every man cause bigg ten or twelve parks upon two or three-year old ley land at the least, of what bounds he pleases, from the middle of the month of March till the eighth of April, and that the dikes thereof be strong and thick, that they may stand for five or six years or longer at pleasure; and in the first or second day of the said March, let the foresaid whole parks be sown with common salt, nearly one boll to one acre of clay or stiff ground, or with half one boll upon sandy ground.

The said hail parks should be hained, and not pastured upon till Whitsunday thereafter, that they may be once exceeding good grass, and so will last the longer good. Make your parks so near the one to the other, that upon the said Whitsunday, when your cattle or bestial have eaten the grass of the first park, upon the morrow they may go to the second, and eat in the same; and the third day to eat and pasture in the third, and so forth, till they

have eaten the twelfth park; and then to return and eat in the first park, it being cleansed and salted as hereafter.

The said Whitsunday, which is the first day that you enter and eat the first park, you shall let the cattle feed and pasture themselves till eleven o'clock, that you give them water to drink, and thereafter put them into a common fold till two afternoon to dung the same as use is; and, at the said two hours, put them again into the said first park to pasture themselves until eight o'clock at night; then take them forth to drink, and thereafter all night put them to dung in the said common fold; and let them never tarry over night in the said parks.

When the herd hath folded the cattle at eight hours after even for the night time, he must return to the first park where they eat all the day, and there with a sharp shovel must take up the dung of every cow or ox, and throw it out of the park in a maund or scull; and upon every place where the said dung lay, he must sprinkle a little salt, or some earth and some salt sprinkled thereupon, or some salt-pickled water, otherwise the cattle will not eat the grass that grows thereupon where the dung lay, where [as], if salt be put thereupon, they will rather eat that grass than any other.

When they come about again to the thirteenth day, eat again in the first park; and as the herd has done the first day to the first park, see that he do the same the second day to the second park; and that he fail not to do the same every night as a good servant; and so on the third day to the third park, and so forth, till all be eaten, and that they return to the first park. One acre used this way, will feed twice as many cattle as otherwise; and the kine fed thereon will yield twice as much milk as they that are fed on unsalted grass. Every year thereafter, for the space of five

years, the said parks will fold more cattle, and they be better fed; and then, if you please to till and sow the said parks for the space of four years thereafter, there will more corn and bear grow than may in a manner stand thereupon. Let the dikes stand notwithstanding the tilling thereof.

If the use of salt come up this way among us, I doubt not but all men will request his Majesty that no man be allowed to transport salt out of the kingdom; whereunto I most earnestly entreat you all to practise the discharge of the same.

That no man take upon him to use this kind of husbandry without licence from the said Archibald, or his deputies, under the pain of ten shillings, to be paid him for every acre of land they labour therewith, as well grass as corn, conform to his gift granted thereupon by his Majesty.

Printed by ROBERT WALDGRAVE,

Printer

to His Majesty.

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This curious paper is given from a MS. in the archives of the Society, which appears to have been taken from the printed copy. This, it is supposed, is extremely rare. Neither Ames nor Herbert seem to have known any thing of it.—EDIT.