

The value of land has greatly risen, making it manifest that the powers of the soil are becoming more known and better appreciated; while the acknowledged salubrity of its climate, cheapness of provisions, improved society, means of education, and facilities for enjoying the privileges of public worship, render Prince Edward Island increasingly desirable to the man or family who may desire a social retirement from the busy world, or seek to repair their health or renew their constitution. Hundreds of British farmers, too, men respectable and desirable, would joyfully come here and invest the remnant of their diminished capitals, were the colony made more publicly known in Britain.

Your committee regret to observe how small a degree of public interest the grain show, the cattle show and the fair appeared generally to excite. It has been remarked that farmers bring their worst stock to the fairs! This may do among ourselves; but if fairs are to be what they were intended, marts for the disposal of our surplus stock to strangers from the other provinces, the end and object cannot be answered by exhibiting the refuse of our cattle, which must give the transient observer a very inadequate and erroneous conception of the average quality of our live stock; but although fairs, at present, are used to display horse jockeying in a large latitude, chiefly in the exchange of animals, by which both parties are taken in, the time cannot be distant when public exhibitions of various rural productions and stock, as well as fairs, must exercise their intended beneficial influence in promoting the general advancement of the great object of our attention.

The improved stock which has been and will be introduced must give farmers more correct notions of the just and desirable proportions of animals, technically called "points," and lead them to breed from the truest forms.

Nothing would tend more to an improved quality of our grain than a regular and steady trade in oats, &c., to Britain. The merchant or purchaser would then be obliged to keep a machine, and winnow every parcel of grain when delivered to him. He should also fix a price for the standard weight of 36 lbs. per bushel, allowing a certain advance for weight above the standard required by law, and deducting for deficiencies.

As labour in all new countries must be higher in comparison with the price of land and its productions, it is matter of desire that there may be yet invented a *more simple power* to drive or propel the different machines the farmer has so great an occasion to make use of, to lessen the cost of labour, save his fodder, and expedite many of his most important operations.

Mr. Gurney may remember our requirements in this case; and it is much to be desired that this gentleman will bring out the necessary apparatus for dyeing, fulling and dressing our home-made cloths, if not power-looms. What a reflection on the public spirit of the colonists, that a population of nearly 50,000 souls, possessing so large a number of sheep, should be obliged to send their cloth to a neighbouring colony to get finished; and, after being kept out of it many months, have to deplore that it might have been equally well prepared by the old family process.

Your committee rejoice that a society has recently been formed in Charlotte-town, under the auspices of his Excellency Sir Henry Vere Huntley, for the express purpose of encouraging the domestic manufactures of the country, especially that of cloth. And your committee are informed, it is the intention of that body to make this society the medium of carrying their objects into effect, by offering liberal premiums for the production of the best article.

Your committee, in this report, may have travelled over ground previously occupied, but they take leave to say that there are many subjects vitally affecting the steady and encouraging progress of agriculture which require to be enforced on the minds of the cultivators of the soil, "with line upon line, and precept upon precept."

The subject of live fences, compost and draining might have been enforced; and your committee would not have deemed themselves out of the path of duty had they glanced at the fisheries.

We hear a complaint of the great abundance of *unemployed* British capital, and must express astonishment that so great and culpable supineness has been shown to the unequalled advantages of Prince Edward Island as a grand fishery station. The productiveness of the soil could support a large amount of persons, who might be engaged in fishing, manufactures and commerce. We have timber to construct vessels, and a beautiful expanse of waters surrounding our happy isle, teeming with riches, which are appropriated by our more enterprising neighbours, who jeer at, while they profit by our unaccountable remissness. The complaint is, that there are no openings for the profitable investment of capital—surely then there has been a great general as well as individual want of patriotism in failing to make known the real advantages of this colony for fishing or other enterprise. Will it be credited in other countries, that an island, well peopled and so situated, should purchase the fish it consumes!!!

At the last general meeting of the society, there was one particular object to which the attention of the committee was directed; viz. to apply to the Colonial Legislature for a grant of money to defray the expense of importing live stock from the mother country. In conformity with those instructions, your committee memorialized the late Lieutenant-governor, setting forth the great benefits that would result to the colony by the importation of such live stock. His Excellency Sir Charles A. Fitzroy was pleased to recommend the prayer of the memorial to the favourable consideration of the House of Assembly; that body accordingly granted 150*l.* for that purpose; viz. 50*l.* to the Prince-town Agricultural Society, and 100*l.* to the central board; subject to the condition contained in the following clause of the Appropriation Bill, passed in the last session.