

achieve success in any other direction to which your attention may be turned.

His Honor then proceeded at some length to show the great advantages which the farmer derives from the cultivation of superior stock. He stated that in the census of 1871 there were returned as owned in Nova Scotia 250,000 head of neat cattle. He said that at the age of 1 year a thoroughbred Short Horn was for the purposes of the butcher as valuable as an animal of the ordinary kind at 3. That every ox or cow consumes in a year at least two tons of hay, to say nothing of pasture or other food. And that therefore in the case of all of these cattle that were three years old, and of the common stock, there had been an absolute waste of fodder, amounting to four tons each, which if saved would be so much added to the wealth of the community.

He entered into similar calculations with regard to milk, butter and cheese, and showed that the same might be applied to poultry and to articles of farm produce; and urged with much force the necessity of introducing into the business of agriculture the same care, calculation and thoughtfulness which, as applied to other branches of industry, had made Yarmouth what it was.

His Honor concluded his address by declaring that in his belief the time was at hand when Yarmouth, with its railway facilities perfected, would be found competing with and carrying off prizes from Counties which were at this moment under the delusion that Yarmouth was a synonym for ships and shipping, but had little or no resources beyond that one branch of business.

WARDEN PAYZANT'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF DARTMOUTH EXHIBITION.

The Dartmouth Agricultural Society, under whose management this exhibition of the products of the soil is being held, deserve no slight commendation for the good it has accomplished and the difficulties it has surmounted. With commendable zeal it has kept up its organization and status through a long number of years over an area of sparsely settled district and a soil not the most friendly and prolific. To estimate somewhat the difficulties of our position let me call your attention briefly to the history of agricultural societies in this Province, and especially along these shores. It is well known that previous to 1818 the condition of agriculture in this Province was almost worse than primitive in its rude appliances and erroneous modes of industry. In that year when Agricola launched his famous letters in the *Acadian Recorder* newspaper he thus describes the husbandman, "The social status of the cultivator of the soil is such as would be regarded

incredible were it not vouched for by competent authority. The cultivation of the earth, that prime fountain of national wealth, and the first and most essential of arts, is accounted so dispicable and vile as to be the fit employment only for the unlettered and vulgar herd, and most naturally in the world the gro-sest opinions everywhere prevailed respecting the capabilities and resources of this fine Province. I saw and heard a climate universally spoken against, which was infinitely superior to that of my native country, and which could ripen productions that scarcely lived under glass in Scotland; but the system of husbandry was wretched in the extreme and the profession of a farmer little short of being despised." The letters of this great man effected a complete revolution in the domain of husbandry in this Province. The formation of the Central Board of Agriculture was one of the first evidences of this reform, followed by legislation which set at rest, as far as law could do it, the very uncertain and not very amiable position the farmer thus occupied. The Legislature gave the Board corporate qualities; provided an annual grant to it not to exceed \$8,000; committed to it the duty of organizing county and district societies and the distribution among them of the Provincial grant, and such other jurisdiction over the whole agricultural industries of the Province as would tend most efficiently to elevate, improve and ennoble the vocation of the farming classes and foster among them something of an *esprit de corps*.

The speaker went on to give in detail the duties assigned the county or district societies under the Act. Under the provision of this enlightened legislation and through the indefatigable labors of men like Dawson, Forrester, and a host of others, societies sprang up all over the Province, and this Dartmouth society in due course came into existence also. It is not a very difficult task to organize a society for any purpose. There is generally plenty of enthusiasm at the outset. No want of talk, no lack of supporters with good capacities for long resolutions, and no lack of respectable membership, but is there any one who doesn't know that the very hardest thing societies have to do is to keep alive. Birth and decay go on in these bodies with all the regularity those phenomena appear in the animal and vegetable kingdoms and no legislative act can really give them a corporate and perpetual existence, no matter what the words may import—the enthusiasm oozes away, little squabbles perhaps creep in and the body as a body becomes defunct. You will find the same inherent weakness in all other societies, whether they be Freemasons, debating societies, or temperance societies, and even religious societies possess no certain immunity from

the evil. I can well understand therefore the metal this society must have been composed of, requiring as it has done no ordinary pluck and determination to resist the tendency to decay and to keep up the status and qualification necessary to ensure its share in the annual distribution of the Provincial grant. He then proceeded to point out the causes of discouragement this society had in comparison with those in districts where the nature of the soil permitted greater variety of subjects, greater scope for investigation, such as keep the interest sustained and stimulated associated effort. The men of the Bay of Fundy counties, the owners of the rich dyke lands, which might be cropped for one hundred years without top dressing, where, according to the well known proverb, you had only to tickle the ground with your hoe to make it laugh, were naturally attracted towards any reunion affording opportunities for the discussion of new processes of culture which they could so readily apply to a generous and prolific soil. Not so the poor agriculturist, who along this stormy and rock-bound Atlantic coast, had not only to stump the land, but sometimes to spend a year or two with the rock before he could even see the land. It required no ordinary courage even to settle on such scanty soil, not to speak of agricultural societies and exhibitions. But *labor, toil, industry*—that wonderful talisman that transforms the desert to a garden—spread even these hill slopes with broad acres of richest verdure and abundant yield, cheering the heart of the husbandman, and making it possible in the face of all difficulties for societies like these to thrive and flourish here. Following the formation and healthy operation of societies came the holding of exhibitions. It was foreseen by the pioneers that the bringing together of products of the soil, comparing, criticising and adjudicating on their respective merits must necessarily result in stimulating to a higher productive industry by their competitive efforts. We who stand in this day on the vantage ground of experience can easily understand what potent factors in agricultural enterprise exhibitions are. From the worlds great Fairs at London, Paris, Philadelphia, Berlin, down through such ones as those of Melbourne, Montreal, Toronto, to our modest little one here, there is apparent the settled conviction of the age that all industries are promoted by this means. Some might think coming here a waste of time, a trouble, an unnecessary expense and an unremunerative labor. Some would pool it, be conspicuous by their absence, believing that what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for them. But one of the stupidest things stupid men do is their refusal to adapt themselves to the times in which they live. We may think