

The Devil's Nose.

We paid a visit to Dundas a short time since, and after viewing the various manufacturing of that thriving town, we were induced to pay a visit to the "Devil's Nose," this being one of the most remarkable features around Dundas. It consists of a long, projecting, perpendicular rock, running about a quarter of a mile in length and twenty-five feet high, on the summit of a large bluff or ravine, on the property of Dr. Hamilton. It is situated immediately back of the station, and only about a quarter of a mile from it. The rock is so steep that it is impossible to ascend it, except from the table land. On the top of the rock are beautiful shade trees, and a wide space of grass land admirably adapted for pic-nics. The scenery here is unsurpassed by anything to be found in Western Ontario, and affords a most pleasing, attractive and romantic impression, not to be obtained in any spot we have seen or heard of this side of the Rocky Mountains, until we enter the Lower Province, or go to our new Western territories. From one of these high hills, at an elevation of 180 feet above the town of Dundas, a most charming view may be obtained, commanding a lovely panorama of Lake Ontario, Burlington Bay, the city of Hamilton, the town of Dundas, the villages of Ancaster, Waterdown, &c., &c.

Dundas carries on more manufacturing business, for the number of its population, than any other place in Canada. Another business is just about to afford a new source of wealth to Dundas, viz., the immense quarries of choice building stone that has recently been discovered underlying the stratum of rock above. Gangs of men are now employed in clearing off the shale and dressing the stone, which is now being sent to Chicago and other western points. We are surprised that this valuable quarry had not been long since discovered, as the best building stone used in this city had to be imported from the States; now we hope to see Canada able to supply our requirements, as well as to reap a harvest from the export of it. Besides the attractions of the beautiful distant scenery, there are two waterfalls at Dundas, one of which is two feet higher than the Falls of Niagara; the body of water that passes over the highest is comparatively insignificant. The falls are situated about 1½ miles from the station, and are located in large, wild-looking chasms or ravines. To those who desire to see the rough beauties of Nature, Dundas scenery affords a rare opportunity. We were so delighted and charmed with the scenery here that we wished our friends could enjoy the sight also. The thought struck us what a beautiful place for a farmers' pic-nic! Would it not be well to have a harvest-home pic-nic in September next?

Let us hear from some of our readers in the neighborhood of Dundas and other places if there are any that will second the proposition—that is, to have a harvest home at Dundas, or at any other place.

Government Reports.

We acknowledge the courtesy of the Board of Public Works for the Report of the Commissioner of Arts and Manufactures for the Province of Ontario, and several other valuable works. The Report of the Commissioner we have already laid under contribution in our present issue, and will refer to it from time to time. Though not a work that will be read by ordinary readers, it is an excellent volume for our editorial library, and we will often have occasion to refer to it, and draw from its stores for the benefit of our readers. The article on the wheat midge is from its columns. Would it not be well if items of such general interest, and tending to do such an amount of service, were made more generally known, and published weekly or monthly in a proper form? It is with great pleasure we make our paper the means of disseminating among the agricultural community all the results of modern investigation.

Public Expenditure.—\$200,000 for Stock.

All must know that public expenditures are necessary. They are required for the maintenance of every nation; and without them a nation would be swallowed up by some grasping power. This is a cause of heavy taxation. We do not say we are taxed heavily in proportion to our resources or capabilities, if we compare Canada with other countries. It is also necessary to expend large sums for state show, pomp, and glitter. There are rivalries in the world. Some rulers will try to excel in arms, some in honor—Britain, for instance; Solomon in wisdom; Noah in navigation. Canada appears about to excel (considering her age, means, population, &c.) in agriculture, judging from present prospects. The recent government commenced the expenditure of between one and two hundred thousand dollars (which appear to have been thrown away), nominally for agricultural purposes. Since our last paper was published, we called on the Hon. A. McKellar, the present Minister of Agriculture, to ascertain what the intentions of the government were. It appears that the Mimico Farm has been purchased; but, from the unfitness of the soil, the location, the lack of water, and other causes, it is not approved of, and the present government are still in quest of a more suitable place to expend money on. A farm has been examined in the vicinity of Guelph, but we have not heard the report about it. We also spoke to the Minister of Agriculture in Toronto at the commencement of the last session of Parliament, when he then informed us that the government were intending to carry out the expenditures for the Agricultural College, and that they were contemplating expending \$50,000 for the importation of stock; but during our conversation with him in June, he informed us it was contemplated to expend \$200,000 for that purpose. We said we did not think it would be of advantage to the agriculturists of Canada to do so. Mr. McKellar said he had conversed with some prominent farmers on the subject, and they considered it would be desirable to do so.

The stock business of Canada appears to us to be progressing most favorably at the present time, in the hands of our enterprising breeders and importers. The fact is, we are even now exporters of choice breeding stock. By far the majority of our best stock is sent to the States.—Canadians are not able to vie with the Americans in paying such high prices as the fancy animals now bring. It is our opinion that a government expenditure for such a purpose would tend rather to an injury than a benefit. It would most probably act injuriously against some of our importers and breeders, who have already done so much in improving our stock, and giving a reputation to our country for sheep and cattle. If they were to be sold on arrival, most probably nine-tenths of the stock imported at our expense would go, direct or indirect, to the States, and we should be using our money for the benefit of the Americans, and our country as a quarantine ground for them, as, in reality, Canadian cattle of the same quality are more valuable than cattle imported from England, because we have no rinderpest or mouth disease in Canada, therefore we cannot export it; while, on the other hand, there is a danger of importing it from Europe.

We hope some of our stockmen and farmers will furnish us with their opinions on this question, as it is but right that all subjects connected with agriculture should be openly and fairly discussed.

We do not look on the expenditure that has already been made nor the contemplated expenditure for stock as being for the interest of the agriculturists of Canada. We look on both as being more calculated to serve the purposes of political parties or friends than for the good of the farmers.—We have failed yet to meet a farmer who approves of either. We think this subject should be openly and fairly discussed, and

the farmers of Canada should not, at any future date, have it stated that such expenditures were made for them or for their benefit.

The cost of the contemplated works must be beyond our powers of estimation, as all our government undertakings are known far to exceed any estimate made. Look at the Parliament building, estimated at \$900,000, but which cost between four and five million dollars. At the same ratio, \$200,000 might cost \$1,000,000.—Who could estimate the cost of the Farm, with its other appurtenances, museum, &c. &c.? The question might arise, Who are the farmers that have suggested these plans? Have there not been other less expensive and more beneficial plans recommended? Would not a smaller sum expended on ordinary agricultural clubs be beneficial? Would not an increased grant to township societies enable them to purchase the stock that our breeders now have, and which is continuously leaving our country for the States? We cannot throw blame on our Ministers of Agriculture for all the suggestions that may be given to them, as it is well known that their time must be fully occupied with different political questions, so that agriculture, being of less importance apparently, may not have received as much attention as it may have deserved.

We again ask any of you to send us your opinions on the above subject, and we will give them publicity.

The Government of the Country vs. Individual Enterprise.

At the very threshold of this cause that we have thus stated it may be well to say to our readers that we do not mean to discuss it in the interest of Party. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is no political paper; in it we take no side in party politics. Whoever they may be who hold the reins of Government, we have, without fear or favor, called them to account for any of their public acts when such related to agriculture, or had a tendency to serve or injure the interests we profess to advocate, and whose confidence our large subscription list and the file of letters from our agricultural correspondents, prove that we enjoy. From party politics we stand aloof.

Is the Government of Ontario or of Canada justified in entering into competition with private individuals who have been and are successfully carrying out an enterprise tending to the prosperity of the country? This is the question we are dealing with, and the common sense of the people will at once reply in the negative. If the work is doing well, let well alone, otherwise the result must be injurious not only to the party engaged in the enterprise, but, even in a greater measure, to the community. The inevitable consequence of such interference must be to discourage and prevent individuals, no matter how enterprising they may be, and though animated by the best desire for their country's weal, from embarking in any undertaking in which there is a possibility that they may sometimes find a competitor in the administration of their country that ought to protect their undertaking; and that administration using, to support them in their competitive efforts, the funds of the public exchequer, to which these very individuals themselves contributed their part.

This rule of fair play must commend itself to every honest mind. And now for the application. If an individual devotes his energies, time and talents to experiments in agriculture, such as must, if judiciously conducted, be of advantage to the Province, or to the importing and breeding of farm stock superior to the stock of the country, or to the importing, testing and sending abroad throughout the length and breadth of the land, agricultural seeds and roots; for any public Minister to institute or carry on any designs in competition with such individuals, it would betray a want of justice and wisdom not to be expected in one desiring to be ranked among statesmen.

Such competition of an administration would not only be unjust in itself and prejudicial to private enterprise, both as affecting the individual and the public interest, but would also, if we take the experience of the past as our guide, be a pecuniary failure. Events of past years serve to teach us what we may expect in the future.

The administration of our country has embarked in undertakings that, in all human probability, would have been successful if carried on with that prudence and business tact characteristic of men who have their own money at stake. We will merely enumerate some of the Government undertakings immediately present to our mind:—

The Agricultural College and Model Farm cannot boast of great success.

The Government undertaking at Mimico—What is to come of this matter? No one seems to know, not even the Solomons of the Administration.

The Ontario Farmer.—It enjoyed the Government patronage, and was founded and conducted under Government auspices. What of it now? It was and is not.

We look forward for the next administration agricultural speculation. What will it be? Perhaps a more active competition with importers of agricultural seeds and implements, or it may be a competition with the importers and breeders of stock. Well, why should our high and honorable Administrators care? It is only the public money that will be spent!

P. S.—After we had written thus far we noticed in an exchange, *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, the following paragraph bearing incidentally on the subject:

"A gentleman pitched into us the other day because we opposed the distribution of seeds by the Department of Agriculture. He wanted to know what the Department is for if not to help persons to reliable seeds. We replied that if that is what it is for it is a stupendous failure, for its seeds are no more, if indeed they are not less, reliable than those sent out by our first-class seedsmen."

The *New Yorker* is right in this matter. These Administrations cannot and will not supply the farmers with more reliable seeds or anything else for the farm, or on better terms than those whose immediate and sole business it is, and whose success depends upon good quality and reasonable prices.

The Government have a duty to perform in this matter. It is to protect and encourage any private enterprise that is judiciously carried on and tends to the good of the country. It is their duty to remunerate, in some instances, those who have expended largely in such undertakings. We called attention in a late instance to a case deserving every support from the Government, that of Mr. Cull, who has succeeded in making beet root sugar, and has made great sacrifices in so doing. He deserves support and remuneration. A.T. Ed.

Review.

THE CLIMATES, PRODUCTIONS, AND RESOURCES OF CANADA.

It was with great pleasure and no little profit that we read this work.

The valuable information it contains was not new to us, but the author has, in this little work of less than 50 pages, brought together from many sources so many little-considered truths, presented them in so interesting a manner, and clothed them in such plain, forcible language, that the work cannot fail to leave a very favorable impression on the mind of the reader. We would gladly review the whole work and make copious extracts from it for the benefit of our readers, but the demands upon our time are at present so pressing that we are obliged to defer to a future number of our paper what would be to us a very agreeable duty. For the present we can do little more than make a few brief extracts:—

"The superficial area of Canada is about 3,500,000 square miles. We cannot

form a correct idea of this vast territory, the bays, and innumerable characteristics of these great bodies of water, logically a

In speaking of the globe of the world, up briefly a country, favored la

"Canada"

valuable, greatest a and bast

tions, sim world me the ox.

attains t mind. I sprung co rule the r

tude from modern a come, for here he r

the more rope scare northern surplus pe by hundr

the sec ada.—Ter instructiv the count

be prejudi tion we m firmatory maintain

"The s chief im poses. I upon the mers are

secure the winter ha ing the se tects the y

the late spring; t snow fills sary for s

a contrast of Europe the grou such a co

Our foros semi-trop grape vine centuries monarchs

500 years "Wood the succed Canada ag

ductions, and readi

Taking vince the ion, despi her great be a pros

With c lay down "Whe plants h

the care proofs of and mois

Many of ada, the ciduous c

require a grees of rain. Th

ents, in t latitudes not the s

there of species in both east

summer those reg "Clim

be favora