

educational system should be to prepare as thoroughly as possible the pupil for the business which he or she expects to engage in, and it is just possible that the entire absence of any teaching in our schools, bearing upon agriculture, may cause much of the indifference of young farmers to follow the avocation of their fathers.

Wouldst thou fear that there are many farmers who fail to provide a good agricultural newspaper, or books on agriculture, for their families to read. While the weekly newspaper, devoted to general news and literature, is necessary, and should be found in every farm house, yet it is even more essential that a good agricultural paper, whose columns are devoted to the advocacy of the particular business in which the farmer is engaged, should be a constant visitor in the home circle. Take a look upon the side table in the sitting-room of many of our farmers' residences for a book written on any branch of farm husbandry, and you fail to find it; go to the centre table in the best room, and look for a work on Agriculture, Horticulture, or Orcharding, Cattle raising or Sheep husbandry, and the chances are that you will be unsuccessful. You will notice, however, that there is quite a fair display of books, to be sure, some of which have been purchased from the book agent at high prices, and containing a smattering of history that is entirely useless to the owner, but were purchased simply because the farmer was strongly urged to buy by those whose business it was to make a sale.

Is it any wonder, we ask, that when the reading furnished is on every other topic than that in which he is engaged, that the young man should by and by cultivate a desire to try something else beside farming?

One reads of extensive commercial transactions, where some one by most fortunate ventures has rapidly accumulated a fortune, and concludes he would like to be a merchant; another reads of the grand feat of engineering skill performed by a master hand, whose name is heralded forth to the world as a public benefactor, and he feels like trying his hand at engineering; another reads of the eloquent pleadings of some gifted orator at the Bar, and he resolves to try his hand at the study of jurisprudence, and so on through all the professions.

Not once does he find anything to draw his attention to the nobleness and worth of his own occupation, how that, through the labours of the farmer the commerce of the world is created, the whirl of spindle and loom is kept up, that it furnishes the raw material for much of the manufactured goods and consumes a large proportion of their products; that it is indeed the life-giving element to the industry of the world.

We are not forgetful that all boys do not have the same natural tastes or inclinations, nor that all farmers' sons care to become good farmers, yet we do claim that, in common fairness to our agricultural interests, no effort should be spared to give farmers' sons at least the same opportunity to become conversant with their business through the branches taught in our schools, and the books and papers that are to be found upon the tables in our farm house, that others enjoy who are seeking preparations for other callings.

Farm life of to-day is not that plodding unattractive life that it was when our fathers were boys upon the farm. The machinery now in use has revolutionized farm labor, and made it study and science, rather than a plodding life. Let us have faith in our calling, and make the dim old spot we call home both pleasant and attractive.—*Maritime Farmer.*

*Yarmouth, 14th December, 1880.*—We have had some quite cold snaps, thermometer on the morning of the 10th inst. down to 4° above zero, which is a very unusual degree of cold for us. Several falls of snow giving us more sleighing already than we had all last winter; yesterday and to-day rain, with south wind and thawing. Up to November 18th we had no frosts severe enough to injure even hardy flowers, but notwithstanding the extra fortnight for securing crops, many dilatory growers all about the County neglected to take up all their roots, and there are still said to be some thousands of bushels awaiting a break up.

*King's County.*—The potato crops were mostly taken in after the close of the Exhibition in October. The crop is not unusually heavy, but quality superior, and a large breadth planted. Those placed early in the cellars are apt to suffer from dry rot.

*Sackville, N. S.*—The pastures which became dried up in August, recovered with the fall rains, and continued to give a full bite well through the month of November. We can always depend upon fair, if not full, pasturage, for seven or eight months in the year.

*Halifax, December.*—Excellent potatoes from Prince Edward Island have been selling at the wharves for from 24 to 28 cents per bushel, and other vegetables in proportion.

*Orfield, Jan'y 6th, 1881.*

PROF. LAWSON:

Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the roan Heifer "Merry Face" calved a Heifer calf to-day. Mother and daughter are doing well.

I remain, yours truly,

H. L. YEOMANS.

A number of excellent Angus cows and the celebrated bull "Judge," one of the most famous prize-winners of the breed, have been imported for the Whiffield Model Farm at Rougemont, Quebec. The farmers of Westmorland County, New Brunswick, have made arrangements for the purchase of a number of the Polled Angus Cattle, and their agent is now in Great Britain. If our farmers wish to keep abreast of the times in the matter of stock raising, they will have to take similar action on their own account, for it is useless to depend upon the Central Board of Agriculture, whose members are supposed to have such matters in charge. A conversazione was held at Kentville, at the time of the Provincial Exhibition, to discuss the merits of the different breeds of cattle, and the majority of the speakers, including Colonel Laurio and Prof. Lawson, were strongly in favor of the Angus breed, and yet, immediately after, the Board, in its collective wisdom, made arrangements for the importation of a number of Short-horn Durhams! We have not a word to say against the Short-horns, but we claim that the Aberdeens are superior in some respects, and better suited to our present requirements, and we think the Board would have acted more wisely in giving the "black cattle" a fair trial.—*Farmers' Manual.*

[The editor of the *Kentville Farmers' Manual* is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of the Scotch Black Cattle, and we believe their introduction and successful production here is a mere question of time. It is necessary, however, that discretion should be exercised. It is true that their beef brings a better price than that of any other breed; but the qualities which many of the prize animals have shown of rapid growth, early maturity and bulk of beef, are due entirely to the Short-horn blood with which they are so thoroughly permeated, the black cattle being naturally a puny race, far inferior to the Devons or Ayrshires. The reference to the action of the Central Board in the above paragraph has obviously dropped from the pen in an instant of enthusiasm when the systematic way in which the Board has laboured to improve the stock of the Province has not been thought of, and when the instructions given to the Board last winter by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly were forgotten. We believe that, with the means at the Board's disposal, no greater service could have been rendered to the prospective beef-producers of the Province than the importation lately made of nine of the best Short-Horns that could be selected in England. If the Board could have bought fifty or sixty Galloways or Angus cattle at the same time, we could have made a start in the line of black