

The consumption of beer in this country is on the increase, and its *quality* of late, particularly in the larger city breweries, has been greatly improved. Now and then we meet with Canadian ale that would not suffer in a comparison with the world renowned beverage of England; but it must be confessed that most of this article manufactured in Canada is yet of an inferior description. Improve the quality, and the consumption will increase, and the public taste will become more correct and healthy. The bearing which this subject has upon an important article of agricultural produce,—barley,—must be obvious to every one.

On reaching Brighton, in the county of Northumberland, where hops have been cultivated on a small scale for many years, we were informed that nearly 150 acres were planted last spring in that vicinity. If anything approaching this has taken place in other localities, there cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the supply will greatly exceed the demand in Canada. We are not likely to find a market for our surplus in the States, where they usually grow much more than they want for domestic consumption, and where too our hops would be subjected to a heavy import duty. England must be our market, as it is to a large extent that of the Americans; but it could only be when the British crop fell short that our export trade would be profitable. It is true that both excise and import duties on hops have been recently abolished in England, a circumstance favourable to importation to that country. We would urgently recommend our hop growers to pay the best attention to the growing and curing of this article, both for domestic and, particularly, foreign markets. The flavour of American hops is not well liked in England, and brewers have sometimes sustained serious losses in using them in the manufacture of pale ales for the eastern markets. The complaint is that they impart a flavour resembling that of black currant leaves. Of late, however, an improvement has been effected; clean picking and proper curing will no doubt improve the value of the article. It is a fact worth noticing by the political economist that while the British market is free to all the world, we in Canada, heavy as well as the United States, impose a import duty on this article coming from abroad, a circumstance which shows that free trade and reciprocity are not always identical.

Although the County of Prince Edward was among the first sections in Upper Canada that were settled, and has, perhaps, the largest amount of wealth in proportion to population of any in the Province, its taxation extremely light, and, as we understand, unblest by a public debt, its agriculture has made of late years comparatively slow progress. Much of the land has been over-crop-

ped, and weeds have got the ascendancy. Deeper tillage and draining would effect wonders, in a few years. Wherever these ameliorating means have been tried, the results have been invariably satisfactory. Rye and buckwheat occupy here too large an area in any system of improving husbandry. The breed of horses is good, excellent roadsters, but a little too light for deep cultivation, where the soil is heavy. It is somewhat remarkable that none of the improved breeds of cattle have ever taken a hold in this country. The cows in general are small, but they yield good milk, and considerable quantities of butter and cheese are made for the market. The introduction of a few good bulls of some of the improved breeds would be attended by the happiest results, and we were glad to see a young Ayrshire bull the Agricultural Society had purchased of Mr. Wright of Cobourg, a very promising animal, and also a Durham bull recently obtained from Mr. Wilcox Baldwin, of Oak Ridges, in the county of York. This is decidedly a step in the right direction. We must remind our Prince Edward friends, however, that next to a good breed is *good keeping*, and would urge on them a larger cultivation of root crops, which, with the exception of potatoes, hardly exist as field productions. We observed on the farm of Mr. Beadle, the president of the county Agricultural Society, a piece of mangel wurzel of about two acres, which looked promising: but in going through the county we did not observe so much as half an acre of mangels, turnips, carrots, nor anything of the sort. Where the hay crop is so liable to be light, especially as it is in this district the present season, roots must be found a most valuable auxiliary. Indeed our best farmers in the west could not do without them. In a season of drought, turnips are no doubt difficult to raise, especially on stiff clay soil. But by deep and clean culture, judicious manuring and a determination to succeed, mangels, carrots, etc., may generally be depended on. We would not recommend beginners to commence root culture extensively, but to begin in rather a small way, and increase by degrees. One acre thoroughly managed, will yield as much as two or three indifferently treated.

Journeying westward, the country improved in appearance; the rains had evidently been more abundant, and the hay crop particularly, was better. We spent a day or two most agreeably in the vicinity of Cobourg, and profited much from observation and intercourse with intelligent and enterprising farmers, whose kindness and hospitality we shall long and gratefully remember. We took up our abode for two nights under the hospitable roof of the Hon. Henry Ruttan; and were happy to find him again restored to