

AGRICULTURAL.

[From the Halifax Times.]

There is one important subject, involving Provincial welfare, which we would endeavour to impress upon the Country at the approaching crisis. All others sink in comparison—we do not even rank it secondary to the Fisheries in our estimation of Provincial prosperity.—That subject is the Agriculture of Nova Scotia. It may suit the purposes of interested persons, of men in business who are filling their pockets, by preventing the Agricultural resources of this fine country from coming into action, to decri its capabilities in this respect, and impress upon its people that all efforts are useless towards a dependence on the Province for a supply of agricultural produce. And this false impression has gone abroad, and is gathering force and weight, from no other cause than its constant assertion, backed by the difficulties incident to bringing a new and forest covered country, into proper cultivation. Unluckily for Nova Scotia, her peasantry though industrious, have neither the means nor the method, to improve her soil to its utmost extent or quality of production; in most instances they are content with the old routine, and emigration has done little as yet to better her condition in this respect,—yet we put it to any foreigner or Englishman to say, if in their respective countries they have seen better crops of any description of grain or other produce, than in Nova Scotia, where the lands are under the most approved system of husbandry. Agriculture, the basis of all other branches of industry, is at a low ebb in this Province, and therefore should the Farmers at the ensuing Election, return Members who will especially look after its interest in the Legislature, endeavouring there to bring into action, what their own poverty, and the consequent lack of improvement, prevents them from doing individually.

It may be very well to raise a cry for the reduction of exorbitant salaries. Let the people however reflect on the small amount that could be saved, if the overcharged salaries were reduced to the very lowest computation of judicious expenditure. If the public functionaries were barely paid for their services, the gain would be but a drop in the bucket, compared to those great interests which the people sacrifice, by allowing their passions to be stirred, and their minds wholly occupied with other matters. We are desirous,—as much as any, of necessary economy and retrenchment, but are not at all convinced by what has been put forward to inculcate the idea, that the unpromising state of the Province is owing to the influence acquired by a few officials in being paid overmuch, or that the few thousands thus paid take so materially from its revenue as to occasion a stoppage of improvement. The facts are, in our opinion, far otherwise. We have too long “strained at gnats and swallowed camels;” it is high time the public energies should be devoted to bring capital, skill and enterprise to the country, to quicken the body politic, and infuse into it the warmth and vigour of active life, to enable it to run the race and not be distanced, with the neighbouring Colonies which are making such rapid strides, towards the goal of steady and increasing prosperity.

Agriculture always implied labour. At the present time something more is needed, and skill and capital must be added to ensure successful competition,—sheer labour, perhaps, has shown all it can do, in the absence of wealth and enterprise for the country's improvement. The object should now be, to apply the other elements of prosperity, and thus we trust may in a great measure be accomplished by choosing men for representatives,

who have a knowledge of the science theoretically and practically—impressing it upon them, that they are sent for the purpose of endeavouring a change of opinion with regard to the agricultural resources of the country, and to concentrate Provincial funds in the most effectual way to develop them. Let the people look to this object as one of the means of salvation held out to the Colonial interests.

Who is there, feeling a pride in the country, (be it his native or adopted one,) from a knowledge of its agricultural capability, but must lament its present passive condition. Let such an one place himself on any of the main outlets from the capital within twenty miles, and take observation from passing occurrences. In the morning he will observe the teams laden with planks, shingles, lambs, calves, and at times will meet a drove of oxen, a flock of sheep, and other live stock on their way to market; but the essentials of husbandry, grain—barley, oats, wheat, corn—a precious small sample of these ever make their appearance. The teams are returning,—has the Farmer been supplying himself with the implements of his calling? Do we see him taking home, and viewing it with pride as he travels along, some new and well proved invention, which shall lessen his labour in the field? No. Speak to him,—has he gathered or looked for any information in the Metropolis, whereby a theory in Agriculture has been put into successful practice, enabling him to lay out his land to greater advantage, or gather his crop twenty-fold? Will he tell you of experiments attempted, or methods discovered, by the members of an Agricultural society, of which he is one? Will he discourse of the rotation of crops—the advantages of draining—the diseases of wheat—or how many bushels he raises to the acre, with his mode of cultivating? No, none of those things; but, says he, I have sold my shingles, &c. and bought Flour, which though coarse is almost as cheap as I can raise it. Flour—from wheat, which the bonded warehouses in Britain have perhaps been obliged to cast out under the operation of the Corn Laws.—And with this he feeds his family, in preference to the wholesome and superior article which he could grow and manufacture, doing himself and his country service. This state of things does require some examination, by those more competent to the task than we profess ourselves to be: we can only hope the suggestions we have thrown out, will not be lost.

[From the Scotsman.]

THE CROPS—June has been characterised by the finest growing weather that could be desired, the genial heat and regular supply of moisture causing vegetation of every description to shoot into luxuriance with amazing rapidity. Wheat and barley are now generally in the ear in this neighbourhood, and the crops in general promise an abundant harvest. The agricultural reports from all quarters hold out cheering hopes of the autumnal returns, with the exception of the potatoe crops, which we are sorry to observe, have this season, as in several by-past, been extensively attacked by the mysterious blight which prevents the sets from germinating, and whole fields have had to be ploughed down in consequence. The following facts, as observed by the farmers in Renfrewshire, are worth notice:—“In all cases where the drills after being planted, were most exposed to drought, the failure has been most general, and where they were well protected from the sun, or where the ground was damp, then there has been little failure. The exposure of the ground to the sun, so as to dry it severely, appears likewise to have had great influence in destroying the sets. One farmer in the neighbourhood of Paisley, in

planting a field of potatoes this year, had to drive his dung from a distance, so that some parts of the dung in the small drills was laid on in the morning, and other parts in the afternoon, the whole having been covered up towards evening; and the result is, that in those parts where the dung was laid on in the morning and thoroughly drilled, the potatoes are nearly a total failure; where the dung was laid on at mid-day or thereby, the failure is more partial, and where it was laid on in the afternoon, and the drills closed up immediately after, the crop is excellent, and no failure whatever.”

[From the Scotsman.]

THE PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE BETWEEN SECTS.

—Lord Lyndhurst refuses corporate rights to Ireland avowedly because the majority of the people are Catholics, and might oppress the Protestant minority. Now, there are two tests by which every man may try the justice of this decision.

The first test is the golden rule, of doing to others as we would be done by. The Episcopalians are a majority in England. Now would a proposal be received to deprive them of municipal rights, lest they should oppress the minority of Catholics? The majority in Scotland are Presbyterians; but who would think of denying them municipalities lest they should make use of them to wrong the small body of Episcopalians? There are 120,000 Protestants of various classes in Edinburgh, and 15,000 Catholics; but midst all the rampant bigotry which shows itself at times in this city, does any one dream of the Town-Council maltreating the Catholics, or disturbing them in the enjoyment of their rights? Would we, Scotsmen, not have considered it an insult, if the Episcopalians had influenced the Upper House, in 1833, to abolish our civic corporations on the ground that their persons and property would not be secure, under the rule of a Town-Council, freely chosen by a Presbyterian community?

There is another test of easy application, which indeed ultimately resolves itself into the golden rule we have been illustrating. Let us assume—to simplify the problem—that there were only three sects in the empire, the Episcopalians predominating numerically in England, the Catholics predominating in Ireland, and the Presbyterians in Scotland. Now, suppose each of these three kingdoms independent, as they once were, and the three to coalesce voluntarily, for the sake of securing mutual peace, free commerce, and security against attacks from stronger powers. We ask, upon what terms this coalition would be fracted? Is it not evident that whatever plan, connected with religious distinctions, was urged by the one party would equally serve the other? If the English Episcopalian said—“I know that the Catholics and Presbyterians are small minorities in England—but this is no reason for depriving us of the advantages of local self-government. We, therefore, insist upon having Town-Councils elected by the inhabitants at large, among whom the Catholics and Presbyterians will have the influence due to their numbers.”—“Is it so?” quoth the Presbyterian; well, I concur; but upon condition that the same rule is observed in Scotland: We shall have municipalities there, and Episcopacy and Popery must put up with the share of influence due to small minorities.”—“If that be the order of the day,” says the Catholic, “then we Irishmen demand municipal institutions upon the same principle. If our sect is safe from oppression in England and Scotland, yours is equally so in Ireland.”—“Blasphemous, horrible!”—exclaim some of our critical Bishop and bigotted Presbyter.