

rice for food; whilst a thousand miles away, in the low grounds of the Madras Presidency, suited by nature to the growth of rice, a still greater amount of labor was expended in draining swamps sufficient to grow patches of cotton enough to supply the scanty clothing which the climate necessitates and which fashion prescribes.

Now, a wise paternal government has constructed railroads which so facilitate transport that each locality can devote its best energies to cultivating the crop for which Nature has best fitted it; and this I take to be our position at present. It is quite true that we can grow wheat here, but it is at best an uncertain crop, for climatic reasons, and, for our moist climate, specially suited for the product of grass and roots, it is but rational that we should devote ourselves to stock-raising and dairy-farming,—especially stock-raising,—rather than fight against Nature in the cultivation of grain; and we need have no fear that we shall overstock the market, and so depreciate the value of our produce.

It is stated that one firm in Montreal has shipped over 800 head of Canadian cattle to the old country during the present season, and with handsome returns both to the feeders and the shippers. What Western Canada can do in cattle, we, with a more suitable climate, can certainly manage; but management and skill are necessary. We must start with the best breeds; must feed in the most economical manner, studying what crops the land will best yield, as well as the food that will best develop the animals, and bring them forward most rapidly for market; also how we may so house them as to prevent our undoubtedly severe winter from checking their rapid development into the most profitable form of meat.

It has been stated as an objection to the farmers' occupation, that they devote the greatest care to an animal, feed it, study its comfort in every possible way, and then, as soon as they have brought it near perfection, they kill it, and again go through the same process. It must be observed that there is something in the remark; but the soft-hearted people who raise the objection would probably not be willing to go without meat, and should, therefore, feel themselves under the greater obligation to the farmer for the supply he thus furnishes.

But if, as thus indicated, farming is reduced to a science, it is clear that it must be studied by those who devote themselves to the occupation: a comparison of breeds of cattle, of the kinds of food most suitable, of the methods of most advantageously administering them, thus becomes most necessary. We cannot assume that what has been proved to

be suitable or best in great Britain, in the United States, or in Western Canada, in all of which countries Agriculture has advanced far beyond its position in our Province, must of necessity be most advantageous here. Far from it; all such matters must, under a change of conditions, be submitted afresh to the test of experience. We are often told by those who do not look beneath the surface that we are not sufficiently advanced to necessitate Annual Agricultural Exhibitions; but it is here that exhibitions are exceedingly valuable. Our stock-breeders will exhibit the various breeds of cattle which they cultivate, our feeders will show what can be done with the stock raised by crossing what is known as the common stock of the country, with the so-called improved breeds. It of course stands to reason that single examples will not be sufficient proof of the excellencies, or reverse, of any particular breed of cattle, or method of feeding. So much depends on the food animals receive, on the system or want of system in which any given quantity or quality of food is administered, that in forming our opinion, we must weigh all these matters after obtaining all the information in our power, and not rush to a conclusion formed from insufficient data. It is in such matters that the farmer seeking to improve is called upon to exercise his judgment. Exhibitions will thus bring much that is new before all, and will set a large number who already depend on farming for a living, thinking on the subject so important to them,—this is of itself a decided gain. In nine cases out of ten the shrewd natural intelligence of our people will at once lead them to apply the thought to practical purpose. Exhibitions therefore serve as a school for the whole farming community. Again, the would-be purchaser of thorough-bred stock, whether for himself or for a society, has in these exhibitions the best chance of selection. Knowing the style of agriculture and the requirements, as well as the peculiarities of his district, he is able to pick out, from all the different breeds brought together for his inspection, that which best meets the necessary conditions—here again is a decided benefit. Another class which benefits very largely by exhibitions is composed of those who have already interested themselves in Agriculture—have expended money in obtaining improved breeds—have taken pains in feeding, and feel satisfied with their efforts, and that nothing further is required. To such persons an Exhibition brings home truths in an unpleasant, but very salutary form. They find that their zeal and energy have brought results, certainly, but very far from what they

expected; that whilst their efforts have given them the first place in some points, other matters which they have neglected have been attended to by competing exhibitors, and that much more is necessary if they wish to take the position they consider themselves entitled to. The lesson is valuable, but often dearly bought; but it is only by such constant comparisons that attention is called to all points, that matters small in themselves, but which tend in the aggregate to make up real excellence, will be attended to, and the more publicly these comparisons are made, the more attention will be devoted to the preparation for them, and so much greater results will in consequence be obtained. Thus we in this Province shall be incited to develop to the utmost the improved breeds we have imported.

But Exhibitions may be looked to as producing more important results. There will always be a tendency amongst the youths of the rural districts to flock to town, and indeed it is from them that the townspeople are largely recruited, and they carry health and vigor into a population that would otherwise, owing to the unfavorable conditions of town life, soon degenerate into a sickly and weak race. This has no bad effect in old countries, as there is always a redundant population, and land is scarce, and there is a constant struggle to obtain and hold on to it; but with us the case is different. Here land abounds and the population is scarce. All the world over an article is valued according to its rarity, and if easily obtainable no store is set on it. Consequently the possession of land is little valued, and the career of a farmer has been looked down upon. All this is so patent, and the causes so well known to all, that it is unnecessary to dwell at length on it; but a brighter day is dawning, farmers have been doing well. Many have become wealthy in their calling; still the rising generation turn their backs on the farm far too often, betaking themselves to other occupations, when often and often they would do better by staying at home, and sticking to the farm. What seems to be wanted is something that will make country life more attractive, will create and develop interest in the occupation, specially amongst those who have some means, a class which our farming interest can least well spare, and who are most apt to withdraw their means from agriculture, and sink them in trade, often, indeed, sink them never to be brought to the surface again. Now it is just these we desire to retain; they are men who can well afford to invest in improved stock, and it is to Exhibitions, and to the interest taken in preparing for, and taking part, in the competitions, that we must