

utable to the love of luxury, laziness or liquor, and not uncommonly all three.

I heard of a man who once asked his wife to look down his throat and tell what she saw. Looking, she said she saw nothing. "That is strange," said he; "a whole farm has gone down there." I do not object to luxuries; by all means let them have them who can afford to do so. Indeed it is a bad sign when one is content with the bare necessities of life, aspiring to nothing higher. But is not the impecuniosity of many of our farmers caused by indulgence in luxuries that are injurious? To some laziness is inherent—they were born that way; but when it is superinduced by indulgence in strong drink, the blame should not be thrown on ancestry.

There is an old saying, I do not exactly remember the words, but it was to this effect: "When a young man first starts out for himself in the world, he is of opinion that his father is too slow for the times. After some years of experience he begins to think that his father knows more than he was really inclined to give him credit for. Finally, after mature consideration, when he has failed to revolutionize the existing state of things, he decides that the old man was about right after all." There are instances of this kind. Fast young men are very apt to consider their father too slow for the times. I know of hundreds of farmers sons being ruined by the encouragement in the raising and training of fast horses. I do not know of any means by which a young man can more easily squander his property than by indulging in horse-racing and gambling, which seem to be inseparably connected. Having become so evident, it is almost needless to say that success in farming cannot be attained by one who prefers the racecourse to honest agricultural industry. A comfortable home, affording all the true pleasures of rural life, is sacrificed for the fleeting enjoyment of popular sports. Is it not prodigal folly?

There are none so blind as those who will not see. I have heard it said that the more a man leaves to his son when he dies, the less the son will have when he dies. In the county of Grenville a well-to-do farmer left an excellent, well-stocked, unencumbered farm to his only son, a young man of the fast type. On his death-bed the old man said to a friend, "I give my son Norman five years to get rid of all I leave him," but in less than three years Norman was a worthless wandering vagabond.

It vividly brought to my mind a few lines by Robert Burns:

"But pleasures are like poppies spread,
You seize the flower, the bloom is shed;
Or like the snow falls on the river,
A moment white, then melts forever;
Or like the borealis race,
That flits e'er you can point its place,
Or like the rainbow's lovely form
Evanishing amid the storm."

The man who bequeaths all his real estate to a favorite son, cutting off all the other sons and daughters with a comparatively small portion of his goods makes a most unrighteous division of his property. Such partitions almost invariably culminate in the ruin of the favored one.

Agricultural associations and agricultural exhibitions properly conducted, have been and are now, in the most advanced agricultural countries in the world, a great stimulus to agricultural interests, as an educator of the rising generation; they are indeed a necessity, but if they cannot be continued without the introduction of nefarious influences, they will eventually prove a curse to any community in which they may be patronized.

If the people generally must have places of perilous amusements, let them be provided as such aside from agricultural exhibitions, not bringing disgrace on the most ennobling of all callings, as is now being done to some extent in Canada. The people of Great Britain long ago learned that the introduction of illegitimate agents to agricultural fairs tended to mislead young farmers to the neglect of their own business; hence no side shows that are not of an instructive nature are now permitted.

Sometimes parents who readily denounce the extravagant tendency of the fashions, are very much to blame in not training their sons and daughters to earn their own livelihood, or to know the value of money, or of denying themselves some coveted pleasures, or indeed to do much, if anything, except to spend money. Young men not trained to farming or anything else in particular, become parasites on the

home, like the bark-louse on the apple tree, sucking the vitality out of that on which it exists.

How often do we see young women living at home in comparative misery rather than go out to earn an independent livelihood by honest work. Successful farmers can afford to keep their daughters at home, even if their help is not required in the household, but when half a dozen grown-up, strong, healthy girls continue to dwell with their parents in a poor homestead on a poorly managed farm, we may be sure that before long there will be a farm for sale, and a family adrift with indifferent habits.

A striking peculiarity of the swan is, that when a pair is confined to a limited space of water, they drive off their offspring as soon as they are able to fly. They may, perhaps, do this from selfish motives, but it teaches the young ones to be independent.

I knew a farmer who was well off until he mortgaged his farm to pay for a \$600 piano. If he had instead endeavored to find honorable employment for his daughters, he would not now be spending the latter part of his life in comparative poverty. Penitentiaries, poor-houses and asylums would not be half filled if there were not so many careless parents.

The want of education is certainly not always the cause of shittiness—it is very commonly the result of a defective education, or rather from a want of proper instruction. In our common schools and in the higher institutions of learning also, the system pursued is not well calculated to fit young men and women for the active pursuits of farm life. It very often happens that at the end of their school career they are less fitted for it than when they began. There is something radically wrong in a system of instruction which sets so many men and women adrift in the world educated for almost everything except that for which they were naturally intended, viz., farmers and farmers' wives. It is certainly not intended that all shall be employed at farming. All are not physically or mentally adapted for it, but why should not those who are naturally well adapted for it be allotted that kind of education which would be most useful to them? Let us look at this matter fairly and see where lies the truth. Every girl now-a-days, after she has learned algebra and universal geography, whatever her natural talents or capacity may be, must be taught the arts of music and painting, said to be something to fall back upon for a living in case of failure to get an industrious or rich husband. Music and painting are very excellent accomplishments for young ladies who have talents or capacity to achieve success in the higher spheres of life to which their ambitions may tend; but cramming them into those who have neither taste nor desire for them, give them a false estimate of their own talents. They are educated above the doing of humble, honest work, without any training in the use of the talents they really do possess, and which would fit them for the realities of farm life and of being useful in the world.

I believe thoroughly that the farmer should be highly educated. There is no occupation under the sun to which knowledge is more essential. Agriculture does not consist merely in practical manipulations; it is an intellectual pursuit. The natural sciences are the farmer's servants, therefore he requires and should have a knowledge of botany, chemistry, vegetable physiology, entomology and geology. And if the time usually wasted by the intending farmer at school studying dead languages and mathematics, were devoted to the study of the sciences, there would be fewer slipshod farmers.

Endeavoring to bring about a reform in this respect would be legitimate business for the institutes of this kind, and with unanimity of action it could be accomplished.

I would like to see some legislation specially for the benefit of the farmer. Professional and indeed almost every other class of the people now have combinations whereby they obtain advantage over this one class, which seem to be the most forbearing. Being absolutely unprotected they are exposed to every form of aggression. Through want of union they are very much at the mercy of other classes of the community.

It is, however, a good sign of the times to see the farmers of Ontario organizing, and when every electoral division shall have established its institute, we may soon thereafter hopefully look for an organization of the farmers of the whole Dominion. Then they may become by their rights the virtual rulers of the land, instead of being merely the conveniences of those who are its actual rulers.

Report of the Judges on the Prize Farms for 1887.

To the Council of Agriculture and Arts Association for Ontario.

GENTLEMEN,—The judges appointed by you to make the awards in the Prize Farm Competition for 1887 in Division No. 1, commenced the work of inspection on Monday, 27th June. The electoral divisions embraced in the competition are, Niagara, Lincoln, Welland, Monck, Haldimand, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, North Brant, South Brant, North Waterloo, South Waterloo, North Wentworth, South Wentworth, and Halton. Eighteen farms were entered in the competition, of which no less than twelve were in the four divisions of North and South Norfolk, Niagara and Halton, while no less than four out of the fourteen were not represented at all, as will appear from the following list of the entries:

N. NAME.	P. O. ADDRESS.	ACRES.	DESCRIPTION.	TOWNSHIP.	ELECTORAL DISTRICT.	REMARKS.
David W. Horton.	Wellandport.	100	Lot 14, concession V.	Pelham	Monck.	"Maple Avenue."
Henry Woodruff.	St. David's.	140	Lot 90, concession and Gr. Mc. Road	Niagara	Niagara.	"The Woodburn Farm."
C. F. Fisher.	Wentworth.	100	Lot 9, Niagara River Road.	"	"	"Valerion Farm."
James Osmund.	Niagara.	121	Lot 17, concession III.	Nelson.	"	"The Pine Grove Farm."
John Joiner.	Hartington.	210	Lot 17, concession III.	Essex.	Italon	"Balsam Lod. c."
Wm. Elliott.	Milton.	200	Lot 1, concession III.	"	"	"Parthill."
John Sprout.	Manwood.	400	Lot 3 and 6, concessions V. and VI.	Burford.	"	"Pinsky Farm."
J. E. Brethour.	Hartford.	107	Lot 2 and 3, concession VII.	South Dumfries.	Brant, S.	"Oak Lodge."
C. Barker.	Fair Station.	250	Lot 3 and 35, concession I.	Townsend	Brant, N.	"Hill Crest."
Lo. K. McMichael.	Waterford.	350	Lot 9 and 10, concession VI.	"	Norfolk, N.	"Maple Avenue."
David Erwin.	Villa Nova.	196	Lot 17, concession IX.	"	"	"The Homestead Farm."
Leider Culver.	Simcoe.	310	Lot 1, 2 and 3, concession XII.	Woodhouse.	Norfolk, S.	"Roseate."
Richard Tindler.	Simcoe.	100	Lot 5, Gore.	"	"	"Prospect Farm."
Robert Waddle.	Fort Llover.	190	Lot 8 and 9, concession III.	Charlottesville.	"	"Roxborough Farm."
Mrs. Jos. Dunkin.	Vittoria.	167	Lot 21 and 22, concession III.	North Dumfries.	Waterloo, S.	"Greenwood."
Geo. R. Barrie.	Wentworth.	200	Lot 19 and 20, concession X.	Brimbrook.	Wentworth, S.	"Mount Pleasant."
John C. Shaw.	Woodburn.	150	Part of lots 4 and 5, concession II.	"	"	"Hurside."
John R. Martin.	Wentworth.	200	Part of lots 28, 29 and 30, concession I.	Cayuga.	Haldimand.	"Heaville Stick Farm."