

the improvement of our stock and the development of our produce for market. Too often historians are more disposed to seek for history in the halls of legislature and the fields of bloody conflict, overlooking entirely the social development of the people. If our teaching of history did not refer almost exclusively to transactions carried on in cities and on the part of the professional classes, but gave its true place to the questions in which the rural life is intimately associated, there would be less concluding on the part of rural pupils that city life and city events alone "count" in this progressive age. How many can tell when improved stock was first introduced into Ontario, when improved machinery came in, and where it came from? In 1864 the first cheese factory was built in Ontario, in the county of Oxford, and by 1867 the system was fairly established in the east and the west of making cheese in co-operative factories instead of in the farm dairies. Let us see the results: To-day, twenty-eight years afterwards, there are in Ontario alone 838 factories in operation, producing annually 82,000,000 lb. of cheese, worth about \$8,000,000. The cheese exports of Canada are over 27 per cent. of the entire agricultural exports, and nearly 12 per cent. of the total exports. The growth of cheese exports since the introduction of the factory system may be seen from the following: In 1866, \$123,494; in 1871, \$1,109,906; in 1876, \$4,050,008; in 1881, \$5,510,443; in 1886, \$6,754,626; in 1891, \$9,508,800. There are two men who deserve a place in the history of this country, whose work has brought more wealth and prosperity to North America than many whose names fill a large place in the written history of our land—those two men are Jesse Williams, who conceived the idea of a cheese factory and built the first at Rome, N.Y., in 1851, and Harvey Farrington, who brought the idea from Herkimer County, N.Y., and set up the first Canadian factory near Norwich, Ontario, in 1864. Should not our rural pupils and our town and city pupils also be made acquainted with such men and their deeds? How many historians have acquainted their readers with the development of our agricultural fair system, from 1825, when the first society was formed in Ontario, to 1846, when the first Provincial Fair was held at Toronto, and from then to the present day. When school begins in September, and the County Fair is billed at all the cross-roads, might not the teacher interest the older pupils at least in this subject which has played no unimportant part in the development of the rural classes and increasing the wealth of Canada? It may be easier to interest pupils in the accounts of war and conquests than in the story of backwoods settlement and colonization roads, but the history contained in such works as the writings of Major Strickland and Mrs. Moody will produce as patriotic citizens as the story of the capture of Quebec or Queenston Heights.