

PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND.

Your committee hope there may be scientific branches attached to this practical branch for promoting agriculture—that the rural population may yet benefit by the lectures of a professor of agricultural chemistry—by access to agricultural libraries, furnished with condensed manuals of all the important divisions of science which affect the well-being of the truly scientific, but difficult and intricate pursuits of the farmer.

Your committee, on reviewing the past, must express their grateful feelings that the representatives of the Sovereign in this island, alive to its chief interest, have uniformly patronised this society, and the objects for which it was instituted. Happily for the farmer, it commenced under the auspices of a gentleman, who, though not a practical man himself, appeared devotedly attached to farming, and might be more susceptible of praise on this score than any other.

The society has lately lost a patron, who, by his importations of stock, his example, and urbane respondings to the various calls made on him by the agricultural interest, has a strong claim on the grateful remembrances and hearty good wishes of the farmer.

But we have to express our congratulations to the society, and our joy that the present representative of our truly good and gracious Queen has unequivocally expressed his sense of the importance of the plough to the prosperity of this beautiful colony. May we not expect much from a gentleman who spent his earliest years in a fertile district, having, on one hand, the famed vale of Berkeley—its deep, rich meadows producing vast crops of hay, and great abundance of the noted double Gloucester cheese, with cider of superior strength and excellence; on the other hand, the now productive Cotswold Hills, whose soil, a poor stone-brash, was deemed, at no very remote period, of little value, but, assisted by the sheep husbandry and sainfoin grass, has become famed for capital returns of corn, and great capability of maintaining and fattening vast flocks of improved sheep, &c.

It has been well observed, that the greater part of remarkable improvements in agriculture have emanated from persons not regularly bred to the calling. When a man displays energy, decision and superior talent in his own profession, it may be expected that, should agriculture become the object of his attention, the science will profit by the application of his matured mind.

In retrospection of the past season, your committee express much thankfulness that, while neighbouring countries and our father-land have suffered a diminution of many of the productions of the earth, our own favoured garden-spot has maintained about an average increase, enabling us to dispose of our surplus blessings to our less favoured neighbours. A dry seed-time was succeeded by seasonable rains in June, which carried out the hay to a fair crop; and although the latter part of the season was also dry, the retentive nature of the sub-soil, and the friable condition of the surface, enabled vegetation to perfect its productions, which were well secured in favourable harvest weather.

In regard to our present position and future prospects, your committee discern abundant cause for congratulation. Whilst great commercial and manufacturing countries—most probably from over-production and over-trading—are greatly convulsed in their credit and monetary concerns, this colony stands exempt from such baneful fluctuations. We hear of the storm that is desolating the commercial world, but are mercifully preserved from its ravages—the steady returns of the soil enabling the settler to meet the demands of the merchant, who is thereby placed in a situation to sustain his credit. Here the poor man can support himself, and make continual advances toward independence; whilst the emigrant, with capital or income, may not only employ himself pleasantly, usefully and profitably, but may possess himself of comforts and luxuries sufficient to render life pleasant in any country.

Our future prospects are cheering, and show, that while the culture of the earth is the most happy, independent, rational, natural employment of man, the productions of the soil are the safest staples he can produce or traffic in.

Inquiries for our produce multiply. Our markets increase.* One vessel which arrived late in the season, from Boston, carried away 7,280 bushels of oats, which she obtained at the Queen's Wharf, and completed her loading in the unprecedentedly short period of six days, thus showing the great advantages resulting from the use of threshing machines, as that large amount of grain was threshed out during the six days. Your committee view the increase of those labour-saving machines with much satisfaction.

Another vessel is expected at Three Rivers, from Britain, when the navigation opens to take back a cargo of oats, which are said to be in request in the London market for seed! Barley is sought for in the United States, &c. &c. Ship-building, at present, does not now wear a very prosperous aspect, nor lumbering. The decline of these may induce farmers in general to devote more of their time to the improvement of farming.

During the past year many very respectable persons have come among us to enrich us by their intellectual attainments, by investing their capital, or spending their income. We have room for a great many more; and your committee would rejoice to witness the tide of emigration, of emigrants of a superior class, set in more abundantly to the shores of this island.

Two thousand emigrants have arrived at Charlotte-town during the past season; others at different ports.

During the past year a census and statistical account of the whole island was taken, under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature; but as these interesting documents have not been officially published, your committee have no particular observations to offer on the subject.

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* This is in opposition to the statement of the Address upon the subject of "sufficient markets and prosperity."