

course. Having a pretty clean field, well prepared for oats, we sowed a bushel of Mammoth clover seed, which came away splendidly, and furnished a nice lot of pasture after the oats were cut. We have manured this ground, and intend to let the clover grow as long as possible before plowing for roots this spring. Two acres intended for mangels we manured and plowed last fall.

I think I will not take up the matter of rotation, except to strongly commend it. My letter has grown to considerable length, and I prefer to write "light and often."

Brant Co., Ont. DAVID PATTON.

Newfoundland's Awakening from Its Agricultural Snail's Pace.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I.

The dramatist, Boucicault, said it took seven weeks to saturate London with a fact. Though our fogs are less dense, and our men of affairs not so preoccupied as those in the seat of Empire, yet it takes several hundred weeks to get the idea into the mind of this "Most Ancient Colony" that agriculture was, is, or ever can be, one of its principal sources of wealth or earning power. At best, it is regarded by the great majority, at least, merely as a side line.

The Fishing Admirals, Surrogates and Naval Governors for hundreds of years believed that Newfoundland was simply a fish-flake in mid-Atlantic Ocean. Colonization—the building up—of prosperous communities in nearly every other part of the continent was promoted; in Newfoundland, agriculture—in fact, settlement of any sort—was discouraged. Immigrants did come, however, but the penal laws were enforced against them, and not until A. D. 1784 was religious toleration granted. "It is not in the interest of Great Britain," wrote Governor Milbanke, A. D. 1789. "to encourage people to winter in Newfoundland."

Sir Richard Keates, the last of the migratory governors, issued grants of land, A. D. 1813, which encouraged agriculture. Governor Cochrane, A. D. 1825, and other governors, followed his example, but, owing to the bitterness of the struggle for constitutional or representative government, the failure from time to time of the seal and cod fisheries, the ravages of wood-hauling, sheep-killing dogs, and the devastations of fire, the progress of colonization was retarded, showing, if proof be needed, the necessity of Home Rule, common-sense toleration, variety of industries, and proper safeguards for the protection of property.

II.

About seventy years ago, A. D. 1841, when the Governor of that period, Sir John Harvey, at a public meeting held in the Mechanics' Hall, spoke of the advantages of devoting some attention to the cultivation of the land, he was derided; most, if not all, of those present thinking that the fisheries afforded a better, if not the only way of earning a livelihood. Under the difficulties with which the early settlers and their descendants had to struggle, it is little wonder that the belief became widespread that no part of this Island—larger than Ireland—was fit for human habitation, outside a few fishing villages, towns or outposts fringing along thousands of miles of coast line. Sir John persevered, and an agricultural society was formed, and some progress made. On leaving the colony, he was presented with an address to the effect that, "under the influence of his continued encouragement and support, the society steadily advanced in the diffusion of a desire for agricultural knowledge, and succeeded not only in introducing great improvements in the practice of agriculture, but in developing some of the natural resources of the colony, which were previously imperfectly known."

Other societies from time to time were established, but their cruse of energy soon became exhausted. An onward move was made A. D. 1869, when the first general agricultural exhibition was held in St. John's, through the exertions of the late Archdeacon Botwood. Not until the agricultural settlement in St. George's District, and especially the Codroy Valley, took root, with the good counsel and example of the late Monsignor Sears, and his successors in the West Coast Diocese, Monsignor Howley, now the Archbishop of St. John's, and Bishop McNeill, now Archbishop of Vancouver, nor forgetting the efforts of Bishop McDonald and others in the Diocese of Harbor Grace, and the clearing of land in different parts of the colony, under the encouragement of the Bond Land Bonus Act, was the fact generally recognized that farming could be made a paying or flourishing industry in Newfoundland. As an illustration of the "Snail's Pace" which agriculture, horticulture and other kindred industries up to this time were making, we may mention the circumstance that Bannerman Park, adjoining the Colonial Building, and within a stone's throw of the gubernatorial residence, was allowed to remain as a dumping-ground for refuse, tin cans and

empty bottles (dead soldiers), which had done contingency committee service for both Honorable Houses. Those who made an effort, through the establishment of an Arbor Society or Home Industrial Movement, to have the place improved or converted into a public park or children's playground, and who saved it from being divided into building lots, were said to be "planting gum-trees to climb into social life." At an overflow meeting held to promote the object, a popular orator declared they "could do without parks, as their fathers did before them."

III.

The great fire of 1892, and the money and energy required to rebuild St. John's, were, no doubt, reasons why greater progress has not been made in recent years in the direction we are writing about. Education, however, is spreading; newer methods are being tried; times are changing, and we are changing with them. But no project or movement will ever get out of the Snail's Pace if it is merely partizan, and not national. Petty envy and jealousy, fearing "the other fellow" might get some credit or undue political advantage, oftentimes has nearly as much to do with thwarting necessary improvements as crass ignorance or incredulity about the capabilities of the soil, or the climate for growing crops, fruit, or stock-raising. The man who evinces any earnestness or enthusiasm is generally regarded as a fool, or worse, and the genius who never steps outside the beaten track or the old ruts is the wisacre who deserves and receives the public plums; nevertheless, there must be some truth in what Ruskin says, that, "The world's best work is done by men who receive no recognition for their services, at least in this sublunary sphere."

IV.

Not until the epoch-making speech of the late Sir William V. Whiteway, A. D. 1898, was any Government of the Colony committed to a policy of agricultural settlement. One of the resolutions moved by him, and adopted by the "Committee of the House," declared that a survey "should be made for a line of road connecting Bay of Islands with Notre Dame Bay, via Humber Valley, and also for a line of road into the Gander and Grand Lake districts, with a view of opening up and settling the agricultural lands in those districts."

Why the heavy expenditure for railway construction has not realized "the great expectations" of its promoters in the way of agricultural settlement, it is not our present purpose to inquire. We feel disposed, rather, to aim at encouraging, or inciting renewed, persistent efforts to get out of the Snail's Pace, than to indulge in captious criticism. Such arable land as the colony possesses, we admit, was not accessible for settlement until within the past decade or so, nor are considerable portions of it yet, for want of good highways, or an improved system of public roads—a matter to which the Government of this Colony must devote attention on the lines now considered necessary by the Government of Quebec for the promotion of agriculture in that Province. Those in trade were deeply engrossed in other business directions, and public men had to grapple with serious political problems or international treaty complications which "cribb'd, cabin'd and confin'd" the progress and national aspirations of the New-found-land.

The agricultural and manufacturers' exhibitions were all, or nearly all, that could be expected or desired; and the agricultural exhibits, the textile fabrics, the horse, cattle and poultry show; the earnestness of the speeches; the skill and attention to detail of the managers; the keen interests of thousands of visitors; the good-feeling and strict order that prevailed, afford proof that an advance has been made, and give reasonable assurance that much more can be accomplished in the near future.

The usefulness of a Board of Agriculture will scarcely, after this, be called in question, nor the appropriation of \$40,000 be considered too much out of a revenue of \$3,500,000, for improved stock and kindred objects, when judiciously expended.

V.

It is confidently trusted that farming will soon rank as an earning power next to our great staple industry, the cod fishery. The census of A. D. 1901 estimated the agricultural products at \$2,449,500, and the census of next year, A. D. 1911, will probably show an increase of 25 per cent., making a total of \$3,124,375.

But effort in the promotion of local industries should be increased twofold, else the expense of the exhibitions above mentioned would be money and energy misdirected. "The game," so to speak, "would not be worth the candle," or great display of electric bulbs. The time is opportune to make a more determined, energetic effort all along the line of agricultural, manufacturing, and every other industrial pursuit. Why, because the taxes to pay the interest on the public debt to the Caesars of Lombard Street, London, the rentals of absentee landlords, and other

drains, require retrenchment in the administration of public affairs, thrift in private living, and, particularly, greater earning power, in order to preserve what has been eloquently described as "the splendid charter of our Legislative independence." Not only is the time opportune, we repeat, for planning and promoting agricultural settlement, it is imperative. To become a really great self-governing country—the Belgium, Sweden or Norway of the New World—under the aegis of Imperial Britain, what is left of our 42,200 square miles of territory must, where suitable, be put under agricultural cultivation, and with that will spring up a number of manufacturing industries, such as woollen manufactures.

VI.

The incentives to prosecute local industries, especially agriculture, are strong, because, apart from sentiment of amor patria, there is an almost illimitable English market for farm products, nearer to us than to Canada or the United States, besides which the home cash market would of itself require all that could be raised here for many years to come, as the following customs returns of imports for the financial year, A. D. 1910, prove:

Animals, oxen, etc., \$142,982; sheep, \$11,793; butter, \$89,691; bacon, hams (smoked), \$15,115; beef in barrels, \$410,185; bacon, hams (dry-salted), \$6,138; cabbages, \$8,914; cheese, \$40,786; Indian corn, \$12,548; cattle feed, \$96,046; eggs, \$6,941; feathers, \$1,420; hay, \$40,302; hides, \$14,431; lard, \$5,025; meats (canned), \$31,558; fresh meats, \$39,165; salted meats, \$6,138; meal, \$1,574; oats, \$172,894; oatmeal, \$22,746; onions, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, \$15,985; pigs' hocks, \$27,543; pigs' jowls, \$11,159; pork (family), \$451,240; ham and mess pork, \$21,029; potatoes, \$27,554; poultry (alive), \$408; poultry and game, \$17,582; peas, \$39,772; sausages, \$7,220; straw, \$767; turnips, beets, etc., \$3,396; trees, shrubs, plants and trees, \$13,495; wheat, \$26. Total, \$1,848,503. That is exclusive of flour, the greater portion of which is imported from Canada and the United States, \$2,257,715.

We are getting out of the agricultural "Snail's Pace," it is true; but is it not time? We have skating, rolling and curling rinks, golf links and lawn-tennis courts, and billiard rooms galore, but not one Farmers' Institute or public library; no decent local fresh-fish market, or a country produce market. "Men of the Rake," like Jocelyn, Martin, Neville, Cowan, Lawlor, and others, are seldom met with nowadays, but the cigarette fiend is encountered at every turn.

VII.

As this article is sufficiently lengthy for a somewhat dull subject, but on which the writer has some practical experience, and reads considerably, we will defer further observations for another occasion. In concluding, then, for the present, may we not ask, "Shall fair Terra Nova keep in the background, while other parts of the world are vigorously marching on in the way of agricultural development?" What if mistakes have been made in the past, did not a master mind (Carlyle) say: "Our very walking is only stumbling ahead."

Without belittling the importance, in truth glorying in the "mainstay of the Colony"—the fisheries—and taking just pride in the progress of our manufacturing and similar enterprises, may we not correctly assert that the occupation of the farmer affords remunerative returns for his labor. His crop seldom or never fails; the price of his products scarcely ever fluctuates; his property steadily increases in value, and becomes an heirloom to his family. He is not exposed to many of the risks, perils, hardships or vicissitudes of others. Procrastination, waste, inertia, find no place in his daily routine. Thrift, frugality, industry, the joys of comfortable home, are his, and seldom or never the Poor Asylum or the pauper's dole. Does not the prosecution of an industry like this deserve the earnest thought and prompt action of the general public, irrespective of party? When this will have been manifested, accompanied by moral and intellectual worth, some millionaire, like Sir William Macdonald, who commenced his successful business career here, may become inspired to endow an agricultural college, which would keep us from relapsing into the "Snail's Pace," and save the country, once for all, from being what Lord Salisbury aptly described, "The sport of historic misfortune."

St. John's, Newfoundland. P. R. BOWERS.

The Drainage Law.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I was very much pleased to see that article of W. J. Way's on "Drainage Repairs and Taxes." He has manifested the desire to relieve the farmers of Ontario, to some extent, of the heavy tax inflicted by the present drainage system, which is keenly felt by all who have had any experience with it. He has given some very practical suggestions. But we can never have our land properly drained, at a reasonable cost, under the present system of drainage. I would suggest that