

Speech of the Hon. John McIntosh at the banquet tendered to him at Montreal by his friends, the 3d April 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

There are times in a man's life, especially in his political life, when he is apt to feel that his friends forsake him; there are times when a man fails to comply with his friends' wishes, either by assisting them in some way or another; or by being unable to redress some real or imaginary wrong: first because he is unable, and secondly, at other times when it would not be in the general interest for him to do so; and when these circumstances occur, it is very often attributed to him that he is ungrateful and forgetful of the many favors which he has received from time to time at their hands. No one ought to be more grateful than the one who has chosen a political life; one who has given himself over to the service of his country, and when in his power and in the general interests he ought to be the first to acknowledge his position of trust by being generous towards them. But this evening, Mr. Chairman, I find that you have not laid heavily to my charge the sin of political ingratitude, for I find myself at this grand and beautiful demonstration, surrounded by a great many of my friends, not only of those who believe as I do politically, but by many who differ from me politically.

I have had the occasion in the past to contend on the hustings from county to county with those gentlemen; I, believing that I could serve my country better by being a Conservative, on the other hand, they believing they could do so by working with the Liberal Party. They have as good a right to their opinion as I claim I had to mine, and to-night I am proud to see my Liberal friends, here at this national gathering, and I hope we shall make it an enjoyable feast for every one present. This gathering, Mr. Chairman, is a truly representative one from the City of Montreal, as well as from the rural districts of this province, and while I feel greatly pleased with the character of this banquet, I should fail in my duty, were I not to say that, while you have the honor to preside over such a gathering of gentlemen, it is also an honor for us to have you act in the capacity, as Chairman, not especially because you are the chief magistrate of the greatest city in the Dominion, but because you have an untarnished name. For many years you have taken a deep interest in the civic matters of this city, you have also taken an active part in our provincial matters, and yet there is no stain on your public life? I said a few moments ago, Mr. Chairman, that we were a truly representative body of men assembled, here to-night, not only from the City of Montreal, but from the rural parts of this province. It is well that it should be so, for, I believe, that the interests of both ought to be blended together. I believe it is impossible to have so prosperous a city if the agricultural interests are not in a prosperous condition, and *vice versa*. I believe that the agricultural interests are more prosperous when our commercial centres are in a flourishing condition. If I am right on this point, then I believe it necessary that both should work together for the common welfare of all. I believe a new era has begun in this Province and in the Dominion which I believe will tend to make this a more prosperous country and more remunerative for the farmers; namely, develop-

ing our dairy industry. This work was begun some years ago, under former Governments, but I believe no Government has ever done so much as what is being done at the present time. Great credit ought to be given to the present Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. La. Beaubien, for the energetic and practical way in which he is pushing this work forward. There are now in the Province over four hundred & fifty (450) Farmers' Clubs, all well organized and doing a good work, holding meetings weekly or every two weeks, as the case may be, discussing amongst themselves the best mode to be adopted in farming, which is to them a veritable school for the farmers and their sons; where they can exchange thoughts and ideas with one another. We have come to realise this fact, that we must work more intelligently than we have in the past, if we want to keep pace with other countries, which are strong competitors in the same market where we have to dispose of our products. These clubs tend to assist us in learning how to cheapen the production and maintain a good quality of such articles as we have to find a market for. These clubs also tend to bring farmers closer together and as it were concentrate their ideas together. We also have a few public lecturers in the Province, whose duty it is to occasionally give a lecture on farming under the auspices of these clubs. We also have a great many men in our country who have the interests of the Agriculturists at heart; who devote a great deal of their time, without any remuneration whatever, to attending those farmers meetings and give a lecture or read a paper on different subjects pertaining to farming. We have an opportunity at these gatherings to tell the farmers that it pays better to go largely into butter and cheese-making than any other branch of farming. The reason, Mr. Chairman, is this: Providence has favored us with a favorable climate, good grazing, well watered land, and we have already demonstrated, as I will show you in a very few moments, that we have all the intelligence required to manufacture an excellent article of both butter and cheese, so that we are able to compete successfully with any country in the world as to quality. We also have an opportunity at those Farmers' Clubs to say that a man who does not milk his cows ten months a year is not farming with as much intelligence as he might do. We can also say that the man who does not get a revenue of \$50.00 a year from each cow, has either got the wrong breed of cows or he is not raising on his farm the proper kinds of succulent food to enable that cow to produce the right quantity and quality of milk. We can also take the advantage at those meetings of saying that the farmer who only keeps fifteen or twenty head of cattle the year round on a farm of one hundred acres does not prove himself to be a benefactor to his race, for we teach him an object lesson right there, and point out to him many who succeed in keeping nearly double that quantity on the same number of acres. An object lesson is what is wanted, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the Agricultural Class, and a few practical farmers do an immense good in the surrounding localities, where they are situated. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the day is not far distant when this Province alone will export more butter and cheese than has been exported by the whole Dominion in 1893.

There is such a movement now going on which cannot fail to reach that proportion which I have just

stated, and if ever there was a time that we needed the co-operation of the commercial people in the city of Montreal, it is the present time, and that is to assist us in maintaining quality and having our goods reach the consumer in the different markets where our goods are sold in as fresh and acceptable a condition as possible. The question of inspection of butter and cheese has often been under consideration in the Legislature at Quebec but as yet no action has been taken; I mean this inspection to be one made when goods are shipped and these goods branded under the inspector's brand. How far we can go in this direction I am unable to say, or whether it would be of any advantage to us, but I believe if we can produce fine goods there ought to be some way in which those goods can be protected, and thereby encourage the manufacturer to keep quality uppermost in his mind. I do not think, gentlemen, that I have over estimated the amount of pounds of butter and cheese this province is able to produce, and I am sure I have not exaggerated as to the quality. I propose now, Mr. Chairman, to strengthen some of my remarks by referring to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago and then show what success we have obtained by putting our exhibits from this province, composed of all products of the soil, horses and cattle; comparing them with other countries who were there, and showing the resources of their country to the best advantage. Before doing so, let me say that this province, as well as the Dominion of Canada, were well treated by our neighboring Republic, the United States, sharing the same advantages as other countries and with the same facilities as to space and position as any State in the Union; and, personally, I had the hearty co-operation of colleagues in the Cabinet and especially of the Minister of Agriculture, whose department was more immediately concerned. I had also an Advisory Board, composed of men who had large experience in exhibition matters; therefore, with a Government who had confidence in my work, and an Advisory Board such as I have mentioned, success was almost sure to follow. Time would fail me were I to mention particularly the different courts occupied by the Province of Quebec: our fruit exhibit, our minerals, our agricultural products, our educational exhibit, and our forestry. I would only say that no Canadian visiting the Exhibition would be ashamed to acknowledge, while viewing those different exhibits, that he came from the same country where those were produced. For horses and cattle, especially our cattle, we were very successful. Taking the Ayrshire breed alone, prizes in money to the amount of ten hundred and thirty dollars; in all, on cattle, we succeeded in taking twenty-seven prizes, many of them being first prizes, and two sweepstakes. Great credit is due to those who contributed by sending their cattle and horses, as it required many months in getting those cattle prepared and fitted so that they would appear to as good advantage as possible. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that they have got their reward, besides doing a vast amount of good to the Province. Today the demand for dairy-breeds of cattle and the success we obtained with our Ayrshires has, I believe, doubled the value and increased the demand of the young male animals of either Ayrshires or Jerseys.

Mr. Chairman I will now confine my address to butter and cheese. Our first competition took place in the

month of June, and although our exhibit of cheese was not large, in numbers, we were very successful. Out of seventy cheese we took fifty-two medals. Such marked success as that was a great surprise to many, but I knew those cheeses had been carefully selected by my friend, Mr. H. S. Foster, of Knowlton; not only selected, but he had supervised the manufacture of those cheeses, and his untiring efforts I felt would prove successful. I might say here, Mr. Chairman, that our exhibit of cheese and butter were under the charge of Col. O. P. Patton while on Exhibition; and I assure you when those cheeses were presented to the judges, they appeared to as good advantage as possible. When the awards were made public, the Chicago Press commented very strongly on the position Canada had taken, and some newspapers went so far as to say that this was a snapped verdict, as the cheese had been judged by two Canadians and one American, wondering at the same time why Quebec had taken so many medals. While reading these comments in the newspapers one would be led to think: where is the Province of Quebec situated? That alone Mr. Chairman taught me a lesson, and that is, that we here in this Province do not talk enough about our own country. Why, Sir, I found that the people of each State of the Union were always talking about themselves, and when they found nothing more to say about their own State, they talked about the Union as a whole. It was stated in the daily press of that city what they would do when the fall competition took place, (which would be in October) and how they would show Canadians who were entitled to have the name of making fine cheese. Our answer to their disappointment a challenge was that the Dominion of Canada had come to the World's Fair with their products on the first of May, and we intended to stay six months, and when the month of October came round we would again be there with an exhibit of cheese ready to meet them.

The month of October soon came, Mr. Chairman, and the Province of Quebec was there with one hundred and thirteen cheese from one hundred and thirteen exhibitors.

The judges selected to do the work at this competition were two American and one Canadian judge and out of the one hundred and thirteen cheese, from the Province of Quebec, we were awarded one hundred and five medals, only eight of this lot did not score points enough to entitle them to a medal. I might add that out of this test, five of our cheese scored 99½ points, out of a possible one hundred points: almost perfect cheese Mr. Chairman. Three of these were exhibited from French parishes in this Province. We had another test of cheese made in 1892, which was over one year old. Out of forty-five cheese, which we had on exhibition, forty-one scored high enough to be entitled to a medal. Putting those figures altogether, you will find that at the different times of competition we had in all on exhibition 228 cheeses and we took 198 medals.

In butter we did not do as well. It had been shipped in refrigerator cars from Montreal to Chicago, but previously having to come from different parts of the Province, and taking in all the time it was in transit, we are confident it lost somewhat in flavour. But notwithstanding the distance we had to ship this perishable article, we were