

high authority. Dr. Lawson reports as follows:

The Yarmouth County Agricultural Society numbers 250 members, and is without exception the largest society in the Province. It has been actively engaged for fifteen years in introducing new implements, new varieties of vegetables and fruit, and for fourteen years past annual exhibitions have been held, at which latterly a sum of about \$1,000 is expended in prizes. This year the prizes offered amount to \$2,000. Although this is a District Exhibition embracing the Counties of Digby and Shelburne, as well as Yarmouth, yet the exhibits are chiefly from this County, and it is mainly through the energy of those members who are within convenient reach of the town that the exhibition is being carried out. Still there are some very creditable exhibits from a distance, and a few from other Counties. Some years ago the broad principle was adopted of opening the competition to all.

The improvements in Stock have been undertaken chiefly with a view to the dairy, and excellent Jerseys have been introduced, as well as Ayrshires, and at an earlier period Devons from New Brunswick.

The cultivation of the finer kinds of hot house grapes in cold graperies has been pursued for some years in the town with marked success. The vineries of the Hon. L. E. Baker, Capt. Hugh Cann, Capt. George H. Lovett and S. Killam, Senr., being specially noticeable. The general taste for horticulture is rapidly extending, as may be seen by the improved grounds and gardens around the residences, which are protected by trim hedges of spruce and English hawthorn.

The fruit tables show as fine apples, in several varieties, as can be seen anywhere. These are mostly from inland districts, but even on the sea-shore there are some kinds that flourish more luxuriantly than in the warm valleys of Annapolis. The Keswick Codlin (a very useful household fruit long held in esteem in England) is laden with beautiful fruit in the gardens around Yarmouth Harbor, and Grime's Golden Pippin, from inland localities in this County, have been shown at some former Provincial Exhibitions of a finer quality than from any other part of the Province.

The exhibits of Dairy Stock, of field roots, of garden vegetables and of dairy produce, all show that there is every prospect of reward to those who engage in improvement and extended effort in these departments.

Yarmouth has been hitherto dependant for water supply upon springs and public wells, but within the last year the water of Lake George, nine miles from the town, has been brought in by a system of iron pipes, and has not only conduced to the comfort of the inhabitants, but is calculated to improve the sanitary condition of the place, to give protection from fire, and especially to lead to the extension of certain manufactures. The Woollen Factory is now in active operation, and business, which has for some years been very much depressed, is rapidly reviving. The railway is bringing in heavy trains of deals, spars, ship timber and other forest and mill products. The passenger travel on the railway has greatly increased, the facilities afforded by semi-weekly trips to Boston and Portland giving a large through traffic.

The Society has made special efforts by premiums and otherwise to stimulate farmers

to the growth of grain, and to experiments on the most productive varieties. One result is that four grist mills have been established. One exhibitor has this year raised forty bushels of wheat from three pecks sown. The increase of the growth of grain within the last few years has been from an inconsiderable quantity to many thousands of bushels.

There are at present four sea-going steamers lying at the wharves."

To the people of Yarmouth, much of the information contained in this valuable summary is already well known, but as the proceedings of the day will be scanned by people who do not belong to the County, I am quite sure a large part of what this paper contains will be new to the rest of the Province, and will afford evidences of a very gratifying character to those Counties in which Yarmouth is known only as a large ship-building and ship-owning community.

This Exhibition is only Sectional, but it is to be followed by one that is to be Provincial. The one, therefore, may be considered as preparatory to the other; it gives the opportunity of comparing notes with one another, of testing your strength in your own neighborhood. When you have done this you will find what there is among you that is most likely to bear a more extended competition. The Sectional Exhibition collects the people in each locality. It lets them see what otherwise many of them would fail to see—the best specimens of produce the neighborhood yields. It helps to interest them in the pursuit of agriculture—to make them aim at improvement. It tends to excite in them a desire to have on their farms the best stock, the best produce of all kinds which it is in their power to grow. If this were a Provincial Exhibition, designed for the whole people, it would be attended mainly by the inhabitants of the central Counties, who have already made great strides in agricultural improvements; while it is really most important that the people of even other parts of the Province, who have made less progress in that branch of industry, should catch the spirit which has already produced such great results among certain sections of our people. If, therefore, the people in the more distant Counties cannot at first be induced to come to an exhibition at the centre, the exhibition must leave the centre and come to them. If the coffin will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must come to the coffin. When the exhibitors have become interested in the subject, when they have tested their strength and ascertained what are the things in which they excel, they will be better qualified and more disposed to meet at a central exhibition and try conclusions with all comers.

I hope sincerely that the present effort will give a stimulus to the agriculture of

this part of the Province. It is always a great advantage to have more than one string to your bow. If there is any one thing more than another that assures Nova Scotia of a steady and uniform prosperity, not a spasmodic and intermittent one, it is the variety of her resources. In the average which nature always establishes in her arrangements, there may be a failure in one of the several branches of business, but they do not all fail at one and the same time. Disaster may overtake one crop, but it does not destroy all the crops at the same time. If an adverse year occurs in shipping or in ship-building, in lumbering or in mining, in the fisheries or in trade, it will not happen to all these branches of business at the same time. Thus, where the resources are various, there may be a failure of one or more for a time, and still there may remain an average of prosperity and success. No people are so liable to serious reverses as those who are wholly dependant on a single industry. As it is with a Province so it is with a County or city. In the variety of resources consists the most certain assurance of a continuous prosperity. Even now there are many people who affect to fear that the halcyon days of ships and ship-building are over for Nova Scotia. They see or think they see a revolution going on in reference to the ocean highway, somewhat similar to that which has taken place on land. They think that steam is fast becoming the motive power by which ships are to be propelled, and that iron is rapidly superseding wood in their construction. But in the battle between wind and wood on one side, and steam and iron on the other, victory will perch on the standards of the new power and the new material. There is probably much exaggeration in these statements. They may apply only to a small class of shipping, or to shipping engaged in special classes of trade. But whether the statements be true or false, it cannot but be wise in every community largely interested, as many parts of Nova Scotia are, in the shipping business, to have additional resources in other branches of industry.

The Exhibition of to-day and the statements contained in Dr. Lawson's paper, show that your people do not undervalue the advantages of agricultural products. They show something more—they prove that already you not only have achieved some distinction in this pursuit, but that you have engaged in a variety of other branches of industry, independently of that in which you have made such large accumulations. It proves that the energy and enterprise, the business skill and ability, which have built ships; which have competed for trade in the markets of the world, and competed successfully; which have enriched your people and beautified your whole coast, is ready to