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point of view they may be regarded.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST, 1874.

Our Industries Past and Present.

Whoever possesses the slightest knowledge of the resources of the Province of New Brunswick must perceive that the three staple industries of the country are connected with our soil, our forests and our fisheries. Traces of coal have been discovered, and mining operations have been prosecuted to some extent at various points; but the initiated are aware that the search for and development of our "mineral wealth," so called, has left a balance on the wrong side of the ledger. We have, however, in our building stones and granites valuable properties which, in a few localities, give employment to a considerable number of persons, and this is a branch of industry which may be expected to grow and prosper. There are other forms of industry to which we might refer, but they are not connected with the natural resources of the country, with which we desire at present to deal. Having a fortune for ourselves and our descendants in the soil, the sea and the forest, we ought to be careful to make the best possible use of them, and an economical use is the best use:—that is to say, we ought to make every stick of timber, every standard of deals, for instance, leave something behind it in the country to represent its value, if we must ship these products away, or, if we work our woods up at home, we should see that they are turned into such useful forms as to make them sought after at remunerative prices by those countries who have not our privileges as regards the raw material. In fact, instead of shipping the raw material, we should work it up at home and ship the manufactured article; and there is no reason in the world, except want of forethought and enterprise, that pre-

vents our doing so. Take an illustration: E. D. Jewett & Co., of this city, ship large quantities of lumber to the States, there to be manufactured into sashes, doors, etc., for the American market, not merely in the States but in other parts of the Continent. What is to prevent our using up our own woods in this way? What is there to keep our sashes and doors, our pails and tubs, our best of other wooden goods, out of South America, or Mexico or the West Indies? To England we ship enormous quantities of spruce lumber and pine timber: is it not probable that this raw material is there being turned into manufactured goods which might be produced more cheaply in Canada? The subject ought to receive very serious consideration from those among us who have their capital invested in lumbering and milling operations, and who might be adding to their business the further manufacturing of the woods which others find so profitable.

Of our fisheries a good deal more might be said than we have time to say at present. There is no doubt of the vast extent of these sources of wealth. All the best of the food fishes of the continent are found in our waters, and we have every facility for securing them, in the form of harbors, bays, etc., along an extensive seaboard. But what are we doing in the matter of utilizing these fisheries? Are there as many of our people engaged in this pursuit as its importance demands? Do we venture from home as the Americans venture? We fear these queries must be answered in the negative, when we compare the "catch" with the known extent of the fisheries and with the use which foreigners make of our waters. It was held that the Washington Treaty was to be a wonderful benefit to our fishermen, and certainly if there was any good for us in that international compromise, it ought to have been found in the provision to admit our fish free to the United States markets. But what use have we made of the privilege? Has it led to the fitting out of twenty more fishing craft? We do not find any satisfactory results thus far, although they may yet come. What we would urge is that no time be lost in taking advantage of the provisions of the Treaty, as the sooner we make up our minds to make the most of our fisheries the better for all the interests of our Province.

As regards Agriculture, there can be little doubt that it is not prosecuted in a way to give the surest and largest returns. Nothing seems so absurd as for a man who claims to be a farmer having his twenty or thirty acres of land divided up among half a dozen different kinds of crops,—a little of potatoes, a little of oats, a little of hay, a little pasture, a little wheat, a little corn, a few turnips, and so on. This is not farming. No great and

wealthy farming district was ever built up after this fashion. If a man's proposal is merely to grow enough to keep body and soul together and save his family from starvation, he ought, perhaps, to carry on this kitchen garden farming; but if he desires to make farming pay, he will lay off his farm in large fields, thus saving fencing. He will make it a hay farm, or a stock farm, or a sheep farm, or a grain farm, according to the condition of his soil, and changing from year to year, agreeably to a proper rotation of crops, if he wishes to have grain. Above all, he should devote his farm mainly to one form of cultivation, whether hay or grain. Probably good grass land and stock feeding is as profitable a use as suitable property can be put to, and we believe sheep farming has not received the attention to which it is entitled in this country. A most important consideration is to have level fields, to be mown or cultivated by machinery, which secures a steady class of hands and does not leave the farmer dependent upon the drifting, unsettled field hands who have become scarce and are, at their best, but a poor investment in the shape of farm labor. With a better knowledge of the elements of the soil, a thorough mastery of one or two branches of farm industry, and a higher idea of the nobility of agricultural and country life, our farmers would be richer, more contented and more envied, than they are at present, while it would be found that a "large clearance" was not necessary to success in farming, inasmuch as a few acres thoroughly cultivated would be found more productive than many acres only half cultivated. In the vicinity of a city, root crops, and kitchen garden stuff generally, are always found exceedingly profitable, and there is probably no place in America that offers a better market to the farmers in its suburbs than St. John. We maintain that a radical change must be made in the farming operations of the larger portion of the Province, if the young men are to be kept home, and if farming is to become truly profitable. We have a noble soil, embracing every variety; our farmers have first rate markets for their surplus; and it is their duty to see that their soil does not become impoverished, and that while aiding nature in every way, they make their land return them its fullest possible yield.

We might enlarge on these points at length, but space will not permit. We cannot close, however, without appealing to our people to put forth every energy to develop the magnificent country God has given us. In natural beauty what can surpass it? In facilities for transportation by rail or sea or interior roads, where is it deficient? Is it not watered by rivers and streams and studded with lakes, in such number as to call forth the admiration of all beholders? With its free churches and