

countries in Europe; and their population had been longer trained in those habits of order which are essential to industrial pre-eminence, and in which ours was deficient. Our Dutch and Flemish neighbors improved us in fen drainage, and in reclaiming land from the sea: they also introduced new seeds, and improved our agricultural practice. Implements and usages still varied in every country, and almost in every parish. Bligh, in his "Improver improved" (1632) pointed out the advantage of growing clover for cattle; and Sir Richard Weston soon after published an account of the cultivation of turnips in Flanders, by which cattle and sheep might be fattened in winter. The woollen was still the most important branch of non-agricultural industry. Hackney-coaches made their first appearance in 1625, there being only twenty for the metropolis and its neighbourhood.

1660 to 1760.—Our manufactures continued to improve by instruction from other countries; and the exportation of wool was now prohibited. Spitalfields, in London, now produced silk manufactures; and Frenchmen, at Ipswich, made fine linen, which sold at 15s. per ell—an enormous price, looking at the then great value of money. Agriculture also advanced. The historian says: "The state of things to which the Revolution of 1688 put a termination, was favourable to the development of agricultural industry during the present period. Other political circumstances also favoured the landed interest; and for eighty years after the Revolution, England, as we have seen, was a corn-exporting country. From 1697 to 1773, the total excess of exports amounted to 30,368,366 qrs. of corn, upon which bounties were paid of not less than £6,237,176. From 1748 to 1752, the average quantity exported was 643,961 qrs annually. The bounty paid in 1750 amounted to £324,176. Fresh land was brought into cultivation, and in 1710 the first Enclosure Act was passed. In 1697 a duty was laid in England on malt, and the same duty was extended to Scotland in 1713. In 1710 the winnowing machine was introduced from Holland: in Scotland its use was denounced from the pulpit as impious. The thrashing machine was first employed in the northern parts of the island about the same time. No instrument for saving labour has made such slow progress; and in many extensive districts its use is unknown even in the present day. In 1732 Jethro Tull commenced his experiments in drilling and horse-hoeing on his farm in Berkshire; but thirty years elapsed before they excited much practical attention, and before the really valuable parts of his system began to be adopted by intelligent agriculturists. Towards the close of the period, the extension of the turnip husbandry was already effecting the most important revolution in the history of modern agriculture. Those improvements were also commenced which have gone on towards eradicating the defects of the ancient

breeds of domestic animals in this country. Bakewell, the great improver of live stock, began his experiments about the year 1760. The writings of Evelyn, published near the close of the last period, had awakened a taste for horticulture and planting. Gardens had become a luxury, on which large sums were expended. The cottage of the labourer began to be considered incomplete without a plot of ground for the cultivation of vegetables; and a great increase took place in the quantity and variety of vegetables consumed by the labouring classes. The farmer who did not provide plenty of greens, peas, and beans for his servants to eat with their salt meat, was despised for his parsimony. By the middle of the century the cultivation of the potato had become almost general in every part of England, and the prejudice against its use had been nearly removed; but in some quarters premiums were still resorted to for the purpose of bringing this root into consumption amongst the poor."

1760 to 1860.—This being decidedly the most progressive era in the history of British agriculture, I have annexed a chronological list of the many important agricultural events of that period—which progress was still mainly owing to our great manufacturing advance, and consequent rapid increase of population. Judging of the future by the past, what are we to expect in agricultural progress from 1860 to 1960, with a population of 50 or 60 millions, instead of 30 millions? Our population was, a century ago, probably not more than six or seven millions; now it is thirty millions. The mind naturally asks, How long is this manufacturing increase to go on, and when shall our manufactures have attained their climax, and when shall commence their decline? Because then shall, indeed, begin the decline of British agriculture. Begging pardon for this digression, I must again quote from the historian of that period: "In 1784 roads had improved, and Mr. Palmer started the first mail coach; previous to this 380 towns got their letters only three times a week, and 40 towns had no post at all, but now they get them daily. From 1785 to 1800 there were 683 Acts of Parliament relating to roads, bridges, &c.; 196 to canals; 834 to enclosures, draining, &c."

*Legislation affecting Agriculture.*—Our senators appear to have been constantly attempting to set agriculture in order, according to their own notions, by Acts of Parliament. They do not appear to have succeeded very well in their objects, for most of the Acts fell into desuetude, or were evaded; some of them would sound oddly at the present day, such as: No tenant should rent two farms. No tenant-farmer should have more than 2,000 sheep. 1538, That the King was to have half the profit from all land converted from tillage into pasture until a suitable house was built upon it. Every cottage was to have four acres of land; and no more than one family in each cottage. There was an Act