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EARLY in the year we suffered the serious loss of Joseph J. Northup, President of the Central Board of Agriculture. And now, ere its close, we have to add, with regret and sorrow, another distinguished name to the Roll of the Great Majority—that of his worthy successor in office, the Hon. RICHARD A. McHEFFEY, who died at the age of 73.

Mr. McHeffey was well known in the Province, and, indeed, throughout the Dominion, as a prominent Member of the Local Government and of the Legislative Council. But some of his best qualities, as a wise counsellor, and an honest, warm-hearted man, with the genuine spirit and bearing of an English gentleman, could be fully known only to those who came into personal contact with him. Himself an excellent practical farmer, who, in his younger days, could hold a plough with any Scotchman, he was likewise the son of an able and successful farmer, and the grandson of John Clarke, whom we have heard spoken of as one of the best agriculturists that ever set foot on a Nova Scotia field. Mr. McHeffey had thus various and strong claims upon the respect and affections of Nova Scotian farmers, and we simply express a fact that is widely known when we say that his selection to the Presidency of the Agricultural Board gave universal satisfaction. We need hardly add that in the Board itself he was highly respected, and enjoyed the confidence of every Member.

As a gentleman farmer, unostentatious in his habits, Mr. McHeffey spent a life of quiet usefulness on his patrimonial estate at Windsor, leaving it only for a time, like the Roman of old, when the exigency of public affairs called him away to assist in the business of the State. He had the genuine spirit of the country gentleman, and was known from early youth to have a keen sense of honour.

We might dwell upon the good qualities of head and heart of our deceased friend. But we would rather refer to some of the substantial services which he rendered to the farmers of Nova Scotia. Some twenty years ago he was deputed, along with one of his former neighbours—now an old and respected gentleman who is everywhere revered by Nova Scotia farmers—John Northup, (the father of our former President and of the Hon. Senator Northup,)—to travel through the Northern States and Western Canada to see what animals could be obtained for the improvement of our live stock in Nova Scotia. One special object was to obtain an improved breed of sheep, and they scoured the New England States without success. They were told at Albany, the great Agricultural centre of the north, that no animals could be purchased in the States that were worth importing, and were recommended to try Western Canada. They accordingly proceeded to London, Paris, Galt Brantford, and ultimately succeeded in obtaining a small flock of Leicester, which were then scarce even in

Canada. This importation laid the foundation of the modern improvement of sheep in Nova Scotia, and the progeny of these animals still exist at Newport. Visiting Niagara on their way, Messrs. McHeffey and Northup drew into the service the late Judge Campbell, Mr. McHeffey's cousin, well known by his efforts in promoting fruit culture at a time when there were few orchards in Ontario, and no Fruit Growers' Associations on this Continent. After examining some hundreds of entire Horses, all through their devious routes of travel, they succeeded finally in purchasing ten suitable animals, five in New York, one at the Quebec Exhibition, one at Montreal, one in New Hampshire and one in Vermont. The labour and anxiety of bringing all these Horses safely to Halifax at a time when means of communication were so much less perfect than now, can be estimated only by those who have had such a charge on their hands in a strange country among strangers. But they were all safely landed, after many a hairbreadth escape. Several of them, Napoleon, St. Lawrence, the Shearman Morgan, and the Green Mountain Morgan, are still remembered with satisfaction by many of our farmers, and their progeny are widely scattered throughout Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

Two years later, Messrs. McHeffey and John Northup were again called upon to make a selection of stock, this time—of sheep. The animals were chiefly obtained from the Millers at Pickering and Mark-