

primitive rocks cropping out at the surface, is to give several hundred acres to each individual, who might cultivate such portions as would admit of the operation of the plough, and graze the rest, much the larger portion in most cases, with hardy races of sheep and cattle. But until population has greatly increased, and markets advanced, but little can be done agriculturally for large portions of the back country. If, eventually, this wild region should be found rich in minerals, a thing by no means improbable, a demand for farm produce would at once spring up and progressively increase, and in this way the agricultural capabilities of the country, whatever they are, would be gradually developed. The gold mania, however, in Madoc has now entirely subsided, the precious metal not having been found, as far as excavations have yet gone, in sufficient quantities to make the speculation a profitable operation.

I held a meeting in the village of Madoc, which, though not numerously attended, a considerable interest was expressed in the various subjects that were brought forth in relation to agricultural improvement. One of the great wants of this section of country is better stock, especially sheep and cattle. The introduction of a few pure bred male animals would, in a few years, increase this portion of the agricultural wealth of the district to an extent which we can imagine. Far more benefit can be produced in some localities in this way, by agricultural societies, than by holding annual exhibitions. Cheese making in the county of Hastings has been greatly extending of late, and several cheese factories are in successful operation in various townships. One in Sidney receives the milk of some seven hundred cows. Greater attention is now being paid to produce an article of good quality; an essential condition of success, whether the produce be exported to Europe, or enter into domestic consumption.

On the whole, I was much gratified with my visit, and feel grateful to Dr. Boulter, M.P.P. of the North Riding, for his kindness in driving through portions of the townships of Rawdon and Huntingdon, which have certainly great agricultural capabilities. To several other gentlemen I am also indebted for information and hospitality; and it will afford me much

gratification to learn that the Riding Society is increasing in strength and usefulness.

Yours, &c.,

GEO. BUCKLAND.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,
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IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

In reviewing the agricultural results of the past year, the *Mark Lane Express* says:

Notwithstanding some heavy drawbacks, it is gratifying to find that improvements in agriculture are still progressing, as is proved by the additional employment of machinery. In the foreground we may place steam cultivation, which is gaining ground, not only in the United Kingdom but in France and other countries, where its economic and otherwise beneficial use is beginning to be appreciated. The common plow by the application to it of mathematical science, has now reached, in the hands of some makers, to a great pitch of perfection, in point of form and draft, so as to reduce the labor in that branch of husbandry, both of man and horse to little more than gentle exercise.

The thrashing machine, in consequence of the improvements effected in it will now perform all the operations required for the preparation of the grain for market, by which the working man is relieved from an onerous employment, which more than any other in husbandry tried his constitution and strength and made him an old man before his time. The reaping and mowing machines are now used upon every farm of moderate extent, as is proved by the enormous sales that most of the makers have had during the past year. Some of the machines are so reduced in size and price as to come within the means of the small farmer.

The alliance of science with practice in agriculture is now rapidly developing its beneficial influence, the day having passed when economy was understood to mean parsimony, and the pence were carefully hoarded when their judicious expenditure would have produced pounds. There is, however, much yet to be done in the way of improvement. In many places the old crude notions of husbandry still prevail, and innovations are looked upon, not only with suspicion, but with peremptory rejection. The wisdom of our ancestors is recognized in the periodical bare fallow, and in the undrained swampy land remaining from year to year as nature left it, although the means for improvement have been provided by the government. Still, in the events of the past year, and their results, there are reasons both for thankfulness and hope. Not the least of such benefits was the early