

## COLONEL LAURIE'S SPEECH

ON THE OPENING OF THE PROVINCIAL  
EXHIBITION AT KENTVILLE, SEPT.  
29TH, 1880.

*Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies  
and Gentlemen:—*

Understanding that we are to be addressed by their Excellencies the General and the Admiral, I should have confined myself to the simple discharge of my duty as President of the Central Board of Agriculture, and contented myself with formally receiving over the Provincial Exhibition of 1880 from the local committee, and as formally handing it over to the Chief of the Executive, the Queen's representative, in order that he might in due course declare it open. But as successful farming in Nova Scotia is with me no mere hobby, but an article of faith, I shall venture to detain you while I briefly touch upon those subjects which, whatever may be the views entertained with reference to them, are to us farmers undeniably of great moment, and I will offer a word of caution and a word of encouragement. It is so established a practice to let the sweets follow the solids, that I naturally take the less agreeable subject first, leaving the more palatable with which to conclude.

Ever since the cattle trade from this continent to Europe was developed, we in Nova Scotia have been urged on all sides to throw ourselves into this trade and share in its profits, but this advice is tendered on the assumption that there is a profit on it, and it is on this point that I offer a word of caution. My own opinion has always been that this trade originally opened up as a means of getting rid of surplus stock at a time when the prevailing commercial depression had compelled retrenchment, and so reduced the demand on this side of the water. Thus commenced, my fellow farmers will readily understand me when I say that a cash market offers great temptations, and as a fat ox is a very expensive animal to keep, the feeder naturally sells him at maturity for the best price he can get, and I doubt much whether the owner could really figure out the total cost of manufacturing the beef, and this is the point I wish our farmers to examine closely. Can they make the beef for the price at which they sell it? I feel satisfied that when our good friends advise us to go into cattle raising and cattle shipments it is done with the idea that we shall become wealthier and more independent thereby. I do not doubt that, by the exercise of great care and great judgment, beef can be made at a profit, and I have very grave doubts whether our farmers in Nova Scotia have, as a general thing, devised such a diet, have

established such a system of feeding, as will enable them to breed and feed cattle which when matured and fed for the English market, can be sold at \$4 to \$5 per 100 lbs., and leave any profit for the producer. Starting then, from this text, I would urge upon all to give very serious consideration to the question of cheapening the cost of feeding cattle. Unquestionably much of the financial success of farming depends on the farmer's capability to keep his farm well stocked, and dispose of his matured animals, at any rate, at cost of production; and, free as I am to admit that we have amongst us some farmers who show great capacity in their profession, I regret I must give expression to the opinion that the vast majority of the cattle bought off the farms cost far more than the owners obtain when they turn them into cash.

I am however satisfied that, taking our year through, we have the seasons and the land which will enable us to turn out agricultural products as cheap and as good as in any part of the continent. We are not bound to adhere to the methods followed by the settlers of one hundred years since, but, by experimenting in new breeds and new crops, we can assimilate what is suitable in the methods of other regions, and so establish a system of agriculture applicable to this Province. And as I promised a word of encouragement before closing, I would refer to the generally expressed opinion that Nova Scotia is not a wheat producing country, and reply that our reports from all over the Province show that the wheat crop is generally most satisfactory, the yield being reported large on the breadth sown and the quality good. We find spring wheat sown, in a not too favorable spring, giving us a return of 30 bushels to the acre, a yield that I do not think is reached, or at any rate exceeded on the continent, and in regard to quality I must fall back on my own testimony. Having but lately returned from Montreal, I had an opportunity of seeing the wheat exhibited by the Provincial Government of Manitoba, our great North-West granary, and I do not hesitate to say that in length of ear and in size of the cleaned grain our Nova Scotia wheat exhibited at the 1879 and 1880 Exhibitions was more than equal, it was superior.

I am well persuaded that we have no climatic obstacle to the growth of wheat; and, with the increased cultivation of the finer cereals and the consequent preliminary drilled root crops for fertilizing and cleansing the land, we have the greatest promise of prosperity to the farmer in the cash returns attained for his wheat or barley, and in the root crop and refuse of the grain being fed to his cattle, which will at any rate maintain the productiveness of his farm.

Apologizing for the length at which I have treated this subject, whose importance, however, all will recognize, I now in due form desire to hand over this Provincial Exhibition of 1880 to you, Sir, to ask that you will declare it open.

## HALIFAX EXHIBITION.

ADDRESS OF HIS WORSHIP MAYOR TOBIN.

*May it please Your Excellency:*

When the Corporation of Halifax undertook to carry out the Exhibition of 1879, they determined on erecting a structure of a permanent description, with the view to holding Annual, or, at any rate, frequent exhibitions in the city, not necessarily so ambitious in their character as that of last year, when the money of the citizens was supplemented by a liberal grant from the Provincial Treasury, but, nevertheless, of an extent sufficient to show to advantage the varied products and manufactures of the Province. In accordance with this design, we this year issued a prize list of \$6,000, inviting the farmers, the mechanics and the fishermen of the Province to meet here in friendly competition. We have to-day the response to that invitation in the well filled tables of this hall, and in the very creditable show of live stock in the sheds outside. The entries in this department are, as might have been expected, not as numerous as in 1879, by reason of the course adopted by the Committee, who, after mature deliberation, decided to restrict the amount and the number of prizes to what they considered judicious limits. The Herald prizes have been dispensed with, an opinion prevailing that the object, especially of an Exhibition to be held in the city, should be not to bring together the largest number of animals, but rather to obtain an exhibit of the best individual specimens of each kind. The experience of last year suggested the propriety of withdrawing unnecessary prizes, and left the impression that this could be done without impairing the utility of the Exhibition, while, at the same time, it pointed to the advisability of modifying the terms of competition in other cases, so as the more fully to protect the interests of exhibitors. The lessens of the present year will no doubt lead to further improvement in the next, so that in the conduct of the Exhibition itself from year to year, as in the Industry of the country, there may be a marked advance towards perfection.

It is appropriate that reference should here be made to the crops of the year, the more so because of the fact that on all sides of us in this building we have reminders of the importance they bear in relation to the prosperity of the country, and it is pleasing to state that the enquiries made on this subject have elicited the assurance that the labors of the husbandman have met with gratifying success, if we except the hay crop, which here, as in the United States and in England, has been light. Wheat raising, which during the past few years has been increasing steadily throughout the whole Province, Cape Breton included, has this year received an unusual degree of attention, and we hear that large quantities have been sown with every promise of results which