

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1879.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION IN ENGLAND.

MR. JAMES HOWARD, of Bedfordshire, the well-known agriculturist, has a very interesting letter in the Times on the present prostrate condition of agriculture in England. Mr. Howard speaks with the weight which attaches to a thorough acquaintance not only with farming in most parts of the United Kingdom, but with that of the continents of Europe and America.

He notes that the spirit of improvement in English agriculture seems now to have wholly departed, and that farming is much depressed. He proceeds to the enquiry whether there is any remedy within reach which will enable the present or future generation of English cultivators to pursue their calling at a profit, and withstand the foreign competition which has set in.

Mr. Howard reminds us of the sometimes overlooked fact that in other businesses there are three facilities for gaining information on any and every subject as in agriculture. There are no tradestarts. One cannot remove or lessen another farmer as a rival. The most successful cultivator not only carries on his operations in broad day, but is ready, as a rule, to communicate to his landlord, or any other person, his knowledge he has gained which may be useful.

The question, therefore, for every farmer, especially every young farmer, should be to avail himself to the fullest extent of the many and various sources of knowledge at his command. Foreign agriculturists come to England in great numbers to study the best examples of farming, and avail themselves largely of the information thus gained.

But English farmers themselves do not study, as they might profitably do, the best examples of their own industry in their district. Yet there are no peculiar opportunities for this, because of late years the Royal Agricultural Society has awarded prizes for the most successful management of large and small farms, both arable and pasture, in the respective districts of its annual shows.

These prizes have been awarded to the best examples of the various sources of information. Those who for any reason have not inspected these farms, can see the reports of the judges which, in the most minute and practical way, depict their management. However, these valuable reports, and the newspapers and periodicals devoted to agriculture—which last Mr. Howard holds to be almost indispensable to every other country—are much neglected.

WHAT SIR JOHN MACDONALD CAN SAY.

WHAT SIR JOHN MACDONALD will say when he goes to England, and the Pacific railway or any other public question of Canada, is more than we know. What he can say is, however, more within the compass of our information. He can say:

First, here is a great national work which has been adopted by three Parliaments and three Governments. It is suggested by all travellers and tourists and explorers for many years. It is approved of and declared feasible by the best engineers in Canada, without exception. That it is a possible undertaking is proved by the fact that the United States have already their lines in operation, doing a large trans-continental trade.

Secondly, the first Government of Sir JOHN MACDONALD offered to build this line in 1873-3 by means of private companies for a sum of \$60,000,000 of land, in alternate blocks (the Government retaining alternate blocks) and \$30,000,000. This scheme was so well thought of that the rival companies contended for the charter and the bill was passed by a considerable majority.

Thirdly, the Reform Government then took up the scheme. They did not regulate the plan, but they carried it out. They adopted it with enthusiasm. They passed laws giving them power to build it as a Government work, in the belief that it was to be profitable a speculation, that the people, not private companies, should reap the profits.

Fourthly, Sir JOHN MACDONALD can say that he has again taken up the scheme which he originally proposed, and he was prevented from carrying out. He can say that in the rapid development of the Western lands he finds an encouragement to carry out the scheme, and he can say that he proposed to build the line without burdening the people of Canada; that he hopes to build the railway by means of the land which is being opened up, and that he is able to come, not only with the blue ribbon of Canadian politics, but with the marks of royal favour signally bestowed on himself as on his colleagues.

His Excellency and the Princess Louise are now making the expected "progress" through Canada. There will, of course, be much in the proceedings that will be weary, flat, unprofitable, a bore; and many things will happen to cause laughter. Municipal councillors will sometimes be aggressive; crowds will sometimes be oppressive in their curiosity; the press will sometimes be too frank or too fulsome; and sides will sometimes be taken, as has happened, in the most unbecoming way, that they are a part of the pageant, and forget that they are strangers.

These progresses are not new to us, or to our history. The scenes through which their Excellencies pass or less than English statesmen, and the progress of the line of travel. The St. Lawrence River is the Holy River of Canada; its waters are sacred to the memory of some of the most picturesque and interesting progresses of Governors and soldiers, priests, and explorers.

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THE AFGHAN WAR.

THE AFGHAN war appears to have closed in triumph for English arms. The strife has been very keen, and the bloodshed, though not great, lamentable; yet it is the misfortune of these wars that they do not add much to the national record of glory.

In 1878 a supplemental charter was granted to the University of London, giving it power to confer degrees on women. Recently the first special examination was held under the charter, when eleven ladies presented themselves, and only two were placed in the first class.

By the exposure of two revolting cases of cruelty which have happened within its walls, the Philadelphia House of Refuge has gained an undesired notoriety. One boy, Henry Acker, twelve years of age, was driven insane, and committed suicide owing to the ill-treatment to which he was subjected, and another lost the use of his eyes and ears, and from a stout robust lad was reduced to a mere bag of skin and bone, a burden alike to himself and community.

A very interesting lawsuit is likely to arise out of the Stratford explosion. The Grand Trunk Company have notified the Hamilton Powder Company, who shipped the "vigors," that they will be held responsible for the damage done. The railway company, however, has refused to accept the liability, and the case has gone to court.

A better idea of the extent of the agricultural depression in England is gained by observing the fall in rents than in any other way. At a recent meeting at Devon, in the West of England, the average land rent in 1878 was found to have fallen from £250 to £60, or over thirty per cent. In some cases the fall was even more than £200 to £45, or 82 per cent.

Referring to the prevalence of typhoid fever among swine in the United States, the Montreal Post thus sounds a warning note to Canadian hog raisers. At the present moment Canadian hogs are exempt from this order (the Imperial slaughtering order), but one diseased hog shipped from Canada to England might destroy the advantage of the exemption.

Further evidence in regard to the merits of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. CHELSEA CENTRAL, Warren Co., N.Y. March 25, 1879. DEAR SIR, I am happy to be able to write to you. I was troubled with Asthma for four years before using your Electric Oil; and for many nights after retiring I had to sit up in bed, my sufferings being intense, while the cough was so severe that the bedclothes would fly off and saturate with perspiration.

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THE NATIONAL POLICE.

The Finance Minister's Speech in Ontario. The Amphitheatre was crowded on Monday evening to hear speech by Sir John Macdonald and Sir Samuel Tupper.

The Ontario Society of Artists, through its Secretary, Mr. L.R. O'Brien, has offered to co-operate in the establishment of a national art gallery. An Illinois still was seized on 21st ult., in the township of Whitcomb. Its capacity was not very large. The operator of the affair escaped arrest.

It is proposed to hold a grand military review in Toronto on the occasion of the visit of the Governor-General and her Excellency to Toronto, and to afford them the opportunity of reviewing the troops of the Dominion. Several regiments from Montreal and other places are expected to be present.

The Ontario delegates of the Y.M.C.A. at the Baltimore convention, urged Mr. D. L. Moody, the Evangelist, to visit Canada this year, but he said that since he had been invited to come to Toronto, he could make no definite promise; in fact he was about to visit St. Louis.

A despatch from Berlin says there is much speculation caused by the statement that the German Government has demanded of the Khedive an immediate reply to its demand against the Khedive's recent decree. The exact motive for making such a demand at this moment Germany in Egypt is not so extensive as those of either France or England.

Two statements made by the Finance Minister the other night are of special interest, and should be taken note of by everybody. The first is that he does not claim to have constructed a perfect tariff the first time of trying, omissions there may be in it, and some interests may have been overlooked.

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CITY RECORD.

Sixteen good serviceable horses were shipped to England on Monday by Messrs. Beatty and Halden on this city.

There are over 300 regularly qualified Justices of the Peace in the county of York, and 10 for the city of Toronto. One of the results of the national policy is the Toronto Iron Bridge Company, who are executing extensive works on King street west.

The number of immigrants who arrived here in the month of May was 2,035, being 1,029 in the corresponding month last year. The Ontario Society of Artists, through its Secretary, Mr. L.R. O'Brien, has offered to co-operate in the establishment of a national art gallery.

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