

that expression of your confidence, permit me to make a few remarks.

The first Agricultural Society for the Ottawa District, comprising the Counties of Prescott and Russell, (the latter at that time including the Townships of Gloucester and Osgood within its limits), was organized under the Presidency of the late Hon. George Hamilton of Hawkesbury Mills, and I held the office of Treasurer. The institution being then a novelty, the utility of which had not been tested, it was found difficult to raise the necessary amount of funds; this deficiency was made up by Mr. Hamilton, Dr. David Patter, Donald McDonald, Esq., then M.P.P., and myself. When, however, the Society became better developed, we were not allowed to contribute beyond the amount of our subscriptions, and our liberality was handsomely repaid by our increased subscriptions. Many who were with us then, have descended to their graves, but their estates with their good names and industrious habits have been left to their offspring. In taking a retrospect of the past, I would beg leave to direct your attention in the first place, to one department in which we do not appear to have made any advancement. In the early days of our society, the farm yards of Dr. David Patter, Donald McDonald, Elisha Cass, Joseph P. Cass and Elijah Kellogg, Esquires, could produce cattle fully equal to any in these Counties at present.

In the neighbouring County of Carleton, however, several farmers have earnestly entered into the business of breeding the best English and Scotch cattle, as well as improving the breed of horses.

Among them I would make special mention of Wm. Byers, Esq., of Goodwood Hall, near Richmond, and of Wm. Thompson, Esq., of Nepean. Our horses have improved, but in this respect we are still behind our neighbours in the United States, especially in carriage horses.

The establishment of Ploughing Matches has done much to improve our young men in the use of that most necessary implement of husbandry, the Plough.

This branch of Agriculture is much indebted to the exertions and example of Peter Stirling, Esq., who was the first to introduce the Scotch Plough.

In the production of grain and hay our farmers will bear a favorable comparison with those of any of the adjoining counties, and being provided with an excellent material for constructing fences (white cedar), some of our enclosures will vie with the best in the Province.

In reference to farm yards, stables, and out-buildings generally, the Eastern section of Upper Canada, far excels the Western; and the means by which the most complete specimens of these have been constructed, were derived from successful operations in the timber trade, for instance, those of Mr. Byers, which are decidedly among the best in the Province, combining economy with utility in a high degree. That gentleman, having now turned all his attention to Agriculture, will, I am confident, render great service to the farming interest.

While the lumber trade has in many instances furnished the means for improving our buildings, it has also secured to us a market for farm produce, and at the same time raised the price of labor to such a degree, that the work must be almost entirely performed by the farmer and his sons.

The great superiority which the Western part of Upper Canada possesses over the Eastern, consists in my opinion in this; that the farmers in the former section follow that branch of industry exclusively, and devote all their energy, bodily and mental, to secure its success. They take great pains to secure the best and cleanest seeds of all kinds, and prepare their soils as well as possible for the reception of the seed in the proper season.

They have more labor saving machines, both for the preparation of the ground and for securing the crops. They also carefully attend to the introduction of superior cattle, sheep, swine and poultry.

Among the more favourable symptoms connected with farming, I may notice the establishment among us of an excellent library, containing a large assortment of books treating of Agriculture, which I feel proud to recommend to every practical farmer. There is also, I am happy to find, an interest beginning to be evinced in favour of horticultural pursuits.

In a circular of mine, dated 2nd of January last, as President of the Agricultural Association of this Province, addressed to each of the County Agricultural Societies, I have made several suggestions to which I now beg leave to draw your attention, and solicit your co-operation, in so far as you may be pleased to approve of them.

I thank you for the confidence which you have so long reposed in me, and hoping that a kind Providence may give you favorable seasons, I wish you every success in your future efforts for the welfare of the Society, from the Presidency of which I now retire.

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FARMERS' CLUB

ON ARTIFICIAL MANURES.

(ABRIDGED REPORT.)

The Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club, held a meeting at Cobourg, on February 24th, 1854, Wm. Richardson, Esq., of Cold Springs, was called to the chair. MR. P. R. WRIGHT said,

GENTLEMEN,—In the present position of farming here, there are comparatively few of sufficient spirit to make the attempt at an experiment with some of the expensive Artificial Manures; and I know full well that there are many wondrous wise and purse proud men, who will laugh at the attempt or argue the benefit we would derive from their use. I am of opinion, however, that we are on the eve of a complete revolution in Canadian farming, that the indolent and profitless system of bare fallows will give place to the enlightened and profitable *regular rotation* and *grass crops*, and that this again will demand attentive