

sented in this exhibition. North Sydney is still behind the great city of London, which has a Goat Society, with Earls and Marquises at its head.

With respect to the carpets, homemade cloths, yarns, knitting, and the wonderful array of ladies' fancy work in lace and silk, and fabrics that I shall not venture to name, I can only do as so many men have done within the last two days—look on in silent admiration. The lace handkerchief is simply a web of woven air, requiring a microscope to reveal its texture. The fretwork in more substantial material also shows delicacy of execution as well as beauty of design.

As regards orchard culture: Plums form the staple fruit crop of Cape Breton, and one which promises profitable returns to every cultivator. But this is not a plum season anywhere, and we miss this portion of what would otherwise have been a very interesting exhibit. But the show of apples is good—about 220 dishes of fine looking fruit—and it demonstrates how well your climate is adapted for many varieties. Kinds that grow best in hot, dry inland localities are not to be expected here, but no doubt some of the English and Northern European sorts will do better here than in Cornwallis or Annapolis. At Yarmouth, where the atmosphere has the sea moisture like Cape Breton, I saw the finest trees of Keswick Codlin that any fruit grower could desire to see, laden to the ground with beautiful fruit, and the Grimes' Golden Pippin from that county took first prize at a recent Provincial Exhibition.

Potatoes, beef and butter may be more profitable than apples in Cape Breton, but no source of wealth should be neglected; and, as Mr. Smith pointed out last night at the farmers' meeting, nothing conduces more to keep the boys at home than the pleasant surroundings of apple orchards and cherry blossoms, and other sources of comfort and pleasure peculiar to country life, which we are so apt to overlook in the pursuit of mere gain.

The display of plants and flowers is very attractive, but represents, I am told, very imperfectly the floral riches of the district. It is a pleasing evidence of the hardness of your autumn season to see so many tender flowers, such as gladioli, chias, salpiglossis, sweet peas, hollyhocks and dozens of others blooming so long after they have been cut down by frost on the mainland of Nova Scotia. The collection of ferns has disappeared, in accordance with the old tradition noticed by the poet, that the fern has the power of giving invisibility. In way of consolation to the exhibitor and information to visitors, I may mention that it consisted of very fine bright green fronds of *Aspidium dilatatum*, *A.*

*cristatum*, *Dicksonia punctilobula*, and *Osmunda cinnamomea*. The very rare ferns of Whyecocmagh and Smoky Cape were not shown.

It was with a feeling akin to amazement that I saw the exhibits of butter at Baddeck two years ago. The butter ball that was then set rolling has increased like a snow ball to twice its original proportions, as we see at this exhibition, where there are about 140 tubs, crocks, baskets and jars of excellent butter. Butyric acid can still be scented in a few of the samples, but they are wonderfully few for such an extensive exhibit.

The American musical instruments and sewing machines, although not of Island manufacture, have added greatly to the interest of the Exhibition, and the exhibits of the Gates' Organ and Piano Company appeal to us specially as manufactures of our own Province.

Among the more important exhibits from abroad, the stoves from Yarmouth and Londonderry are conspicuous, and the glassware and oil tanks from New Glasgow,—whilst such home exhibits as the horse power and fanning mill from Boularderie show that machinery such as has been often imported from a distance may be made at home of as good quality and at as low a price. The best way to encourage home manufactures is for neighbors to buy them.

The secret of agriculture of any country is to produce those products for which its soil, climate, capital, labor, markets, and other economic conditions, render it most suitable. The large proportions of Ayrshire and Jersey cattle and the splendid show of butter indicate a growing tendency towards dairy farming. This is not to be wondered at, since Cape Breton has the conditions necessary to a remarkable extent. The abundant pastures give the material for a full flow of summer milk. The comparatively cool atmosphere is favorable alike to the health of the cows, the milk secretion, and the manufacture of an excellent quality of butter. The home manufacture of butter can be as well performed on a small farm as on a large one, or in a factory, which is not the case with cheese. Thus there is every inducement to extend the production of butter. The improvement in its quality of late years has been very remarkable, and yet, when we consider the conditions, we see that bad butter in the country can only be the result of ignorance or gross carelessness. I have placed on the Exhibition tables a sample of butter from the Echo Farm, Litchfield, Connecticut, every pound of which is sold for a dollar. No inferior butter ever leaves the Echo Farm dairy; the butter is made with very little salt, and otherwise to please the

customer, it is always regular in character; the customer thus knows exactly what he is getting when he sees the Echo monogram on the butter pat, and is willing to pay accordingly. Now, from what I have seen at the Exhibitions—at Baddeck two years ago, at Truro and Yarmouth this year, and now at North Sydney—I believe that Cape Breton butter is rapidly rising to the top of the market in America. It is well worth while to strive for this position. Let us continue to improve our dairy stock, to be more and more careful in butter making and butter salting; let butter merchants strive to place the best qualities in the best markets, and encourage their production, and in course of a few years the butter manufactured in Nova Scotia may rise to an importance that is scarcely dreamt of at the present time, great as it is even now. There are wide stretches of land lying idle in unprofitable woods that might, with but little exertion, be converted into fertile dairy pastures. The method is simply to chop and burn, and sow on the ashes, after they have been washed with rain, suitable grass and clover seeds. An acre or two thus treated every year will soon give a large permanent pasture and yield more profit than any other part of the farm. It has been clearly shown that, whilst in soils under actual cultivation there is a rapid draining away of the combined nitrogen—the most valuable constituent of fertility—on the other hand the whole tendency in grass lands is to maintain and increase their nitrogen. Sir J. B. Lawes found, at Rothamsted, that 9 inches of pasture land, (sifted mould) yielded 5,700 lbs. of nitrogen, whilst corresponding arable land contained only 3,000. A pasture, if not overstocked, may thus be readily maintained in a productive state. But it must first be seeded properly, for its value as pasture, as well as its power to retain nitrogen, depends upon its being covered with a crop of suitable herbage. One point is more important than all others. Encourage the native grass. The most valuable plant we have is the danthonia, which grows naturally all over Nova Scotia; it gives the first bite in spring time and the last in late autumn, and yields herbage all summer. As a pasture grass it is more valuable to us than timothy and all the clovers, but we cannot buy its seed in the store. It must be preserved by carefully protecting it from burning.

Of all crops raised on the farm that which would appear to be the most important, from the samples shown at this exhibition, is the potato. On the first day of the exhibition, before the exhibits were all placed, I counted 192 separate samples of potatoes, mostly half-bushels. There were 13 half bushels of Early