

gineer of the Grand Trunk Railway, and the builder of that magnificent triumph of engineering science, the railway tunnel under the St. Clair River, at Sarnia.

Mr. Hobson's father was one of our earliest pioneers. He came to this country when he was but a young man, and settled on the farm at Mosboro' lately occupied by Mr. Hobson, when it was but a wilderness. He was a man of strong character and sterling worth, qualities which have descended to his sons.

Mr. Hobson's formal education was only that of the common school, and this was acquired in a little log school-house, which is still standing, situated near his old home. But ever since he left school he has been a diligent reader and student. He attributes no small share of his success to the fact that he has never thought his education completed; that he has always been anxious to acquire more information, to find out newer and better methods, and to extend his knowledge in every direction that would lead to practical results.

Another element contributing to his success Mr. Hobson considers to be the fact that he has always had a real fondness for his calling, and that he has always had an intense desire to excel in it. This led him from the first to be quick in adopting methods that promised success, when others would be slow in doing so. For example, he was one of our most successful Shorthorn breeders, having gone into the business as soon as he saw that stock-raising was destined to play an important part in Canadian agricultural industry.

Mr. Hobson has now to some extent retired from farming, because of the death of his only son, not very long ago. However, he still keeps in his own hands a farm of 150 acres; but he has disposed of the old homestead. He is now enjoying, in a quiet way, the fruits of his years of industry and enterprise. He has just returned from a two months' trip to the Northwest and British Columbia; and before this notice will be read by our readers he will be away on a tour of some months in Britain. Mrs. Hobson is his companion on these journeys.

Mr. Hobson has always taken a warm interest in public affairs, especially in municipal matters. He has occupied almost every municipal office that it was possible for his fellow citizens to bestow

upon him, and he retired from municipal life only in 1893, after having occupied the Warden's chair for the county of Wellington for that year.

Mr. Hobson has taken a special interest in agricultural insurance. He was one of the earliest promoters of farmers' local insurance companies in this country, and has been president of the Guelph Township Mutual Insurance Company for over twenty years. He is also vice-president of the Wellington Mutual Insurance Company. As an instance of the esteem in which he is held in insurance circles, it may be stated that last year he was elected president of the Provincial Mutual Underwriters' Association, which position he now holds.

Mr. Hobson's interest in the organized efforts made by our agricultural industry is well known. For many years he has been chairman of the Advisory Board of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm. He has been president of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association for some time, and has been its vice-president. He is now the president of the Provincial Winter Show Association, and vice-president of the Dominion Shorthorn Association.

Mr. Hobson has just contributed a series of interesting letters to the Guelph *Mercury*, giving his impressions of the prospects of agriculture in the provinces and territories of our great Northwest. He thinks that farmers in the Northwest, and in Manitoba especially, are destined very shortly to be exceedingly prosperous. He predicts that stock-raising and fattening will be a leading feature in the development of the country, and he believes that, even to-day, in no part of the Dominion are farmers more prosperous than they are in these new districts. The development of our mines in Western Ontario and in British Columbia is already having a great effect on the agricultural interests of the interlying districts. He mentions, as an evidence of the truth of this statement, the fact that on the ranches the price of fat cattle has gone up \$5.00 a head. He mentions another interesting fact, namely, that so great is the demand for beef in the western mining country that one dealer has contracted to have delivered to him for the next twelve months no less than 800 fat cattle per month.