

land is comparatively unproductive, for the want of it. It is a subject which well deserves the most careful consideration. Upon it depends in a great measure the very existence of your art. In Germany and Switzerland, where the other branches of husbandry are much inferior to ours, where their ploughs are of the most rude and primitive construction, and where their most common team is a pair of mitch cows, they surpass us in the making and care of manures.

Each farm yard is supplied with several tanks or cisterns, into which all the rough manure and the refuse of the house are thrown—into these again is carefully lod, all the liquid manure made in the stables and barn yards—to which is added, from time to time, a sufficient quantity of earth to absorb all the ammonia that would otherwise escape. With this the land is annually dressed; and thus are farms kept in good order and condition, which without it, would soon become barren fields.

In connexion with this subject, I would strongly recommend the use of minerals—such as lime, and gypsum or plaster of Paris—on old farms, the supply of lime, which for years after the land was cleared, was found quite sufficient for all ordinary productive purposes, has become diminished, and requires to be replenished; and as it can be done, with such great benefits, and at so small a cost, in most parts of the country, it ought to engage the serious attention of those farmers to whom these imperfect remarks may apply.

Clover, which is so generally raised, and which will continue to be grown in increased quantities, as being the best winter food for horned cattle and sheep, and as affording such superior aftermath, requires a good deal of lime to feed on. I believe that gypsum is not considered a manure, but rather as a stimulant—its effects, however, on sandy soils especially, have long been known and acknowledged. By its judicious application, some of the lightest soils in the country have been placed amongst the most productive, and very beneficial results have been obtained from its use, on other lands—and I am mistaken if our better farmers, do not every year applying it, more and more, as a dressing to their clover, oats, peas, and Indian corn, even on clay lands.

Spring crops generally suffer from drought in May and the early part of June. It is found that the application of gypsum draws down moisture from the atmosphere to these crops, at these seasons; and that the fields which have been dressed with it, retain their colour and continue to grow, while those on which it has not been used, become pale and sickly. The same effects would, no doubt, be felt by turnips, carrots and field beets, if this stimulant were applied to them.

The Canada Company, to which Agriculture in Upper Canada is largely indebted for its liberal premiums on wheat, offers also handsome premiums to the growers of flax and hemp, and as, through the enterprise and liberality which have always marked the course of their Chief Commissioner here, in respect to all matters connected with the welfare of the country, we have at this moment on the show grounds, in actual and successful operation, imported at the entire expense and risk of the Company, as an object well worth the attention of farmers, the most approved machinery for preparing the former article, without the long, uncertain, and expensive methods heretofore adopted, for dressing it, it is hoped that its cultivation will be extensively undertaken. It can hardly fail to be profitable. We have a large quantity of land, especially on the flats of our rivers, admirably adapted to the growth of this plant—and the many valuable uses to which it

can be applied, render it highly essential that its production should be encouraged by every legitimate means. Not only is the fibre of the most extensive and important use, and would, no doubt, in many cases, be largely and profitably employed as a superior substitute for cotton, much of which we now import from the United States, but the seed also is most valuable, and would be found of vast importance to the country, for from it our linseed oils should be made, and oil cake extracted for the feeding of our fat cattle.

The successful growth of hemp, would not only save us a large annual outlay on the importation of cordage, but I can see no good reason why we should not, with proper arrangement, besides furnishing our own rope-walks with the raw material, now chiefly obtained from other countries, become exporters of the article to a considerable extent.

The failure of the usual market for wheat, will force us to direct our serious attention to the best means of supplying that defect, as well as to the production of new articles of consumption and export. As regards the former, the most obvious remedy would seem to be, the creation of a home market—by stimulating internal enterprise—encouraging shipping—establishing manufactures—promoting immigration—fostering a trade with our Sister Colonies—and protecting native industry in all its various branches. This would have a direct and powerful tendency to raise up and increase a large consuming population, and afford the most certain market for the sale of our agricultural products.

Notwithstanding the longer route by the St. Lawrence as compared with the route by which the Americans reach the West Indies from their Atlantic ports, and notwithstanding some restrictions that exist upon the trade, but which are not of sufficient importance materially to interfere with it, there is nothing to hinder an extensive and profitable commerce being carried on between our own ports and those islands, but the sitting out or building vessels suited for the purpose, and a proper spirit of enterprise being infused into our people. The Americans send to that market a large quantity of produce, which they buy from us, and they bring back in its stead the productions of that country to be sold by them for the supply of our grocers—thus not only giving profitable employment to their vessels, but making a fair gain out of the adventure. Why should we not imitate this example—remove the present restrictions—encourage the building of vessels adapted to the business, and instead of allowing these profits to be made out of us by foreigners, boldly contend for, and secure a valuable trade, which legitimately belongs to us.

I am strongly of opinion, that we import too much and manufacture too little. Whilst wheat always brought a remunerating price and a ready sale, we could perhaps afford to import largely, but now that the price of it is low, and likely to remain so, our attention ought to be turned in earnest to the supply of our own wants, as far as practicable.

It may be out of our power at present to manufacture the finest articles we use, in woollens, cottons, linens, and hardware; but I believe, with proper skill and management, that much more might be done, in these respects, than has been.

The demand for our coarse woollens is far greater than the supply. The only cotton manufactory ever established in Upper Canada is and ready sale for all the coarse cottons it could make, at prices which would have paid well under good management. Linen has almost ceased to be made, but it is to be hoped that the same impetus

to the raising of flax will be given here that has been given in Ireland, and that not only many little wheels and handlooms will be set in motion in our farm-houses, but also that large linen manufactories will soon be erected and carried on, in places where so much valuable water is now literally running to waste.

It is astonishing to look at the number of articles for which we are indebted to our neighbours across the line, all of which we could and ought to make ourselves. They furnish us with a large quantity of the axes which we use; many of the carpenters' and cooper's tools; most of the brooms with which our houses are swept; the scythes with which our hay and grains are cut; rakes with which they are gathered; in many instances the machines with which they are threshed; the forks with which our manures are turned over and spread; the pails in which our dairy maids collect their milk; and latterly, the very bags in which our wheat is carried to the mills.

They furnish the picks and shovels with which our canals are made, and our railroads are formed; the spades with which our gardens are dug, and the hoes with which the weeds are kept down; and often the seeds with which they are sown. To them also we are indebted for most of our books; and for a large portion of the coarse grey cottons now in use, not to mention other manufactured articles which are largely poured in upon us.

I have thus, at the risk of being tedious, entered somewhat into detail on the subjects noticed in this address, because I conceive a proper knowledge of these matters to be intimately connected with the future prosperity of the country. A great change has come upon us, on ourselves depends, whether it shall be for good or ill, no time could be better than the present for placing ourselves in a right position. Undoubtedly, large sums of money will be expended here, during the next four years, in the construction of railways. If instead of sending that money out of the country, to purchase the manufactures of other lands, we could induce our people to expend it in the establishment of home manufactures, a most important and salutary step would be taken in the march of progress, and a solid foundation would be thus laid, on which to build up the future greatness and prosperity of the country.

A great diversity of opinion obtains, as to the standard by which the prosperity of a country shall be judged. Some instancing as proof, the large revenue derived from imports—others pointing to the excess of exports over imports, as the rule by which it is to be measured. I must confess that I am one of those who put most faith in the latter doctrine, and I shall be rejoiced to see the time when our trade returns will show a nearer approximation to it, than now exists. Acting on this view, I have no hesitation in saying that our plans should be, as far practicable, to raise and make all we need. This will give ample employment to capital and labor, in the establishment and extension of our manufactures, and in the encouragement of the working classes; and possessing a home consumption for the produce of our farms, in our towns and villages, filled with industrious mechanics and skillful manufacturers, and relying with confidence on our own efforts, for the speedy attainment of national wealth, we shall be in a great measure independent of foreign countries, and have less reason to regret the hasty withdrawal of those benefits, which we formerly enjoyed in the British markets.

In conclusion, allow me to say, that the Legislature has done all that could be expected from