

some hundreds of mere wheat-growers had come under my special cognizance, not a single one who had been engaged chiefly in the dairy business, had during the whole of that period, to the best of my recollection, come within the fangs of the law.

It is true that we cannot perhaps at once make the transition, from a wheat growing to a dairy producing people; because the latter requires, not only a long course of practice, but also a mental training, to which, from various causes, but chiefly from the newness of the country, we have hitherto been strangers; but it is time that we make a beginning, and those who are first in the field will be the best off. Dairy farming is, in fact, the philosophy of husbandry. The dairy will produce butter, cheese, beef and pork, and will, besides, contribute materially to the enrichment of the land for the production of grain; whilst the mere wheat grower must be dependent, in a great measure, upon foreign manures. It is, indeed, supposed that a stock of cattle and sheep properly housed and fed, will contribute, by the production of manure alone, a sum equal to the value of the fodder which they consume.

The subject of dairy husbandry is one of the most interesting, as it certainly is one of the most profitable, which can engage the attention of the farmer. It would, of course, be entirely out of place for me, at this time, to enter into details; but I cannot help referring you to the able report of Mr. Colman, whom I have already mentioned; and, if evidence of the profitability of the dairy be required, you will there find it supplied. This gentleman has shewn the clear profit of one cow to be in the United States \$18; in England \$24, and in Holland 100 guilders, or about £10 of our money per annum. I would refer you also, whilst I am upon this subject, to our own agricultural periodical, published at Toronto, and edited by our worthy, talented and indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Buckland, for some excellent remarks and directions upon this important subject.

I am by no means willing to be understood, in my recommendation of the dairy business, and the general extension of the productions of the smaller produce of the farmstead, to mean that these should supersede wheat and other grain, but that they should be added to, or grafted on our present system. There are none of the native Canadians or old settlers, who can be blind to the fact, that since we have left off the growing and manufacturing of wool and flax, and have substituted nothing in the place of the indoor-work which they supplied, and without which no farmer can prosper, that many hands are left idle, and many hours pass away unemployed, and, in consequence, the whole expense of the farmer's establishment must fall upon the clean bushels of wheat alone. Only look at the New Englanders, where, so far from selling, they are obliged to buy their wheat; and where, to use the words of a friend of mine from those states, the stones are so thick that they are obliged to go six rods to get earth enough to cover a hill of corn; and yet these people get rich. It is owing, he says, to the circumstance that every hand works—whether foul

weather or fair—the attention of the whole household is directed to the “littles”—the pence; the pounds can take care of themselves. It is also worthy of remark, that in the dairy producing districts of England, as well as America, the moral tone of the people stands higher than in other parts; arising, no doubt, from the circumstance, that under such a mode of husbandry there can be few idle hands.

Gentlemen, let not the drift of these observations be misconstrued to mean that the farmers of Canada are not themselves as industrious as the farmers of any other country, but my fear is for the rising generation. This would perhaps be too delicate a point for most men to touch upon; but it happens to be well known to a great number of those whom I am now addressing, that I have at one time in my life shared some of the hardships incident to the farming life in a new country, and that I have laboured with my own hands as hard as most men. It matters little indeed, to those who have arrived at my years, how the world gets on in its future course, but to our children it is all important—it is to *their* welfare that our efforts must now be directed, and it is principally for *their* benefit that an example of industry, prudence, economy and morality, is required at the hands of their parents.

I cannot shut my eyes to the fact, nor refrain from expressing an apprehension, that our *children* are in great danger; that our sons and our daughters, from no fault of theirs, are in danger of contracting habits of idleness. It is as much our business to furnish employment, and constant employment, for the minds and hands of our children, as it is to find them food and raiment: whilst the one protects and invigorates the body, the other purifies and exalts the mind.

How many young men, and many of them farmers' sons too, even now, in the infancy of the country, do we see, who are becoming a burthen to themselves and a nuisance to the country from mere idleness; and are in fact, from early habits, incapable of any useful exertion. “There is a lion in the way, I shall be slain,” says the idler; “The way of the slothful man is a hedge of thorns, but the way of the righteous is made plain.”

Some of you whom I am now addressing, may live to see the day, when agriculture will be elevated as a pursuit and a profession. That indefatigable officer, our Superintendent of Education, is, I am beyond measure gratified to see, bending his giant energies to, and bringing to bear his powerful mind upon, the attainment of this object, an object which can only stay or check that rush for wealth, for office and notoriety, which amongst the young men generally of the province, is like a torrent sweeping over the country, and carrying away every moveable object in its course.

When agriculture as a profession shall be made to assume that station to which it is entitled, then the hundreds and thousands of young men who are now crowding the professions, and forcing their way into all the avenues of trade and pursuits of mercantile business, will find employment in the much more useful as well as equally honourable profession of agriculture.