

present time it had been utterly wasted. As to Richmond, there had been a good deal of difficulty in its first steps: there had been an error in starting before the reception of the grant, and, in consequence they had lost their original farm and all their stock, and had to begin afresh. St. Anne de la Pocatière showed some signs of waking up; it had been asleep, like the rest, but, of late, there were some improvements visible, though nothing wonderful was to be seen, even now.

These are the opinions of Mr. Blackwood. I have, I believe, reproduced them with perfect exactitude, and certainly without addition. I have since seen a gentleman, closely connected with the Department of Agriculture, who has lately visited St. Anne's. He differs from Mr. Blackwood in his view of the question, and asserts plainly that St. Anne's is in no better position than the others. And, indeed, when we consider that the number of *genuine* farm students educated at St. Anne's has only been, on an average, $4\frac{1}{2}$ a year, it is not to be supposed that the liberal grant has been expended with much advantage to the community (1).

I fear, from what I have seen, that in too many instances lads have been enrolled in the list of the Agricultural students for the mere purpose of swelling the apparent numbers, and thereby constituting a claim on the Government for a renewal of the grant. I know of one case in which the attempt was made, but the Principal of the College alluded to happening to be a man of principle, the plan fell to the ground.

Now, as to my own favourite plan of Model farms, on which young men intending to live by farming should pass two or three years of quasi-apprenticeship, I am happy to say I found Mr. Blackwood in perfect accord with me. Generally I found, I might say universally, this idea favourably entertained throughout my tour. To some it appeared that the proposed aid of \$400 a year, for 3 years, was too much; but when it is considered that a great deal will be required of the farmer Tutor before he is intrusted with the diploma, so to speak, by the Government; that the land, buildings, roads, drainage, all will be expected to be in perfect order; when, again, the necessary calls upon his time in instructing his pupils, receiving, and answering the questions of visitors, official and otherwise, are considered, I cannot think that the proposed sum is at all exorbitant. Sure I am that in this way, and in this way alone, can the real practical part of farming be learned; and I am not without support in my opinion. If any one doubts the value of the plan, I beg to refer him to the first page of that absolutely invaluable work, *Stephen's Book of the Farm*, where he will find the question ably argued. I most earnestly advise all students of Agriculture upon entering upon their first year to buy, or borrow, a copy of the work. Reading it attentively and without prejudice, they will find it an immense assistance in making clear the many, at first, incomprehensible operations that are going on. They will see that, although the systems of agriculture pursued here and in Britain are necessarily different in degree, they are still based upon the same broad principles. That while climate prevents us from sowing the *Trifolium incarnatum* on the stubbles in autumn, *Vetches* succeed perfectly when sown in the spring; though hoed root crops cannot be largely grown, Rape, Hungarian grass, &c., will supply a much felt want throughout the summer: in fact, that the grand thing wanted here is the sensible and discriminating adaptation of the practice of the old country to the rougher soil, and the harsher climate of the new country.

I can see wherever I go a spirit abroad which is very encouraging. A desire to learn, and absence of all contempt for new ideas. Young men of our best families, I speak of the English races particularly, are bent upon trying, at all

(1) Mr. Weld, Editor of the *Farmers' Advocate*, London, Ont, says the same.

events, if money, as well as comfort and a happy life, cannot be gained by farming.

Already, at Lennoxville, there is quite a colony of educated, men established, whose cattle and land promise soon to be an example to their old fashioned neighbours. But of them more here after.

Mr. Blackwood's farm, he tells me, has been in his hands for 47 years! It was a roughish undertaking, but looking at the square forehead and the firm outlines of the mouth of the man, I could easily see that *difficulty* was, in his vocabulary, only another word for *something to be overcome*.

He never rested till he had brought his whole farm, hill-side of course excepted, into a regular course of cropping, feeling, as every one must who thinks at all, that no certainty can exist as to the quantity of stock that can be kept, unless the acreage in stock food is a fixed quantity. He lays down no hard and fast rule as to the proper course of cropping: that must depend upon the soil, distance from manure, &c.

He milks about 30 cross-bred cows, and has a high reputation for butter in the neighbourhood. I fancy there is not much waste about his place; a man evidently keen, and one who reminds me very much of the late Mr. Howe, of Nova Scotia, in fact I never saw two heads so much alike. I never saw the later gentleman but once, at the St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, but I was so much struck with the look of *sagacity* (sense and judgment combined) that I enquired his name, and was not displeased to find that my taste for physiognomy had not led me into error.

I regretted very much not to have had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Blackwood's farm; but I could not retrace my steps, as my time was limited.

The country round Waterloo is evidently given up to dairying. The land is strong, terribly stony, and a man ought to be brought up in the district to enjoy farming there.

There is much *good* land in the intervals (*inter valles*), and all of it is *useful* land, that is, land which, properly treated, will grow any crop you like to ask it to grow.

I visited, first, the farm of Mr. Keep, pleasantly situated on the hill above the town. It has only been in its present owner's hands about a year, but he has worked hard, and although much of it had been evidently run out, one or two pieces of grain, and a small piece of Mangolds showed that business was meant. The hay was promising about a ton and a quarter to the acre; good for such a bleak place. Indian Corn was cut about by the wind. Wheat last year, 22 bushels per acre. Twelve cross-bred cows are kept, and the butter was selling for 19c. a pound. This farm bids fair to be one of the best managed in the district; but, until the stones are cleared off the land, it will never be a pleasant one to till. If Mr. Keep continues as he has begun, it will not take long to rid him of these hindrances.

The implements used here are necessarily of the strongest description. No reapers, and the Horse-rakes and mowers preferred are from the manufactory of Messrs. Massey, of Toronto.

A meadow, 33 acres in extent, belonging to the Hon. J. Steevens, Senator of the Dominion, deserves more than a passing notice. Bought about ten years ago, the land was mere swamp, and the produce, Mr. Blackwood informed me, was a quarter of a ton per acre. The whole was drained, with stones, at the depth of 30 to 36 inches, and top-dressed with manure from the town of Waterloo. The yield has, since, been enormous. It is said that 110 tons have been taken from the 33 acres, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons to the acre, but this I found to be doubtful, as Mr. Williams, a nephew of Mr. Steevens, put it at 90 tons, and as the hay was not weighed but judged, even this yield is not an ascertained one. Still the crop as I saw it was very large; considerably more than two tons to the acre. Mr. Steevens I did not see, as he was