

tory of its progress. High above his contemporaries of the 17th century stands Jethro Tull, whose literary talents and inventive genius are worthy of lasting remembrance. The 18th century witnessed the consolidation of small farms, and the introduction of green and root crops. The European wars during this period greatly stimulated the practice of British agriculture. The 19th century has marked in agriculture, more than in any other occupation, an era of great progress. The systems of deep ploughing and drainage, promulgated by Smith, of Deanstone; the use of commercial fertilizers, and the invention of improved machinery, have, with the spread of agricultural literature and the establishment of experimental stations, raised the occupation of the farmer to a position of comfort and respectability.

In considering the present rank of agriculture as an occupation, we will do so from three very important standpoints: finance, social advantages and health.

Financially, agriculture more than holds its own. Notwithstanding the carelessness and ignorance which prevail in some quarters, curtailing profits and necessitating heavy mortgages, the farmers are, man for man, the wealthiest class in the province of Ontario to-day. While the actual cash remuneration is not as large as in some other occupations, the risk is not nearly so great, and the chances of ultimate success are better, for though in spite of every precaution 95 per cent. of our merchants meet with financial ruin, the case is indeed rare in which the farm refuses to yield a comfortable livelihood, and I am confident that agriculture will prove a financial success to all who undertake it in a business-like manner. To succeed financially the farmer must have pluck, because there is no success which is not won by patient toil and true thrift, which is to put the spare dollars where they will bring back the equivalent of good interest. He must also know his business, and be able to buy and sell to the best advantage. A prudent farmer will avoid exclusive specialties, and will engage only in those branches of agriculture which are suited to his locality.

Neither must the social features of an occupation be overlooked; for no calling, which isolates a man from the company of his equals, will rank high in his estimation. Under this head agriculture offers many advantages, and a few disadvantages, which might easily be eliminated. The farmer is apt to ignore the former and notice only the latter. He sees that, for a large part of the year, he is excluded, by the poor condition of the roads, from intercourse with his friends; while in summer, when the roads are good, he is too busy to enjoy it. He sees his children often detained from school and from church, by the inclemency of the weather, and feels that owing to the scattered population of the country he cannot enjoy the same musical and literary treats as his friends in the city. Not only this, he sees that "farmer" has become a term of reproach among the nations; and that he no longer occupies that proud position which nature intended.

But while farming has a few drawbacks, for these drawbacks we are more than compensated. While the city man is always in the midst of noise and confusion, the farmer can participate at will in the pleasure of mirth or the thoughtful study of nature. He may also enjoy the luxuries of a verdant lawn, fine flowers and early vegetables; which in the city are confined to the favored few.

If the farmer be looked down on, the fault is not in his calling, for at all times the tilling of the soil has been held in the highest repute. The aristocracy of every land has been proud to engage in it, and at present one of the most successful agriculturists in Great Britain and an ex-president of the "Royal Agricultural Society," is Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The social rank of any profession depends on the individual standing of every one engaged in it, hence our aim should be to improve ourselves and our neighbors to the best of our ability. Let us not bow to wealth or arrogance, but retain our self-respect remembering with the "Immortal Bard,"

"A king can make a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith, he maunna fa' that!"

But no matter what advantages an occupation has to offer it will never be popular, if its practice be injurious to the health of those engaged in it. In this respect the farmer is favorably situated, as the fresh air and regular physical exercise make his calling one of the most salubrious.

Agriculture might be improved, however, even in this respect; farmers are apt to look with contempt upon labor saving appliances, or if they adopt them themselves deny their wives the benefits of their use. If farmers were more willing to accept the services of science, we would see among them fewer physical wrecks less premature old age.

Having considered the past history of agriculture and its present position among the occupations of man, we look with prophetic eye into the future, and lo, the dark array of sorrows and cares which the farmer bears has long since passed away. Here, indeed, is a picture of peace and prosperity. The farm is not large, but every foot of the ground has been cultivated to the best advantage. The fences of old have gone with the feudal castles of an earlier date far into the regions of the past, and the only vestage which remains is a small paddock near the barns. The buildings, conveniently planned and neatly painted, are built on good stone foundations; the farm lane is well built and nicely shaded; while the home, a dream of beauty and comfort, in a flower-decked lawn of emerald green, completes the picture.

Let us examine the cause of this prosperity. It is but the reward of patient effort, for no fairy of our brightest imaginations can accomplish half as wonderful metamorphoses as the onward march of civilization and science. By the improvement of farm and domestic machinery, physical labor has been reduced, and time allowed for self-improvement. The declaration of absolute "free trade" has, with the improvement of railroad facilities, secured for the farmer a large and remunerative market; while the establishment of good turnpike roads allows him to enjoy the same advantages as those living in the city. The sowing of perfect seed has, with thorough cultivation and liberal application of plant food, revolutionized farm crops, and once again the fields bring forth a hundred fold. By hearty co-operation, liberal education, and the extinction of party spirit, the farmer has gained his proper authority in the government of this grand Dominion: the hand that guides the nation is the hand that guides the plough.

"O Canada! my dear, my native soil,
For whom my warmest wish to Heaven is sent;
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content.
Oh, never, never Canada's realm desert;
But still the patriot and the patriot bard
In bright succession rise, her ornament and guard."

J. A. STEAD BURNS, '93.



THE WIND AS A SOURCE OF POWER.

That wind power can be utilized with good effect is acknowledged by many farmers, although some look upon it as a problem which has not been satisfactorily solved as yet.

The windmill was looked upon by many, at first, as a machine by means of which a natural force could be employed to perform many kinds of work pertaining to the farm, such as cutting fodder, crushing grain, pumping water, pulping roots, etc., and many other kinds of work not enumerated, which are necessary more especially around farm buildings.

Now, although manufacturers, and others particularly interested, still claim that windmills have a wide use, we