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FERGUSON & GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, OCTOBER 10, 1863.

FERGUSON & GREGORY, Proprietors

OUR EMIGRATION POLICY.

We direct attention to the Second Report, dated Sept. 22nd, 1863, of the Committee of the House on Emigration and Colonization, which we give in another column. Among the most noticeable considerations suggested by a perusal of the Report are the following:—

First, that many emigrants, while leaving home with the intention of settling in Canada, do yet prefer to come by way of New York instead of by the St. Lawrence. This goes to encourage American shipping and American railways instead of our own, and is certainly to be regretted on that account alone; while it augments the chances of our losing the emigrants altogether. The advantages of the New York route in point of cheapness at present, and the greater number of vessels making that port their destination, are of no light account in a comparison, and cannot be easily got over. It may fairly be questioned, however, if the higher cost of passage by the St. Lawrence be a necessity either natural or commercial. It is true that our harbours are closed in the winter, while that of New York is open; but as emigration is nearly altogether in the summer, this circumstance makes less difference than might be supposed. Of course those who leave either very late or very early in the season would have to come by New York. We beg here to put a question. Is it not just possible that Quebec and Montreal shippers may have shewn themselves a little too greedy of immediate gain heretofore, thereby through a short-sighted and grasping policy injuring their own interests? The Scriptures admonish us that they who make haste to be rich fall into a snare; and we judge that public opinion will back us in recommending the dictum to the particular consideration of some people in Montreal. We need scarcely add that the fatal consequences of too much haste, of trying to go too fast and to carry too much, have been already sufficiently exemplified in a more tangible form, and in a more literal sense than that just indicated. The high charges and general indifference to emigrants and to emigration of the Canadian Ocean Steamship Company have been so marked as to call forth repeated and energetic remonstrance on the part of individuals. We fear that generally speaking, the St. Lawrence shipping interest labours under the error, doubly reprehensible in the age in which we live, of trusting too much to governmental subsidies and other less obvious forms of protection and discrimination in its favour; and too little to fair commercial enterprise and the proper improvement of advantages naturally and legitimately within its grasp.

The very strange fact is also brought out now, as it has been often before, that although nobody can be found amongst us maintaining that immigration is not desirable from our own point of view, and though everybody makes believe to look upon it as just the thing we want, yet somehow or other, we do not seem to throw ourselves at all

heartily into the work of forwarding and encouraging what we profess so much to desire. Is there not something "very peculiar indeed," in the way in which governmental action in this matter has been frustrated and delayed year after year? During four or five successive sessions of Parliament, and under different Parliaments and different Administrations, the subject of Emigration has been elaborately considered and reported upon by Committees to the House, recommendations based upon reliable information and evidence have been submitted; but yet nothing, or next to nothing, has been done. The reports seem to have been quietly laid aside, probably in some safe place, where they would be in no danger of being lost! Why is this the case, and how does it happen so? will probably be the question asked by plain common sense people, ignorant of the art and mystery of what we call government. Is it the expense principally, that stands in the way? Scarcely the expense alone, we should think, for great as the existing pressure upon our resources undoubtedly is, the profitable return for a little judicious outlay in drawing emigration to our shores is so immediate and so sure, that we must think of something else as the real obstacle. But what is it after all, which so operates, that the thing which everybody wishes to see done, cannot be got done? Can it be that there is some occult influence at work, potent and overmastering as the law of gravitation itself, which perpetually defeats the efforts of the friends of emigration?

Is the passage which appears so open and so easy to the untutored eye, really barred by sunken rocks which render energetic advance impossible? Is there a lion in the path which the general public know not of? What lumbering and unwieldy obstacle is it, which by its mere dead-weight and *vis inertiae* seems to defy all our efforts? Is it merely the dull passive resistance which the time-honoured and traditional routine of officialism almost constantly opposes to the demand for specific improvements, even though the same be backed by the whole force of public opinion?—From what cause, or concatenation of causes, does it happen, that while we all seem so ardently to wish for the filling up of the country by emigration, we appear to be as a people still so slack in pushing the business forward?

These are some of the queries suggested by a perusal of the report. That the report itself does not answer those queries is not to be charged as a fault upon the committee. They may think what they please; but there are some things which it would perhaps be inexpedient for them to say. Our allusion to the fact that such queries are obviously suggested, though not answered, does not imply that we volunteer to supply the omission, if such it can be called. For the present we content ourselves with submitting the questions, leaving our readers to answer them according to their individual convictions in the matter.

As for the interest felt on the subject in the old country, consider the fact stated in the Report, that while at Liverpool last spring, Mr. Buchanan had in two months no less than 1128 letters addressed to him, all from persons desirous to emigrate to Canada. The writers of these letters represent, of course, other and many more individuals than themselves. We commend the report itself and the important subject to which it relates, to the attentive consideration of all who wish well to Canada.

HOW TO RAISE GOOD WHEAT—THE BENEFIT OF A LIBERAL CULTIVATION OF CLOVER.

Mr. Harris, the Editor of the *Genesee Farmer*, delivered lately at Utica, before the Agricultural Society there assembled, an address on 'Wheat culture in Western New York.' The address appears to be marked by good practical common sense, as well as by a scientific acquaintance with the subject discoursed of. It is given in full in the *Genesee Farmer* for October.

Mr. Harris arrives at the conclusion that the liberal cultivation of clover, and its consumption on the farm at home, is the most efficient plan for increasing the production of wheat. Near to cities and seaports, other ways of enriching the soil and keeping up its productive power might be found to answer; but at a distance therefrom, clover recommends itself by actual results as by far the cheapest and most extensively available fertiliser. It is conceded that ammonia, or nitrogen, that component part of ammonia in which all its value as a fertiliser lies, is indispensable to the production of wheat; nay further, that of all the constitu-

ents of wheat, it is the one which needs most frequently and constantly to be renewed. The clover plant possesses this most remarkable and valuable quality, namely:—that it draws and absorbs nitrogen into its substance and composition from the air; an inexhaustible source of gratuitous supply. Peas and beans belong to the same botanical order as clover, and like it, are to be classed as renovating plants. If the clover be either ploughed under, or consumed on the farm and the manure therefrom returned to the soil, the latter is immensely benefitted. Ploughing in clover is good; but to pasture it and feed it to stock on the farm is better. Manure from clover hay is four times as rich as that made from straw. Mr. Harris says: 'Raise your own clover seed, and sow it with an unsparring hand. You cannot raise too much clover. It is the grand renovating crop of America.' And again—'Wheat requires a large amount of ammonia; so does barley, oats, timothy grass, &c. They are all cereals. The less we grow of them on wheat land, the less we shall impoverish the soil. On the other hand, clover, peas, beans, turnips, beets, mangel-wurtzel, &c., when grown and consumed on the farm, furnish large quantities of ammonia; and this is just what we want for wheat.' He adds—'we must raise clover in order to enrich our land, but it would be better to eat it on the land with sheep, or make it into hay and return the manure to the soil.'

Every farmer in Canada ought to read and ponder Mr. Harris' address. It may be said that his remarks are made with special reference to Western New York, but this part of the Province, at all events, is so similar in most essential respects to the locality in question, that very nearly the same thing will apply to both. It is unquestionable that our farmers run greatly on timothy, while they neglect clover, as of less value; a most injurious course, if what Mr. Harris says be correct.

Some will be ready to object; but what is the use of raising wheat, to be frozen out and destroyed by the midge? The answer is, that everything that promotes the healthy growth of wheat helps to make it ripen earlier, and so escape the midge. Clover ploughed under makes a heavy crop of wheat, but is supposed to keep it growing rather long, therefore it is better to eat the clover off where it grows, or otherwise consume it and return it to the soil as manure. We commend Mr. Harris' ideas as to the benefit of clover cultivation, to the attentive consideration of our farmers.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE AMERICAN ODD FELLOW for October is now before us. A very neat and tastefully got up periodical, devoted to the interests of the Order. The selections in this number are really good.

THE LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURIST for October is received. It is published in Montreal, under the direction of Mons. M. J. Perrault, M. P. P., a gentleman who has largely devoted himself to the promotion of agricultural improvement. A very ably conducted serial, we should say, and very creditable to Lower Canada. It is published, as of course the circumstances of the Lower Province require, both in French and English.

THE GENESSEE FARMER.—The October number of this excellent agricultural journal is received; and is, in our opinion, of more than usual interest. It contains a full report of the Agricultural discussions at the late New York State Fair at Utica; and the address delivered by Mr. Harris, (Editor of the *Genesee Farmer*), on 'Wheat culture in Western New York.' As the profitable cultivation of wheat is now by all odds the most important, and the most urgent problem now before the agriculturists of Canada, we are safe in saying that everything relating thereto, or which may help towards an intelligent appreciation of the best methods to insure success, is of paramount interest to them, and to all in the Province as well. We give in another column the substance of what Mr. Harris recommends, namely: to raise clover liberally, and consume it on the farm. His ideas on the subject are well worthy the attention of our farmers.

We omitted mentioning in our last that the fine sketches therein copied of the scenery of the Island of Orleans, were from the pencil of Alexander Davie, Esq., of Quebec. —ED. C. I. N.