

himself and family substantial benefits in the form of better meal, better beef, better pork, and better potatoes than he could otherwise have obtained, probably at higher rates.

Any historical account of the rise and progress of agriculture in Nova Scotia, however brief, which contained no allusion to the literary element brought to bear on the subject, would be imperfect. We have already referred to Agricola's able letters, which constituted the first literary effort in the direction indicated. Then came Dr. Gesner's account of the resources of Nova Scotia—including agriculture—published in 1849. The able and indefatigable Dr. Forrester followed in 1858, beginning and editing the "Journal of Education and Agriculture." It was published for two years and then ceased to exist for lack of encouragement. The writer has examined every number issued during the period specified, and could not but admire the rich mental resources of a man who could write so ably on so many subjects, and at the same time attend to his other onerous duties. We have already mentioned the production of Dr. Dawson, which was entitled, "Contributions toward the improvement of agriculture in Nova Scotia, with practical hints on the management and improvement of live stock," which was issued in 1856 under a grant from the Legislature. The work was valuable, as presenting a carefully prepared compendium of the writings of the highest agricultural authorities of the time. More recently the "Journal of Agriculture," under the able direction of Dr. Lawson, has been, and still is diffusing valuable information derived from Provincial experience, and the best practical authorities on husbandry.

Nova Scotia has been the theatre of three great movements, which have told most beneficially on the destinies of the Province. We refer to those bearing on agriculture, responsible government, and education. All honour to the men who have been the chief promoters of these movements. There is a close connection between agriculture and education. One of the greatest impediments to the progress of agriculture in the Province has been want of due appreciation of the knowledge necessary to prosecute it with success, and the consequent absence of a desire for its attainment. Our public schools are paving the way for more decided progress. A marvellous change is being effected in the general intelligence of the rising generation, and farming, which in the days of Agricola, and much later, was regarded as a mean occupation, is now considered highly respectable. The writer had proceeded thus far when he was gratified to find his views confirmed in the fol-

lowing quotation from an address delivered by Colonel Laurie, in 1877. "Within the last few years," he said, "a great change on the subject of farming has come over the community; but a few years since every young farmer who could scrape a few dollars together abandoned farming and sought other pursuits, and I can scarcely call to mind an instance in which a farmer's son who had received a liberal education returned to the farm. Now we find not merely these, but the sons of merchants and professional men, after having received a thorough education, taking to farming as a profession. Agriculture must benefit by recruiting from this class of young men, who have been taught to think and to reason, and to study cause and effect." At the same meeting at which Colonel Laurie spoke the words just quoted, Sir William Young, after referring to the dignity of agricultural work, said: "My earnest advice, then, to a young man who has health and strength, and a fair education, such as our institutions now afford, would be to avoid both law and medicine, since no trade is more precarious than either, and to betake himself to the invigorating and ennobling study and pursuit of agriculture. Let him learn to do everything about a farm with his own hands, and do it well. If he has a fair start in life, through his own earnings or with the help of his friends, he may have his own comfortable home or cottage, surrounded by his own land, and free of debt." These words embody a sound and well-timed advice to our young men. In Great Britain we find that a large number of wealthy merchants retire from mercantile pursuits, and take delight in cultivating the soil, striving to excel in the improvement of live stock, and the production of esculents and cereals of surpassing excellence. Till within a few years the demand for farms, in all the counties, was such that rents rose to an abnormal height. There is at present a reaction, attributable to a series of bad harvests and the competition arising from heavy importations from other countries.

We have surely arrived at that point of agricultural intelligence in Nova Scotia, which demands systematic instruction in the scientific principles and practice of husbandry. It is remarkable that the first agricultural school in Europe was founded in Switzerland in 1806. The pupils were taken from the poorest class of peasantry, of whom Fellenberg, the founder of the school, truly said that having no other property than their physical and mental faculties, they should be taught how to use their capital to the best advantage by labour. The benefits which Switzerland has derived from the school may be estimated from

the fact that about 3000 pupils were, during thirty years, trained in it. In France there is a number of such schools supported by the state. In Russia there is scarcely a Province which has not its agricultural school and farm. In Germany also there are educational institutions supported by the state in which husbandry is theoretically and practically taught. In England there are agricultural colleges established by private enterprise. In Scotland instruction in agriculture is imparted in universities, and through the valuable labours of the Highland Society. There are also farmers of skill who board students and train them in the practical work of the farm.

When, at the talismanic touch of Agricola, public attention was aroused, and a number of Agricultural Societies originated, attention was more particularly directed to the proper tillage of the soil. But very few superior animals were imported with a view to the improvement of stock, and any efforts put forth in that direction were in almost all cases the result of private enterprise. It was not till the government of which the able and energetic member for Cumberland was the head, came into power as the result of the election of 1863 that a decided impetus was given to the subject of live stock improvement. In the very first year of the new government regime an Act for the Improvement of Agriculture was passed by the Legislature, and, immediately after, the Board of Agriculture was instituted, which, in its practical working, has conferred inestimable benefits on the Province. The Board at once took action in the way of securing animals of a superior kind for breeding purposes. A few animals were obtained from the Provincial Exhibition at Fredericton, which were sold subsequently at Windsor, on the condition that they were to be retained in the Province. The Board also adopted energetic steps for the purpose of forming societies in the various counties, and not a few of these societies imported rams and ewes from Prince Edward Island. It was high time to effect an improvement, for the present agricultural journal, which started under the editorship of Dr. Lawson in 1865, reported that breeds of the best sheep were hopelessly "run out," and that sheep were becoming scarcely worth the raising in consequence, and that in horses there was a gradual deterioration. In order to make the operation of the Board effective in arresting the evil, the House of Assembly voted ten thousand dollars for the importation of stock for breeding purposes. The Hon. Dr. Tupper and the Hon. W. H. Henry selected horses, rams and ewes of pure breed in England, and the Hon. Alex. McFarlane visited Canada and secured a lot of splendid Cots-