

**THE ADDRESS of the Hon. J. Skead,
President of the Agricultural and
Arts Association of Ontario, deliv-
ered at Kingston.**

We have filled our paper for the past three months with so much about the different Exhibitions, Prize Lists, &c., that we had but little space left for other matter. The President's address was such an able and useful one, that we have kept it until now. It will well repay perusal now and twenty years hence. We have italicized one very important part of the address. The Hon. J. Skead, the President, is a Conservative, and the Hon. D. Christie, the former President, is a Reformer. As Presidents of the Board, they have both given entire satisfaction to that body of gentlemen. They have worked in harmony for the interest of the country. They and all the Board agree in that portion we have italicized, and the farmers of Ontario also, except the promoters and prompters of the Western Fair. They, under the guise of crying down Government support to the Provincial Board, are aiming at a hundred-fold greater tax to carry out their plans at Mimico.

A short twelve months has brought us from Toronto to Kingston, and from the able and exhaustive address of my predecessor in office to my own, which, in accordance with time-honored custom, I submit to you this evening. Without apologizing for the treatment, I may say that the theme is deserving of the ablest effort. We are met together at this city of Kingston to exhibit to all who may favor us with their presence what the farmers and mechanics of the Province of Ontario have lent their time, talents, and abilities to achieve during the last twelve months. The result of their labors in their respective departments have been openly exposed to view, and it is for those who have seen to decide if in this northern climate of ours, if in this land for a short space matted in its snowy drapery, old mother earth does not throw out from her ample bosom as fair and slightly products as flourish and thrive in more southerly latitudes. Here it is the hand of man that wrests from Nature what she gives elsewhere more ungrudgingly; but in a contest, men learn to fight more bravely and succeed more brilliantly, and Nature to yield more gracefully and abundantly. The very obstacles in our way stimulate our energies and crown our hopes. Thanks to the Giver of all good, the harvest of this season has been a fruitful one. Amidst profound peace the husbandman has gathered his grain into the garner. Whilst in other lands the hand of man has been raised against his fellow-man, to slay and destroy, we have escaped the clash of arms, our only strife being one of friendly rivalry to show how far Canada could contribute her quota towards advancing the peace, prosperity and well-being of all mankind. Fortunately, in the deliberations of those who control our public affairs, moderate councils have prevailed, and the small black cloud in the distance which at one time seemed to overshadow us, is rapidly passing away, and there is drawing up on us the prospect of a more perfect understanding between two neighboring peoples, who, possessed of the same language, literature and ideas, should only rival one another in peaceful arts, and strive to excel in excellence.

The maxim of the British Empire is peace, and we, of all her colonies, are deeply interested in construing that word literally. Our motto is defence, not defiance; and although on any and every occasion ready to resist oppression, we do not desire nor could we gain anything from an aggressive policy. Already the simple and primitive argument of actual interest is extending our possessions, until we have stretched in one Anglo-Saxon belt from the Atlantic to the Pacific—an infant Hercules, immature as yet, but giving signs of inherent strength and qualities which, when properly formed and directed, may be powerful enough to sway the destinies of a universe. Thrown together in this new and northern world, representatives of many distinct families and nations, our special care should be union and amalgamation among ourselves, and a constant and easily attainable object to give to the country of our adoption a standing and a position among the nations of the earth. A kind and beneficent Providence has aided upon the labors of the husbandman during the past season, and I have to congratulate

you, gentlemen, upon the result of this year's harvest. Except perhaps in a single staple, hay, the crops have been above the usual average; timely showers throughout the season have filled our barns, and in some cases over-filled them. It would be of immense advantage could a proper and more efficient system of drying grain by artificial means be adopted, and the great cost of the storage in bulk of grain and straw be in some measure lessened. As farming, like other business pursuits, comes to be more systematized, and a fair proportion between the number of acres cultivated and the capital employed is better understood, improvements and amelioration would naturally follow, until the whole is reduced to the position as a scientific pursuit to which its great importance to the community entitles it.

The scarcity and high price of labor naturally lead to the introduction of machinery to supplement manual labor. The mower and reaper has supplemented the scythe, reaping-hook and cradle used not many years ago; and as we progress in a more perfect understanding of other mechanical contrivances will replace our present crude implements.

Progress should be the farmer's aim. He should study how to obtain the greatest possible yield from the least quantity of land with the least possible expense; he should educate himself to that intent, and not alone himself, but those who may come after him in the same occupation. The son should be taught that the occupation of the father is not the mean ignoble one it is the somewhat common error to suppose it to be; he should be shown that properly to till the soil requires all the intellectual faculties men are commonly endowed with; that it is not merely a question of brute force and ignorance, but requires also head and intelligent effort. The true farmer is a member of one of the noblest professions; he is a chemist, a mechanic, an astronomer, a botanist, and in fine, an intelligent observer of God's works in nature; a man of intellect as well as of action. It is the great mistake of the day to imagine that the farmer's son who gives the smallest possible evidence of brains is altogether a too superior being to tread in the footsteps of his father, but must perforce be thrust into some one or other of the so-called learned professions; whereas, in reality, he forsakes the avocation he was most suited for by nature.

Thews and sinews are no disgrace to any man, and it were well that the present generation should pay more attention to the manners and customs of their forefathers, who reduced a primeval forest into cultivated fields. The farmer should endeavor to make his calling attractive to his children; he should introduce a little taste into his surroundings; it is not enough to own a house merely, but something should be done to make that house pretty, pleasing and attractive—a nucleus around which would gather the affections and sympathies of the entire family. The old homestead should be a thing of beauty as well as use; shady trees should overtop its rafters; bright flowers and fruits should find their place in the indispensable garden plot; in short, the whole should point it out as the well-loved home of a rational, civilized Christian man, and not the abode of a mere animal. The children playing around the doorstep formed their impressions from their surroundings. The bleak and barren birth-place can produce no feelings of love, no wish to live the homely life of the farmer, but rather drives them from it and throws them into other pursuits.

Here in Canada the care of stock in the winter months is a very important feature. Thus, housing and economical feeding deserve the farmer's strictest attention. Every animal owned requires shelter, and farm buildings should be arranged to give the greatest amount of shelter with the least expense.

Farm architecture is well deserving of greater attention than it receives in this country. In England, where properly constructed buildings are not absolutely indispensable, as they are here, it has almost assumed the proportion of a separate branch of the profession; and it may now safely be said that Canada and her agricultural interests have reached that point when the farmer should abandon the haphazard measure of construction which places his buildings as fancy or the convenience of the moment dictate, the inevitable result being a confused and irregular mass, unsightly to the eye and but ill adapted to the purpose for which they were originally intended; a constant source of annoyance, causing more trouble and expense to the

owner in the care of his stock and the supervision of his farm duties than would have sufficed twice over to have reduced the whole, in the first instance, to a well-digested and organized plan pervading every department, enlightening his labors, and gladdening both heart and eye—a source of profit as well as pride.

There is no good reason why the buildings on a farm should not be arranged for the introduction of machinery on a greater or lesser scale according to the extent of business done. A few feet of shafting in each farm, with either steam or horse power as the motive agent, could not fail in a short time to repay to the full the first cost.

In the management of the buildings the root cellar should be carefully looked after, as the storage place of one of our most important crops, it should for convenience of feeding be easily accessible in all weathers—in fact serve as a point around which should cluster the other buildings. I have no doubt that feeding of cattle would be much more profitable than it now is were the steaming or fermentation and cutting of their food more systematically attended to. Without plentiful manuring no successful result can be expected from the farm, and the best manure for that manure, and where it can be most readily and profitably procured, is from the cattle fed at home, whether they be in the form of beef for the market or in the still more desirable form of dairy cattle. In connection with this last subject I am pleased to see that throughout the country generally farmers are paying increased attention to the products of the dairy. The trade in butter and cheese is already an important one, and is still susceptible of great enlargement. Cheese factories have become an institution amongst us, and their good effects are most sensibly felt in the districts in which they are located. I hope that no section of the country will be without its factory, and that our exports of these two articles will be greatly augmented. Cattle fed at home consume for the most part these products which should not be sold off. In return for what they eat they give us meat and many things beside, as well as the material for enriching your soil. The man who understands his business will always have his proportionate acreage of roots; and I expect to see, year by year, that proportion extended, as it is undoubtedly the foundation stone of all good farming, and its thorough cultivation forms a school of agriculture in which to educate our young men. Our staple roots, such as turnips, carrots, mangels, and the rest, require but little notice at my hands. Their importance is already recognized and appreciated; but there is one branch of agricultural industry to which I wish to direct your most particular attention as being most important to the country at large. I refer to the cultivation of the sugar beet, an industry which is not at present to any great extent located amongst us, but which in France, Belgium and Germany forms their leading crops, and has become a source of wealth to those nations. Lately the English farmers, ever alive to improvements and profit, have taken it up, and there is now forming in England a company for the cultivation of the beet-root, and manufacture of sugar therefrom, with a capital of two hundred thousand pounds sterling. Of such moment is the question of its introduction into England considered, that the Hon. Robert Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing into Parliament a bill for the remission of sugar duties, spoke as follows:—"We know that the beet root industry of the Continent is spreading very widely. There is the prospect to grow it with the same effect in this country; and could we hope for anything so good as that it could be introduced with success, it would be one of the greatest blessings that could befall the country."

And, again, Professor Voelcker, perhaps the highest authority on agricultural matters in England, writes to the journal of the Royal Society that the growth of beet-root for the manufacture of sugar in the north of Germany has tended, more than anything else, to raise the general standard of agriculture in the larger districts in that country; and he believes it would have the same effect in England. It is asserted, also, on reliable authority, the spent beet-root pulp which is the residue left after the saccharine juices are extracted, is better food for cattle, and has more milk-giving propensities than ever the root crop, and that its culture as a rotation crop—a consideration which should ever be present in the farmer's mind—prepares the soil for a heavy and superior crop of wheat. I am indebted to my friend, Mr. S. G. Harvey, for many valuable suggestions on this subject. He informs me that when in the year 1853, the late Emperor of the French visited Valenciennes, he passed under an arch upon which was inscribed the great extent of land under cultivation with wheat in this district and the largely increased production of the soil since beet root had become an article of extended growth.

1st. The hectares of wheat (2½ statute acres) which formerly yielded only 19 hectolitres per acre, now (1853) produced 27 hectolitres.

2nd. Where formerly there were only 4,202 hectares under wheat, there are now (1853) 9,240 hectares sown.

3rd. The number of cattle in the district increased from 6,995 formerly, to 40,656 in 1853.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 25th of March last says:—"In many parts of the continent beet sugar has nearly, if not quite driven cane sugar out of the market, and the percentage of it taken by us is gradually becoming higher than the percentage representing the general augmentation of our sugar supplies." The total production of beet-root sugar for the past three years was in 1868, 650,000 tons; in 1869, 841,000 tons; in 1870, 925,000 tons. At a meeting of the English Society of Arts held on the 8th July last, James Caird, Esq., C.B., the Chairman, stated that the "quantity of sugar imported was equal to one-eighth of the entire consumption of wheat, both foreign and native grown, while the foreign sugar imported was equal to one-fourth of the import of foreign wheat." If such be the result in other countries, why should not so important a branch of industry be tried here. There is surely nothing in the soil or climate of Canada which would forbid its growth, on the contrary, if properly tilled, I am convinced it would prove eminently successful and add another to the best of our national products. I would earnestly recommend action in the matter, and would suggest the subject for the consideration of this Board, and of the Government of the country.

Another important feature in the agricultural industry of this Province is the cultivation of flax, which even this year, although not grown to the extent its merits entitle it, is entirely satisfactory. There is every prospect that the price will be a remunerative one, and the great objection to its more extensive cultivation, the fact of great amount of manual labor required in its manipulation is being gradually done away with, and labor-saving machinery is quickly simplifying its manufacture and productions. I am informed that a machine is now manufactured in Woodstock which makes as great a revolution in the culture of flax as the mowing machine made in the curing of hay. In this Province of ours where our immense resources are but beginning to be brought to light, where the spirit of its people is but beginning to exert its energy towards the solution of the question of the future destinies of Canada and its position in the fore ranks of civilization, it surely becomes us to give prominence and direct attention to any subject which may perchance assist the one and secure the other. Let no one calling himself by the well-loved name of a Canadian stay behind in the endeavor to contribute his mite towards making that name to be respected. My own part, could any act of mine—I will not say word, well knowing its feebleness—save two spears of grass to grow where only one grew before, I shall be satisfied, and to that intent my constant effort will be directed. I ask you, gentlemen, to take these last two subjects to which I have adverted into serious consideration, and by precept and example encourage the experiment of introducing them into general cultivation; for if successful you will have added two more pillars to prop up our national greatness. In his address at Toronto my predecessor in office treated you to an elaborate and exhaustive history of the progress and objects of the Board over which I have the honor for the last twelve months to preside. It would be superfluous for me to recapitulate what has already and so much better been said. He traced its course from the building sapling to the stately tree it now resembles. I have only to add that its progress has so far been uninterrupted, and its prospects for the future still continue high. The balance remaining in our hands from last year amounted to \$12,765. The Denistown matter is proceeding in a satisfactory manner towards settlement, the Association holding good security by way of a guarantee for the amount of their claim, with interest at eight per cent.

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