



Henry Cargill, M.P. Born, 1838. Died, Oct 1st., 1903

## The Late Henry Cargill, M.P.

In the sudden death at Ottawa on Oct. 1st. of Mr. Henry Cargill, M.P., Canada has lost one of her most enterprising and broad-minded citizens. He may be said to have died in harness. About 5 o'clock he took part in a discussion in the House of Commons. Shortly afterwards he had a fainting spell from which he seemed to rally, but the heart action gradually became weaker and at 10.50 p.m. the vital spark fled. Mrs. Cargill and one daughter, Mrs. Southam, were with him when he died. He was buried in Bruce county.

Mr. Cargill was in many respects a self-made man. He was the son of the late David Cargill, who came to Canada from Ireland in 1823 and settled in Halton County. Here the subject of this sketch was born in 1838. He was educated at the public schools and at Queen's University, Kingston. He early acquired a love for books and good reading, which remained with him during his active business and political career.

Mr. Cargill was brought up to the lumbering business in his native township of Nassagaweya. In 1854 Bruce County was opened up for settlement. In the settling up process a large tract of 30,000 acres, originally a flooded country known as the "Greenock" swamp, was left unallotted for want of applicants. In 1859 Mr. Cargill obtained control of about two-thirds of this area. He erected a saw-mill and other wood-working machinery farther down the river, where the village of Cargill soon grew up on the Grand Trunk Railway. He made roads and cut drains through the swamp; carefully culled the timber for manufacturing purposes, and sold for farming purposes the lots thus redeemed from the swampy area. Partly by the profits of business and partly also by the steady appreciation of his continually developing estate, Mr. Cargill became very wealthy. His success, which was clearly the result of his own enterprise and wisely directed efforts, was, however, envied by no one.

But it will be with Mr. Cargill's efforts

as a farmer and live stock breeder that our readers will be most interested. Partly from his special liking for stock and partly also from a desire to improve the live stock of the district, Mr. Cargill established in 1885 a herd of Shorthorns. The animals selected for foundation stock were the best that money could buy, and numerous additions since of choice imported blood have made the Shorthorn herd of Henry Cargill & Son one of the best in the country. Mr. Cargill also had a liking for good horses, and had public life not demanded so much of his time he would no doubt have risen to eminence in this line also. Of late years he had given some attention to the breeding of Clydesdales.

Mr. Cargill was a Presbyterian in religion and a Conservative in politics. In 1887 he was elected to the House of Commons for East Bruce, a constituency he continued to represent up to the time of his death. He seldom spoke in the House, but in committee work his opinions had much weight. Of late years the active management of the firm's business has been left largely to his son, Mr. Wm. Cargill, who has shown special aptitude in this direction.

### The New Fall Fair.

Under the Agriculture and Arts Act the object of District and Township Agricultural Societies shall be to encourage improvement in agriculture, horticulture, manufactures and the useful arts:

- (1) By importing and otherwise procuring seeds, plants and animals of new and valuable kinds;
- (2) By offering prizes for essays on questions of scientific inquiry relating to agriculture, horticulture, manufactures and the useful arts;
- (3) By carrying on experiments in the growing of crops, the feeding of stock or any other branch of agriculture, or by testing any system of farming through arrangement with one or more of the

farmers of the municipality in which the society is organized;

(4) By awarding premiums for excellence in the raising or introduction of stock, for the invention or improvement of agricultural or horticultural implements and machinery, for the production of grain and of all kinds of vegetables, plants, flowers and fruits, and generally for excellence in any agricultural or horticultural production or operation, article of manufacture or work of art.

It will be seen by a careful perusal of these "objects" that the Act as a whole has not been carried out by the agricultural societies. Number one was neglected to such an extent that the graduates and undergraduates of the Ontario Agricultural College found it necessary to band themselves together and carry out this part of the Act through the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union. The second part had been entirely neglected until the organization of the Farmers Institutes, independent of the local Agricultural Societies, which last year held 837 meetings with an aggregate attendance of 126,459. As to the third object, the Agricultural Societies have done nothing, but fortunately experimental farms have been established by both the Provincial and Dominion Governments, and they are carrying on this work for the benefit of the farmers at large.

The Agricultural Societies, then, have confined their work largely to "Object No. 4." The awarding of premiums for excellence in the raising or introduction of stock, etc., etc. Some Societies in the Province have carried out this part of the Act pretty well, some fairly well, but many have failed almost completely. There seems to be a very good reason for failure in many cases. There is no business in this country or in any other that could stand the expense of maintaining a plant as expensive as the average Agricultural Society grounds, buildings and equipment, and run that plant only one or two times in the year. Bad weather at the time of the fall fair means practical failure for the whole year's work.

Again, the farmers themselves have been very backward about spending money on their own fair grounds. Very few would buy membership tickets unless they expected to get prizes to more than pay for them. The consequence has been that the merchants, business men, professional men and hotel-keepers of the towns have been called upon to support the Agricultural Society. One result of this has been that many of the shows have degenerated from an agricultural exhibition into a vaudeville and fair show. The change has been a gradual one, first a few harmless features of entertainment were added to please the townspeople; then, as these side-shows became expensive it seemed necessary to put on sufficient of the town attractions to attract a great many people so that the gate receipts might be sufficient to pay for the increased attractions. This has grown to such an extent that some fairs are paying as high as one thousand dollars a year to outsiders who come upon the exhibition grounds merely for the purpose of amusing or otherwise taking up the time and attention of the people.

But a change has come. The educational idea has been taken up by a large number, and is slowly but surely working a revolution. This fall six societies have adopted the "Experimental Plot" idea. A half acre of land has been set apart, and small plots, each one rod wide and two rods long, have been planted to the most desirable varieties of grains and grasses and roots. These were planted so they would be mature at the time of the fair, and were much appreciated by the farmers who visited the Walkerton, Owen Sound, Simcoe and Brantford, Windsor and Renfrew fairs this year. These fairs also adopted practical demonstrations in the feeding, killing, plucking and dressing of poultry; the growing and plucking through appliances; the preparation of simple foods for