

EVERY effort should be put forth to promote Agriculture in this Province, and also the numerous branches of Industry related to Agriculture. There is, for example, the Artificial Manure Manufacture. Around our shores there are no doubt large quantities of useful material annually running to waste. Mr. Vice-Consul Crowe's Report on the Norwegian Fisheries for 1874, offers some suggestive hints as to the uses to which the refuse of codfish may be applied. In Norway this refuse is converted into Artificial Guano.

It appears that this special manufacture has now become an important article of export, exceeding in value the export of ice-packed fish to England, and it is said to have such good prospects for future development that, ere long, it is not improbable that the annual export from Norway will exceed a value of 1,000,000 Spanish dollars. In 1872 two guano factories had been started, since which time seven more have been erected. These are all in operation, utilising the refuse of the cod; but one factory has been established for transferring into guano the refuse of the whale. "The raw material annually consumed by these factories now amounts to about 15,000 [1 tons of] fish-heads and backbones. Although the prices for fish-heads have risen in later times, from a trifle to 10½d. for a hundred, and from 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 10d. for a similar quantity of dried heads, the supply has sometimes been rather scanty. The reason assigned is, that fish-heads have hitherto been used among the common people as a substitute for winter fodder for the cattle. It is estimated that the cattle in the fishing districts consume about 10,000,000 of cods' heads annually. On visiting one of these guano factories, the first thing that attracts the attention is the accumulation of the raw material, consisting principally of dried fish heads and backbones in millions. In the factory itself one observes, in the first compartment, some large iron plates and stone slabs with furnaces underneath. On these plates the raw material goes through the drying process preparatory to ulterior operations. Although previously dried in the air, they have to be submitted to this additional drying process before being ground. A series of wooden shovels fixed over the pans, and set in motion by mechanical means, keep constantly stirring the material to prevent its burning. When thoroughly dried, the raw material is brought to the mill, and placed between the discs, furnished with sharp steel knives, rotating over each other, so as to tear the heads and backs into shreds. The raw material, after having gone through this process, is then brought to a common coarse mill, from whence it issues

as a homogenous coarse powder, which is then weighed into sacks holding 1 cwt. and stored ready for sale. Another novel and remarkable article, prepared from fish, viz., fish-flour, has been brought forward in the last few years. It is not as yet manufactured in any great quantity, as the article is still new in the market, and consequently there is no great demand for it. The flour is prepared from dried fish of the first quality; it is thoroughly desiccated, and then ground in a mill. There are two qualities—coarse and fine ground. It is especially the former which has found favour with the public, from which an excellent dish of preserved fish can in a short time be prepared; while the finer flour is used for fish puddings, a dish highly appreciated in Norway. To those who have no regular supply of fish, it is presumed this article will be more particularly important. Nova Scotia might supply the West India market.

WE have already seen some indication of a benefit to be derived from the dark cloud of "hard times" that has been hanging over us. Whatever may be the cause of all the financial difficulties and the comparative stagnation of manufacturing and mining industries, the unprofitableness of fishing, and the depreciation in freights,—one circumstance forces itself upon attention everywhere, whether in Nova Scotia or Ontario, or the United States, viz.: that wherever dependence has been placed upon Agriculture there has been no falling off. Crops have been good, prices are fair, and farming communities are everywhere enjoying ease and comfort. Now this should have the effect of turning the attention of young men to Agricultural pursuits, and of leading capitalists to enquire whether their money may not be as safely and as profitably invested in Agriculture as in any other Industry. With proper education and sufficient capital there is no pleasanter pursuit, and there is no branch of Industry that yields a more certain profit. It is true that the profits are not large in proportion to the capital employed, but neither are the risks. Compare the following account of the cheering state of matters in one of our own agricultural districts, (which we copy from the *Amherst Gazette*) with the dismal prospect that has lately been presented in some commercial communities, and in country districts dependent upon lumbering, &c.:—

"The fine weather and good roads of the past few weeks, have given quite a stimulus to all branches of business. Farmers have been busily employed in removing their hay from the marshes, and bringing their produce to market; indeed, the casual observer, noticing on our streets the loads of hay, the sleds piled up with

pork, butter, &c., and the large quantities of goods being removed from the several stores, would think it all a mistake about "times" being "hard."

"During the past season our farmers have gathered excellent crops, which are being disposed of at remunerative rates, our mechanics are all busily employed, laborers find employment, yet shopkeepers complain that they cannot collect overdue accounts, and have difficulty in getting money to meet their liabilities, which are sharply collected. The country will soon have to learn that the old-fashioned system of long credits will not suit the new style of doing business, and will have to pay more promptly.

"Our farmers complain of hard times more from a chronic habit than from any real cause. Indeed, we do not see how they can expect better crops or much better prices than the present year affords. Money is not as plentiful or prices as high as when the Intercolonial Road was being built; but that being completed, and no public work of equal magnitude being in prospect, we could not look for a continuance of such prosperous times.

"It is a little singular that in no year in the history of Amherst have there been so many buildings, and expensive ones, as during the present, and from what we learn the building business will be very brisk in the coming year.

"The principal business in this county is Agriculture, and with good crops and comparatively good prices, the county may safely be reported as in a healthy state,—and, with the evident revival of trade which must soon be experienced, we may expect to see all other branches of business equally prosperous with that of the farmer."

We hear that in the United States, it is the great grain growing and cattle grazing States that are now being looked to to lift the manufacturing and commercial communities out of their distress. The farmers are rapidly becoming the great power in the land, and the holders of the national wealth. Let us take a lesson from all this in time.

THE Lower Stewiacke Agricultural Society have purchased from the Asylum at Mount Hope, Dartmouth, a White Boar, about a year and a half old, which is considered a very fine animal. He is believed to be out of a Sow imported by the Board of Agriculture from Western Canada, of the Large Yorkshire breed, and by a white Chester Boar, one of the stock purchased by the Board at an earlier period, from Mr Cochrane, of Compton, Quebec. Notwithstanding the repeated importations by the Board, there is not now, it is believed, a single thorough-bred Pig in the Province, with the exception of those of the recent Im-