

ative necessity exists for our Farmers to turn their attention to new sources of wealth.

From the first settlement of the country, England has been our Market for whatever wheat and flour we had to spare, after supplying our own wants, and for years, we possessed the advantage of sending her these productions, at a mere nominal duty, whilst foreign countries were subject to a high tariff. But now, under the altered policy of England, no duty, or at best only a nominal one is levied on wheat and flour, let it come from whence it may—and we have, therefore, to compete in the markets of Great Britain, with the wheat-producing countries of the whole world, with France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Australia, and the immense fields of the American Union.

In many of these countries, wheat can be produced cheaper than it has as yet been produced by us, because soil labor furnishes the grower the means of raising his crops at comparatively an inexpensive rate, and securing them with certainty when ripe, instead of being, as we are here, subjected to a heavy outlay of wages for the like service, and unable to procure hands, as is frequently the case, at the critical moment when they are most required. In others, the facilities for sending their productions to the English market are far greater and less expensive than ours; and as England now draws her supplies from so many different portions of the globe, a scarcity in one country would not materially, if at all, affect her markets,—inasmuch as that scarcity, in ordinary cases, would hardly reach the other wheat growing countries which supply her; and the result of the recent English elections holds out to us little inducement to hope for any decided change of policy in our favor.

Such then being evidently the state at which we have arrived, our farmers should consider well, whether by the introduction of more labor-saving machines, and by better management on their farms, they can reduce the cost at which they have hitherto raised this staple commodity.

The wheat crop is a beautiful one—delightful to contemplate—associated with the most cheerful and animating reflections; nothing can be more pleasing to the eye of a philanthropist than waving fields of golden grain. Our farmers have arrived at a high degree of skill in its production. Its cultivation tends to keep their farms in good condition, and it answers well in a regular rotation of crops; but if it cannot be delivered at our mills or storehouses at about three shillings and sixpence currency per bushel, I fear it must cease to be our staple production. In the neighborhood in which I live, the reaping machine has been freely used by our best farmers this year; but whether this will effect a sufficient reduction in the cost of raising wheat I leave for those more competent to decide than I am.

It must be observed however, that whilst the price of wheat has of late years been declining, happily the price of meat, has been rising; and there is reason to believe, that the present high price of the latter will be maintained as steadily as will the low price of the former. The change has been caused in a great measure by the American Railroads, which have carried our meat to supply the constantly increasing wants of New York and the other great Atlantic cities. This is one of the effects of railroads, felt not only here but in Europe, where the large towns and cities are no longer dependent for the supply of their butcher's meat, fish, vegetables and coarse grains, on their immediate neighbourhood, but draw them from distant places. London market is supplied in part with vegetables raised in Somersetshire,

with meat butchered in Yorkshire, whilst her breakfast tables are often furnished with fish, caught the evening before on the Coasts of Scotland. Similar results will be obtained here, by the establishment of the great system of railways now contemplated throughout the country; distance will be annihilated and prices more generally equalized—agricultural produce will be benefited, not excepting the coarsest grains, to which the attention of farmers ought, to be more directed than hitherto.

In raising more stock than in times past it is hardly necessary for me to point out, that the improved breeds, so far as practicable, should be carefully selected. They appear by nature, to lay on flesh faster, and more easily, than our native stock, and as meat is here supposed to be the object of the farmer's attention, there can be no doubt, if one breed will make the same amount of meat at three years' old, that another breed, with the same feeding and care, will make at four or five years' old, which of the two it would be more profitable to select. But no breeding will cause animals to thrive, unless they are well sheltered and well fed, and this should be the peculiar care of the breeder. If they are to be left exposed to the rigours of the winter, I doubt not our native cattle would prove superior to the highest bred cattle in the country; but no one who intends to make a profitable business by breeding stock, will try the powers of his animals in this way. It is an unquestionable fact, attested by numerous experiments, that animals, much exposed to cold, eat far more than those kept in warm places, the theory being, that the food in the one case is absorbed in raising the heat of the body to the same degree of temperature, as is attained in the other case by shelter—and it is easy to be seen, that additional shelter can be more cheaply furnished than additional food. It is true, we have to contend against long and tedious winters, which entail a heavy expense on the breeders of stock; but the introduction of the mowing machine, which cuts the heaviest grass at a cost of about 2s. currency per acre, and lays it so that it requires little or no spreading, coupled with the use of the horse rake, will enable our farmers to raise larger crops of hay, than they have hitherto done, and secure them at a much more moderate rate. And if in connexion with this, they will turn their attention to the cultivation of turnips, mangol-wurtzel and carrots, for winter food, I feel persuaded they will find, in the ready sale of their fat cattle and sheep at the proper seasons ample rewards for their care and labour.

Following up this latter suggestion, I would strongly recommend to the Board of Agriculture, that the liberal donation of twenty pounds made to this Society by His Excellency the Governor General, to be applied to such objects connected with the Association as in their opinion would be most likely to conduce to its interests—but which donation, as I stated at our public meeting last night, had unfortunately come to my hands too late to be included in the prizes for this year—should be appropriated exclusively to the encouragement of this branch of husbandry, and be competed for as a new and distinct prize at the next Annual Fair.

Another branch of husbandry, which ought to engage our particular attention, is the production of Cheese, and a larger quantity of Butter than we have been in the habit of making.

A large amount is annually paid to the Americans for cheese. The dairyman who makes it has his profit—the wholesale dealer to whom he sells, has his—the grocers from whom we buy, have theirs—and our retail dealers, are not without their profit—all of which, in addition to the

customs duty—the Canadian consumer has to pay, while it is notorious that we have, in certain sections of the Province, such pastures as are well calculated to encourage our farmers to take an active interest in this branch of industry, and surely they possess all the skill, knowledge and capital necessary, to enable them to make an equally good article, and to save the profits which are thus paid to others.

It must be admitted that a large quantity of butter is now exported, but it is nothing in comparison with what it ought to be, and no doubt would be, if more attention were paid to the preparation of it for market, and proper care taken to provide excellent food for cows all the year round. For this purpose, carrots and mangel wurtzel should be grown each of which thrive well in most of our soils, if properly enriched—and have the peculiar merit of being very free from disease, and the depreciations of insects—and more attention should be paid to a succession of grasses. In England, good pastures are secured by the judicious selection of such grasses, as give a succession of flowers, at different seasons of the summer, a plan which we might most profitably adopt here, and with the aid of plaster of Paris, we should be able to carry our cows through the driest season, in full milk.

The demand for horses is very great, and will doubtless for some time continue.

Large numbers are every year exported to the neighbouring States, where they are readily sold at high prices, and strong inducements seem to offer, why we should persevere in raising them.

Until lately, that care in breeding distinct horses which has placed the English horse in the first rank in the world, even before the celebrated Arabian, was not paid to the breeding of horses in this country, our horse generally speaking, has been the horse of all work, and a very excellent and useful animal he has proved himself, but now that we have a certain sale and good prices, it is most important that the breeding of the different kinds should be kept more distinct, thus greater certainty in securing the animal for the purpose intended could be counted on, and less cause would be given for disappointment or complaint.

At the prices which are likely to rule for some time to come, there is nothing that the farmer can produce [if his land be suitable for the purpose,] which promises a better return for the time and labour bestowed, and the expense incurred, than the breeding of horses, but great care must be taken in the selection of the animals, from which it is intended to breed, whether for draught, for speed, for the carriage, or for light work. And the introduction of pure blood, and horses of sound constitutions, cannot be too highly recommended.

A little judgment and management in raising them, in keeping them in good growing condition, without pampering them, when young, and in carefully and thoroughly breaking them for use, will always enable us to command remunerating prices.

But whether we continue, as we have heretofore done, to regard Wheat as the great staple of the country, and so confine ourselves chiefly to its production, or whether we couple with it and employ, to a greater extent than hitherto, the means of obtaining wealth from other sources, as I have ventured to suggest, nothing can be more clear than that to be successful, we must pay more attention to the preservation and the use of manures.

The virgin soil does not require it; but in many parts of the country it is greatly needed, and much