

23 years ago. Gradually one after another was introduced. They increased and multiplied, and at this moment I understand there are scattered over this Province some 350 of these animals, with registered pedigrees. If this rate of progress continues (and you will see it is a geometrical rate, it is the rate of the horse shoe nail of the school books) in a very few years fine cattle will be the rule and not the exception. Men will no longer waste their time and labor and fodder, tending and feeding cattle which can never yield satisfactory returns, but will rear animals, that as milkers or butter makers, or beef producers, will at the same cost yield a much increased return. At the present moment, the milk, butter, and cheese produced by 50,000 farmers in Nova Scotia is something very considerable. Add to it the amount of butchers' meat annually consumed in the province, and it is easy to see what a large sum would be added to the annual value of the productions of the country by a change which would, at no cost, make a very considerable increase in the quantity and quality of each of these articles.

The same observations apply to other kinds of live stock, and we may look for some improvement in other farm produce, although not at the same rate of progress—good qualities of seed, good qualities of vegetables, careful culture of land, extensive drainage, heavy manuring, all marching on together. Of one thing we may rest assured, that the man who excels in any one of these particulars will not be wanting in any other. It is of the very nature of a struggle for improvement that it is not exceptional. Excellence attained in one department encourages effort in another, and the chances are that the farmer who has the finest herd of cows or the finest flock of sheep will drive to church or to market with the best horse and clad in the finest homespun; and when he comes back to dinner, will sit down to the best meal, with bread of the whitest flour, spread with the yellowest butter, and his tea made palatable with the richest cream.

But it is not necessary to draw on the imagination for a picture of the future. The present condition of agriculture, particularly in the older and more advanced counties, is such as we need not be ashamed of. Contrasted with what it was a few years ago, we may well be proud of it. If we have made great advances, if the interest in agriculture already created, gives us assurance of a still steady advance onward, we owe it largely to the influence of such exhibitions as these.

It would be difficult to measure the good they have already done, and if farmers are now proud of their calling—if they feel that they are now engaged in a pursuit, as dignified as it is attractive—if they find they are no longer the Helots of modern life—the hewers of wood and drawers of water—if they consider themselves and are considered by others, to be elevated to rank—to be what Lord Beaconsfield calls a "territorial democracy," they are largely indebted for this improved position to the better views which exhibitions like this have created and diffused. You farmers therefore owe it to your order to do all you can to encourage them. Your presence here in such large number to-day shows you are not insensible of this duty, and affords the only reward which is sought by those gentlemen who have devoted their energies to this work. It gives me great pleasure again to congratulate them in the success which crowns their labors to-day.

#### COL. LAURIE'S ADDRESS.

The late large shipments of cattle from Canada to England have, to a large extent, dispelled the idea that the Dominion is a region of perpetual snow and ice, devoted to sleighing and skating, and it is now recognized as a great farming country. With their attention now turned to Canada, numberless persons are seeking, in every direction, the fullest information as to the price of land, the best locality in which to settle, and other knowledge it is important they should obtain before making such a thoroughly fresh start in life.

On my recent visit to England, as soon as it was known I was from Canada, I became a sort of enquiry and intelligence office; and a good deal of my time was thus taken up in answering enquiries and furnishing information.

Of course, all who go from the Lower Provinces patriotically style themselves Canadians, but to most people in England Canada still means the two Upper Provinces; and I could almost always discern in my enquiries a feeling of disappointment when, in reply to their question how far I lived from Toronto, I replied that Nova Scotia, where I came from, was more than a thousand miles away. It was of little use to assure them that we also had a grand farming country; that our seasons were less extreme; our summers cooler; our winters milder; they had heard of New Zealand and was not that place and Nova Scotia almost, if not quite identical? To Ontario and the Eastern townships most would go, and if they were prejudiced against Nova Scotia, it was at any rate a good that they should come to Canada, so I made a point of giving all such every encouragement.

I so well recollect, years ago, during my early official tours through the province, meeting a very intelligent and energetic gentleman from the United States who had taken up his residence in Nova Scotia, and here I may remark that most United States citizens who do come amongst us are energetic and intelligent; they cannot all be so, and therefore I appropriate the fact of those coming here being possessed of those qualities as a compliment to our people, as showing that none but keen-witted strangers could hope to make money here; however, be the explanation what it may. My friend in discussing the prospects of our farming here, and he lived in one of the best agricultural districts of the Province, gave it as his opinion that there was only one way in which a farmer could make a living here, by selling all his produce that he could sell and living on the rest. I demurred to this view then, and as I am generally inclined to back my opinions, tried my own hand at farming, and from my own experience am quite satisfied my Massachusetts friend's views were not correct. But really in talking of emigration in England, I found that the success of those who had gone out poor, made money, and returned wealthy, had turned the heads of many intending emigrants. To my remark that farming out here would give them a good living, they answered that so many emigrated now-a-days to make a living; this is a bubble that must burst before the mass can be persuaded that it is only given to a few to make fortunes and that most must be content with making a living.

And yet these diverse views thus expressed afford great food for thought.

On looking over the past history of agriculture of this Province, in spite of all that Agricola and those who followed in his lead have done, farming has not been taken up as a regular profession in Nova Scotia. Around the heads of the bays, and along the rivers where the earliest settlers congregated, the exceptional advantages offered by the dyke lands and intervals have enabled a few to live by farming alone; but these advantages are obtainable by comparatively few, when the total acreage of the Province and its true farming capabilities are considered. When I first commenced farming I was warned that I must get hold of some dyke land; that it was out of the question to farm in Nova Scotia without marsh, and I am inclined to think that according to the system still pursued my advisers were right, but just as appears to an on-looker, the expense of the valuable Grand Pre' and Tantremer marshes, and the less pretentious but equally valuable reclaimed dyke lands around Windsor and Truro, we must recollect that these are all occupied and that as other countries find it both practicable and profitable to farm without dyke lands, our upland farmers, if we will but adopt their system to our opportunities we do the same. But in our upland districts the land has, as a rule, been mainly cultivated by those who, to a large extent, depend on other employment for a living, men who followed lumbering or worked amongst their neighbours as mechanics; or, who having from other sources obtained a small income to meet their cash outlay, eked out their living by working the ground at odd times and so raising some sort of crops to help the housekeeping. These, although farmers in name, could scarcely be called professional farmers; they hired no labor, simply depending on the help of their children; having but small means they were unable to purchase labor-saving tools; everything thus raised by manual labor was produced in the most expensive way, and being produced on a small scale, any overplus cost more than its value in being taken to market.

Our more intelligent farmers in the advanced districts, having the special advantages of the dyke or interval lands, trust very largely to the hay raised on these, which, thanks to their peculiarly fertile properties, go on giving good crops of hay from year to year without requiring any manure to restore the nutriment taken from them by successive crops. Our less advanced farmers not unnaturally copy the system pursued in the so-called best farming districts, and the land is laid down to hay, which is depended on as the sole winter food for cattle. The hay has come to be looked upon as the mainstay of farming here, and the quantity of hay cut on a farm is quoted as the standard of comparison.

Macaulay in describing the state of agriculture, in England, at the close of the seventeenth century, says:—"The rotation of crops was very imperfectly understood, it was known, indeed, that some vegetables lately introduced, particularly the turnip, afforded excellent nutriment in winter to sheep and oxen, but it was not yet the practice to feed cattle in this manner. It was, therefore, by no means easy to keep them alive during the season when the grass was scanty. They were killed and salted in great numbers at the beginning of the cold weather, and during several months, even the gentry tasted