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*Omniū rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturā melius, nihil uberior, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

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AGRICULTURE has reached a new stage of existence in this Province of Nova Scotia, and it behoves us to look well into the future from our elevated stand-point. The Provincial Exhibition of 1876 was essentially an experiment, and, as such, it was looked forward to, even by its most ardent promoters, with mingled hopes and fears. For fifty years the Legislatures and Governments of the Province had been striving to promote a better system of Agriculture. Local Societies were at work, local Exhibitions and ploughing matches were held; improved breeds of Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs were, from time to time, imported, seeds of new field crops were brought from other countries, and the claims of Agriculture to increased attention were urged upon our people, from year to year, in the most persuasive eloquence that ever stirred the echoes of our Legislative Halls. Under such influences much improvement was expected, and in course of years a good deal was effected. The comforts of the farming community in favored districts were manifestly increased, orchards were planted, much attention was paid to composting for the top-dressing of grass fields, artificial manures came slightly into use, the production of grain was notably increased through the efforts of Agricola, and many subsidiary improvements in rural economy were introduced, yet, until quite recently, rude implements of husbandry continued to be employed, in most parts of the country wasteful management or neglect of land was the rule, wretched cattle roamed at

will through wilde ness pastures, and the Agricultural Profession, which, in highly civilized countries, is looked upon as the most dignified and honorable of all secular pursuits, was still allowed by its followers to rest on the lowest level.

In the memorable year 1851, twenty-five years ago, a new key note was struck in the history of European, and of the World's, Industry. Two years later, namely in 1853, the vibration had reached our shores, and the first Provincial Exhibition was held,—on a small scale, indeed, but with such measure of promise that it was followed in the following year by one of more ambitious character, which likewise proved a great success. But its success seems to have been more gratifying to contemplators than profitable in its effects upon the active portion of the industrial community, for the next fourteen years were allowed to glide over without any further attempts, the same fourteen years during which the Province now called Ontario established nearly all the Industries, except Lumbering and Wheat growing, which go to make up its rich agricultural and manufacturing prosperity, whilst our surplus energy was mostly expended in establishing Mines and building ships, and in realizing the profits of a temporary adventitious commerce.

In 1868 our Board of Agriculture, organized four years before, made a third attempt, and it proved successful, beyond the fondest dreams of its promoters. Yet another interregnum had to follow,

and it was not till 1874 that the fourth Provincial Exhibition was held.

To those who have been accustomed to watch the close connection, even in old, but more especially in new, countries, between Industrial Exhibitions and the Development of National Industries, it was matter of deep concern to see the fitful way in which Exhibitions were dealt with in this Province. It was a proof, among many other things, that the vast substantial benefits which they confer upon a community were only very feebly realized by our people. We speak plainly because our only object is to give wholesome lessons. But a brighter day was dawning. The several importations of Stock had given a new impetus to agricultural improvement. And the Legislature wisely determined upon a system of Annual Provincial Exhibitions, to be held in suitable localities from year to year. The benefits likely to flow from these Exhibitions are simply incalculable, hence the importance which we attach to the experiment carried out at Truro last month. That it was abundantly successful in every respect is already well known throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and that every succeeding year's Exhibition will bring an increased measure of success we have every reason to hope. In view of what has been accomplished this year at Truro, we invite the Agriculturists of every County in the Province to view the signs of the times in Nova Scotia, and prepare for a rate of progress in the future such as we have