

to make it a matter of consideration, if, as we become more Americanized, we will still retain the hardiness, vigor, and endurance that have been characteristic of us "Britishers"—that robustness of body and steadfastness of mind that are not possessed in the same degree by those south of our lines. It may be partly owing to the want of outdoor exercise, as is suggested by the *Messenger*—Of exercise on foot or horseback they seem to have an unnatural dislike. And their diet is not so plain and so nutritious, and in consequence not so healthful as is the ordinary food of Canadians. Besides, the very means they use, in consequence of the growing weakness, is sure to cause its increase. And to this that they are pre-eminently a fast people, and this incessant restlessness soon wears out the frame. The life of the Canadian farmer, though not without some attendant hardships, is such as to produce a very high standard of health and vigor, and he has it in his own hands to make it one of great pleasure and usefulness. So highly do we appreciate the pleasures and salubrity of a Canadian country life that it grieves us to see any of the blooming maidens or vigorous young men exchanging their lot for a life even in a Canadian town, and much more so for an exile to the United States, with all the evils to which such life must be thereby exposed.

Trade Between Minnesota and Manitoba.

A schedule of articles imported into Manitoba during the season of 1870 is now before us. It was obtained by the reporter of the *Pioneer Press* from the Commissioner of Statistics, St. Paul, Minn., and so is reliable. A glance at the schedule shows that the aggregate value of exports from Minnesota to Manitoba—articles grown, produced or manufactured in the United States—is given at \$802,400. The schedule comprises agricultural products, as flour, barley, horned cattle, wheat, oats, pork, &c., besides manufactured goods. The largest item is that of flour, 31,372 barrels, of the given value of \$148,443. We had just been reading of an appropriation by the Dominion Government towards sending Canadian products of the farm and workshops to the Antipodes at the urgent request of Canadian merchants and others to open up a market for Canadian goods. Now, it must be apparent to plain matter-of-fact people that it would be more consistent with common sense (rather a rare commodity these days, we fear) to utilize to the fullest extent to which they are available our home markets, and develop the vast resources of our own Dominion, than to permit them, by our great liberality, to be monopolized by foreigners, while we are straining every nerve to find markets in remote regions. Let us avail ourselves of every opportunity of gaining admission to every market where there is a demand for such commodities as the natural and industrial wealth of our country can supply, but let us above all others secure for our own producers the best customers—our own people. The home market pays not one profit only, but many profits; its benefits are given to several classes, and not merely to one—to the operatives in the mill, the forge, and the ship yard, as well as the farm.

Experiments with Fertilizers.

Experiments may well be compared to electricity, very useful and very dangerous. There can be no doubt of the great utility of agricultural experiments, conducted in a proper manner, with all the circumstances bearing upon them duly observed and accurately noted; and continued for a sufficient length of time to know the entire results; and repeated under different circumstances, with all the results compared. We need hardly say that,

under different circumstances, there may be expected different results. Experiments, when not carried out, may, and often do, lead to very erroneous conclusions, and in this respect are so far dangerous. We are, however, of the opinion that many of our intelligent farmers would greatly benefit the cause of agriculture generally were they to make some such experiments in its different branches—say in the profit to be derived from the several varieties of horned stock, of sheep, of swine; or in different modes of cultivation of the root crops, cereals and grasses. A Mr. L. W. Sheddon has sent to the *Prairie Farmer* an account of some experiments that had recently been made with different fertilizers upon corn land, and we abridge the account, as it is useful and interesting, showing, as far as one crop's cropping can demonstrate, the comparative value of the several varieties of manure used.

He selected five acres of land that had been under good cultivation for twenty-eight years, with pasturage of three years during that time. The cost and profit of each is as follows:—

First acre without fertilizer, total cost \$6.50. Return, 3,575 lbs. corn in ear, or 45 bush., at 40c. per bush., \$18.

Second acre, manured with manure from sheep barn, 20 loads, total cost \$16.15. Return, 4,518 lbs. corn in the ear, or more than 60 bush., value \$24.10.

Third acre, manured as second acre, with one barrel of plaster added, total cost \$18.33. Return, 4,673 lbs. corn in ear, or over, 62 bush., value, \$24.92.

Fourth acre, bone phosphate, total cost \$11.62. Return, 5,208 lbs. corn in ear, or over 69 bush., value \$27.77.

Fifth acre, salt, total cost \$8.93. Return 5,675 lbs., or nearly 76 bush., value \$30.27.

The net profit as shown by the returns given was as follows:—First acre, \$11.50; second acre, \$7.95; third acre, \$6.59; fourth acre, \$16.15; fifth acre, \$21.34.

In the account the whole expenses of each acre—labor and manure—is charged, and the profit of each is as given. The experiment does not terminate with this one year. It has yet to be ascertained what effect the manuring each acre or the not manuring will have on the succeeding crop or crops. The fourth acre would have yielded ten per cent. more than it did but that it was injured in its cultivation.

The Wheat Crop of 1876 and its Lesson.

Never was there a fairer promise of an abundant wheat crop throughout the country, than in the early parts of the season of 1876. The fall wheat had come safe through the winter, and through the months of April, May and June, the prospect of an abundant harvest was all that could be desired. The spring crop was sown in good condition, and the first months of its growth were favorable and farmers anticipated a good produce, that would remunerate these for the very low prices they had received for the crop of the previous year; while consumers looked forward to a season of plenty. With July, then came a change in these bright prospects. During the entire month, and the early part of August, the extreme heat ripened the grain before it was sufficiently filled, and the consequence was the wheat instead of being well filled and plump, was then light and shrunken; and there was rust in much of the fall wheat and smut in some sections of the country. The average of the fall wheat was very low, not more, as is shown by the returns from several sections, than one third the produce of other years. The spring wheat, though a better

crop on the whole, was not more than half the usual average. One thing however was in its favour. It was saved in good condition.

The question arises are there no means by which the great losses sustained by the country at large, and more especially by the farmers, can be prevented or at least lessened. If some farmers have aimed the general losses off come uninjured, does not this afford us grounds for believing that the modes of cultivation that in some instances were successful in obtaining results equal to those of former years might, if generally practised have prevented much of the financial reverses consequent on the bad crops of the year we have come through.

Through cultivation with deep ploughing is one of the best safeguards against such a drought as that of 1876. Plants of cereals send down their roots deeper into the earth the more the drought prevails, as there is a moisture beneath, though the surface be parched by its exposure to the sun's rays and the scorching winds. Now, if there is a sufficient depth of well tilled earth for the roots to penetrate and draw the required moisture and nutriment the plants will thrive when those on an undisturbed sub-surface are dried up and withered.

Any query suggests itself—Is our seed covered evenly, and to a sufficient depth. We have known many instances of crops bearing a drought uninjured when the seed had been well covered with plough or harrow, while the crops on land otherwise treated were scarcely worth harvesting. In our busy farming days we were very partial to deep covering, and, if we accept the old proverb as true, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it," the advantages of our deep covering was fully proved.

Farmers lost heavily from the light yield. The deficiency in yield might be compensated for if the price were comparatively high, but the stock in hand from the previous year kept markets low and the demand very inactive. The yield of 1875 had been exceptionally heavy, and stocks at all the seaports accumulated rapidly and European granaries were filled to overflowing. This effectually prevented an active demand for breadstuffs and any advance in prices was not to be expected; so that the partial failure of the harvest of 1876 produced hardly any change in the trade, and did very little to raise prices.

Another lesson to be learned from the losses caused by the falling off of the wheat crop of 1876 is that the system hitherto pursued of depending too much on cereals, and of cereals too much of one variety, wheat, has been injudicious. We proved by the reverses of the past that a more diversified system is safest, and, calculated from a given number years most profitable.

Groundless Rumor.

An American exchange, *Colman's Rural World*, writes:—"The epizootic prevails in Ontario. The tongue is paralyzed, and swells so that the horse can't eat or drink." Now we live in the very heart of the finest agricultural district of Ontario, and, notwithstanding our constant intercourse with farmers from every part, we have heard of no such disease. We regret that some evil-disposed persons have been drawing a long yarn for our esteemed contemporary.

The late meeting of the Dominion Board of trade was replete with interest affecting every branch of the country's industrial resources.

The members representing the several interests of the several Provinces arrived at the conclusion that, for the welfare and progress of the Dominion it is necessary by legislative enactment to encourage the traffic between this country and the West Indies, and to extend a fostering protection to manufactures in the Dominion.

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