

late years made great advances in woollen manufactures,—this industry has in fact been rapidly developed. The raw material has been supplied from without, and the operation of the Reciprocity Treaty enabled them to obtain no inconsiderable portion of it from their neighbours in the British provinces, among whom the manufacturing ambition had not yet so fully developed itself. It is now proposed effectually to “stamp out” all foreign wool as if it were a plague or pestilence. Great Bo-peep having frightened away his British American sheep has put up a fence to prevent them coming back again, and is now going upon the losing principle of pinching himself and raising a stock of his own in order that he may clothe himself, however dearly, with his own wool. Great Bo-peep is just repeating what other great statesmen have done before him,—fighting against the laws of nature for an impossible absolute independence, trying to grow sugar, cotton, tea, and tobacco in cold countries, and turnips, oats and gooseberries in hot ones.

Now it is no business of ours to interfere with the internal concerns of another country, and we do not propose to follow up the subject in that direction; but it has so many bearings on our own industry that we feel called upon thus to allude to the Report of the Agricultural Commissioner, which we know is liberally distributed throughout our Province.

In a paper which we published in June last it was shown that the manufacture of worsteds in the States, now so extensive, owed its origin to the Reciprocity Treaty, that the British Provinces supplied the States with from three to five millions of pounds of combing wool for that manufacture, and that the American production of combing wool was not sufficient to supply one mill. Let us repeat then, in contrast to Mr. Newton's conclusion, the opinion of John L. Hayes, the Secretary of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers of the United States:—“*A duty on Canada wool would crush an industry which has already assumed a truly national importance, and has advanced with a rapidity unexampled in any branch of our textile manufactures.*”

The American experiment is a highly dangerous one. It may encourage American farmers to raise a little more wool, but it will in the meantime shut up the factories and scatter the skilled labour which alone make wool-growing permanently profitable.

This crusade against all the wool growers of the world is commenced in the usual style of a desperate enterprise by nailing the colours to the mast. The war of independence in wool is begun by closing up the wool factories, just as the Helvetii prepared for their intended conquest of Gaul, by setting fire to all their own towns, villages and dwellings, and

burning up all the corn except what they intended to carry with them.

There is one obvious conclusion of the whole matter. Let every Nova Scotian reflect upon it. If we send our wool to the States we thereby aid in building up American manufactures. We have had hitherto no objection to do that so long as we found the market otherwise profitable. But if, from necessity or choice, we keep our wools at home, and apply capital to their fabrication, we shall rear in our midst a manufacture of a most profitable and otherwise desirable kind, well adapted to the resources and wants of our own country.

UNREFINED CRUELTY—A REMEDY AT LAST.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to a Society that has originated in Halifax, under the most favorable auspices, for the prevention of cruelty to animals. It will be seen that the Hon. the Chief Justice is President, and the other office-bearers have been selected from our chief citizens.

Many benevolent persons who are asked to join this society will be ready to reply that their sympathy is with their suffering fellow-creatures rather than with the lower animals, and that they would rather give their subscription to a Cholera Hospital than to a refuge for diseased dogs and cats. They are perfectly right. Whatever our sympathy may be with the lower animals, we have no sympathy whatever with that feeling which prompts to the harbouring of mangy curs, toothless horses, consumptive monkeys and bald parrots. The sooner all such are permanently relieved of their misery the better.

Other persons who have thought more fully over the matter will be apt to reply, —“We have heard eloquent sermons on cruelty to animals, and they have often been mere tirades against vivisection.—We do not approve of them.” Neither do we. If it be legitimate to cause acute pain in the human subject by drawing a tooth, or cutting out a carbuncle, or extracting a cancer, or amputating a limb, in order to prolong life or lessen distress, it is equally allowable to subject the lower animals as the servants of man, to all experiments that may be necessary, directly or indirectly, for the acquisition of the requisite knowledge.

Here the objections to the society end, or ought to end. We do not know further than is indicated in the published

prospectus what are the real objects of the society, nor do we know in what way its objects are proposed to be carried out; but we sincerely hope that it will meet with support and success. There are two kinds of societies: one class sentimental, or as they are sometimes called dilettanti societies; another class practical, vigorous in prosecuting whatever they find to do. From the names of the office-bearers we judge that the society is of the latter class, designed for use rather than ornament, for work rather than play. It has before it a wide field of usefulness, and it has not been formed before it was wanted in the city and county of Halifax. We have had the lower animals given for our use, and whether we use them as beasts of burden, or their flesh as food, it is incumbent upon us while controlling their actions, to provide all their necessary wants and free them from all unnecessary pain. That this duty is daily violated must be patent to every attentive observer.

But we hope that one great object of the society will be to save the citizens from the moral and physical dangers attending the abuse of our domestic animals. We hope that the bull-dog fights that are so frequent at Richmond will be put down, and the promoters suitably punished. We hope that provision will be made whereby horses with communicable diseases will be effectually prevented from entering public stables in Halifax. We hope that an old horse dragging an excessive load of coals up Round Church Hill, will become a less frequent exhibition. We hope that such instances of barbarity as the chopping of a horse with an axe, while grazing in a field, (as happened the other day at Beaver Bank), will cease to occur. We hope that due regard will be had to slaughtering animals for our own markets and shipping them for others. And above all we hope that the continuous stream of traffic in the streets of Halifax will be so regulated as to ensure more comfort and safety alike to passengers and horses; for, whether in summer or sleighing time, there is a constant succession of reckless drivers wheeling round the street corners, endangering life and limb to every passer-by. We allude particularly to the careless street driving, as it is so glaring as to be remarked by every visitor to the city. Any young boy not fit for anything else, is thought good enough to drive a horse; and not one man in fifty slackens his pace in rounding the corners.

If there is a reasonable prospect of all or any of the results contemplated in these remarks being brought about by the “Halifax Branch of the Royal Society for the prevention of cruelty to Animals,” it will well deserve the hearty support of well-disposed citizens. To their consideration, therefore, we cordially commend the programme of the society printed in the September number of the *Agri. Journal*.