

examples of this latter that agriculture as a business in Canada owes its bad odour—and yet these latter have often the same quality of land, and very generally have acquired the farm at an easier rate (often by inheritance or otherwise) than by purchase. We have all noticed an hundred times and more, where men fail in making a farm pay, they do not on that account value the farm at one dollar the less, but they come to the conclusion they will let it—if they stop soon enough—and if they have gone on as long as possible, they may conclude they will be forced to “sell out,” and yet they never think of blaming themselves, forgetting that too often they have undertaken a business for which they have neither brains, capacity, or taste, and only follow it because their father made and saved the money to buy the farm, and dying has left it to some one who survives him. Where people begin from “the stump, they rarely fail to do well, if they are equal to clearing and paying for the farm. Whether the fault lies in the system, the country, or the man, may not, therefore, be a difficult question to answer. Forty years’ residence in Canada, and a most intimate acquaintance with every part of Ontario, has long caused the conviction to be forced upon my mind that Canada is a good farming country, when the farm is in energetic hands. I well know of many instances to support this view, and especially one, who, from one hundred acres of land, has made sufficient money to send to England for a supply of blooded stock—“Cattle,” “sheep,” and “pigs.”

All, or many of us, know several such men, and cases just similarly situated, as to success, who are altogether fore-handed, the value of whose live-stock, although they are only Canadian bred, without any thorough-bred amongst them, would be worth at least \$3,000 (including, of course, their dead stock likewise).

Most of these men have money loaned out to poorer neighbours, and their own income, in addition, regularly exceeds their expenditure, as the years come round. These men are continually purchasing land for their boys, or implements, or stock for themselves; and notwithstanding these outlays, there balance to be occasionally loaned out, still accumulates. Now, how is this? and why should one man so signally succeed, whilst another so certainly fails, if the fault lies altogether in the country? The cause may be looked for in the “method,” and “judgment of the man himself.”

It has been said by clever men, “There is a very narrow line between a wise man and a fool.” A celebrated English Physician—one of the best and wisest of the old school of medicine, had a favourite saying, “That a man is either a fool or a physician at forty.” I believe in the main he was right, almost all men are either “fools or physicians at forty,” in the sense of the doctor’s meaning; that is to say, it implies that whatever av-

ocation a man engages in will succeed under his management, if at the age of forty he proves himself “not a fool.”

Men of the successful type, are always doing something that others can see well enough will succeed, AFTER it is done, but they never see it soon enough for them to do it first.

And so it goes with farming generally. The unsuccessful man begins wrong with all he does. A very small error in judgment causes a field to be improperly cropped. A pair of unsound horses are injudiciously bought—or from ignorance are often lost by sickness. “Cows miss having calves, mares colts, sows young ones,” and many other small matters fail, from want of requisite judgment, and great loss the year following is the result. Accumulated failures from such, or similar small causes, often force a man into debt and trouble, where, had it been differently ordered, and had he done as his neighbour did, his crop and stock would have been just as good, and his “luck,” as he calls it, would have been as great. The line that divides success and failure is very narrow at first, and may be well and truly compared to two lines of railway, meeting and passing at a union station. Just at the station, both are nearly or quite parallel, but very soon, although the direction is but slightly altered, the two lines of rails are widely apart—and point to quite different courses. So with success and failure. Both start together, nearly or quite parallel, but a few failures cause an immense variation in the direction in which both were previously running. The men of success, whose farm and means have so often been brought under my notice, have not possessed, as a rule, any more advantages than those who are often, and so persistently unfortunate.

I have many times collected clear evidence of this fact, from hearing the various history of their early struggles. I could name and point out fifty farmers—worthy and respectable men they are, too—“Whose butter never was, and never will be, churned that will stick to their bread.” Something is always going wrong with them and their various small enterprises. There is something really deficient in their judgment. They are troubled, as my old friend used to remark, “with after-wit;” an observation well worth remembering. Many people are afflicted with this species of wit, and I know of none that is so unprofitable.

Where success is denied in farming, it is not therefore, always the fault of the avocation. It is much more generally to be traced to the fault or misfortune of the man who is engaged in it. For these men, there is a continual supply—as the old adage says—of “round holes,” and they being square, are always forcing themselves into them, and as a result, of course, they never fit any of them. In fact, circumstances have made these men masters, who were only fitted to be men; and, as a natural consequence, they

usually end where they should have begun—by being men—instead of masters—and farming in Canada gets the blame.

C.

Report of the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion.

The above Report has just come to hand and we find in it reports on emigration and general agricultural interests.

We find that the total number of emigrants arrived in Canada was last year, 37,020 as against 44, against 475 in the preceeding year.

Immediate employment has been found for all accustomed to labor at high wages.

It has been found, that, owing to the great and growing demand for machinery for saw-mills and factories of different kinds, many of our founders and machinists have enlarged their establishments and thus has ready employment been found for all mechanics in these branches, at high wages, while joiners, bricklayers, brickmakers, shoemakers and tailors found immediate and profitable employment on landing.

The large amount of mason work required by contractors on the different railways, and on the many public and private buildings which have been and now are in the course of erection, has caused wages for such which opened in the spring at \$2.50 per day to increase to \$3.00 and even to \$3.50 per day of ten hours.

So great indeed was the demand for stone-masons, that the Intercolonial contractors, foreseeing scarcity for such skilled labor, engaged about 150 masons and stone-cutters in England and Scotland and in many cases provided funds to pay the men’s passage out.

We are convinced, from present indications, that it would be to the interest of a great many more of this class of mechanics to leave England for Canada next spring; as we feel assured, that there will be a great demand for a large increase of skilled workers in stone, over those now at command and that at very high wages.

Masons and stone-cutters should remember that there is yet on hand, the Prince Edward Island Railway commenced last season, whilst there is yet work for one or two years on the Intercolonial, and there are projected, the New Brunswick and Riviere du Loup Railway; the North shore of Quebec Railway; the Levis and Kennebec to be continued; several branches in the Eastern townships, and probably the Northern colonization in Montreal; a projected line from Montreal to Ottawa; the continuation of the Canada Central, Ringetown and Pembroke; the extension of Port Hope, Lindsay, and Beaverton to the Georgian Bay; the Toronto and Nipissing; Toronto and Muskoka; Toronto, Grey and Bruce; and probably, many others in both Provinces for which Act of Incorporation have been obtained.