

by agriculture serves to alleviate the sufferings and troubles of mankind."

And it has also been remarked by another equally wise head, that, "There is, perhaps, no occupation in life which so greatly needs the fostering care of Government as that of farming. There is no principle of political economy, no question of public policy, no consideration of statistical facts, no new development of scientific knowledge, which does not come home to be measured in its influence upon the results of the farm." If these men, noted for their wisdom, were correct in their ideas, the Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly should not pause to consider what might happen should the produce of our farms be doubled in value in course of time by improved methods of agriculture; but we should at once begin and leave no stone unturned till the Government encourages agriculture by an annual grant commensurate with the importance of the advantages to be obtained by its promotion, and we may safely rest assured that the consequences will prove anything but unpleasant to the people of Nova Scotia.

I was glad to notice by the Governor's speech at the opening of the Legislature that the "Government had given the subject of immigration its earnest attention during the recess." That was a very important announcement, but I regret that the speech made no other reference to Agriculture than that, "The agriculturist has been blessed with a harvest of, at least, an average yield." Now my ideas on this subject may be peculiar, but I give them for what they are worth. I frankly admit it is well to publish the country abroad, and to attract all the immigrants to our shores it is possible to get, but I think that at the same time something should be done to build up the country at home, to keep immigrants from passing out of the country after their arrival, and to prevent our own people from turning their backs upon their native land. I want to know what is being done to keep in the Province, a better class of people than any we can get from abroad—the fine young men and women of Nova Scotia? Is it not a lamentable fact that the commercial and agricultural prosperity of the United States is taking such an attractive hold of our young people, that it is impossible to keep them at home, and they are continually flooding to those scenes of enterprise and activity abroad, which should occupy their attention at home? Go where you will over Nova Scotia, and you will find run out farms and deserted homesteads, and cultivated enclosures that would prove a mine of wealth to young men of muscle and intelligence, affording but a scanty livelihood to old men and elderly women, and adding little, if anything, to the revenue of the country. When passing over such places, how often have our minds been relieved of unpleasant sensations by recurring to Moore's well known line, "The harp that once through Tara's Hall," and thinking of Burns's, "Days of auld lang syne," and in fond imagination have gone back to the time when these deserted walls were the scenes of activity and mirthfulness, and anxiously desired the day when all that had occurred in their history would again take place.

But it is unnecessary I should go into particulars and detail the history of Provincial

Agriculture since the formation of the Board. Suffice it to say, that up to the present time, the Board has not had more than \$6000 a year to advance the cause, the most of which has been given to aid Agricultural Societies, to the extent of \$240, to each county, while, occasionally Government has given an extra allowance for a Provincial Exhibition, or a stock importation; but beyond these objects the Board has not been placed in a position to assist the cause materially in any other important respect; while during the same years hundreds of thousands of dollars of the public funds have been lavishly expended in roads and bridges, railroads, the Fisheries, and Free Education, and other departments of the public service. You may consider this unequal division of the public funds all right. I consider it all wrong. I know that many find fault with the Board for not going in and possessing Nova Scotia, and making it a land flowing with milk and honey. I would like the Board to do so, and in order to bring about such a happy condition of affairs, would like them to establish a School of Agriculture; to import guano and fossil manure to bring up the worn out lands; to give bounties to persons settling wilderness or exhausted soils; to give premiums encouraging the growth of certain grains and roots; to encourage Farmers' Clubs, Provincial and County Exhibitions, and above all to engage a good Agricultural Chemist, such as our worthy Secretary, to visit and lecture to the Agricultural Societies, analyse the various soils of the Province, and be a constant medium of communication between farmers and this Board; but when I think of these and many other hitherto unexplored fields of Nova Scotian Agriculture, I am reminded of the forcefulness of the agricultural proverb, "Money makes the mare go," and am led to conclude, that, perhaps, we cannot do better in this matter, than, with sledge-hammer reiteration, address the Government in the laconic peroration of Dean Swift's celebrated charity sermon, "Down with your dust."

But I am pleased to feel that much of the wire edge has been taken from my remarks by the action of the Government in giving the Board \$1500 in addition to the last year's grant of \$6000, in order to make up losses sustained from the recent importation of Stock, and keep the Stock Farm Grant of \$8000 intact. We have to thank them for this, and should also feel gratified that in their new Agricultural Act they have started a ripple on the agricultural waters of the Province that, it is to be hoped, will ere long become a wave of prosperity. Viewing it as an indication of the interest the Government intend to take in the subject hereafter, I forgive them for cutting twelve of our throats, and allowing six of us to get back again, if we can, at six cents a mile. But, while I consider the sum of money the Government purpose giving the Board for future operations as wholly inadequate to the Agricultural wants of the Province, I look upon the addition of a member of Government to the Board, as a good feature in the law, and hope that whoever may compose the next Board that they may be men: on, the subject of Agriculture, who will be the member of Government till he becomes crazy on the subject, so much so that he will bite his colleagues and they will lose their senses in the matter; for not until then do I expect that Agricultural justice will be done Nova Scotia.

PROPOSED INTER-COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

PRELIMINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Fredericton, March 29th., 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution passed by the Board on the 11th inst., and have respectfully to request that you will lay the same before the Agricultural Board of Nova Scotia, at your earliest convenience.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES S. LUGRIN,

Secretary.

Secretary Board of Agriculture, N. S.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Fredericton, 11th March, 1873.

Whereas, in the opinion of this Board an Inter-Colonial Exhibition of the Arts, Manufactures, and Agricultural Productions, would be promotive of the best interests of Agriculture, and greatly stimulate the Manufacturing and Industrial Interests of the several Provinces; therefore

Resolved, That this Board invite the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, and the Agricultural Department of Prince Edward Island, to take the subject of an Inter-Colonial Exhibition into consideration, with a view to effect so desirable an object, at such time during the next or following years, as may be determined upon by Delegates to be appointed by such Boards respectively. Such Delegates to meet at a time and place to be agreed upon, and make such preliminary arrangements as may be deemed necessary; and further

Resolved, That a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Boards of Agriculture above mentioned.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHARLES S. LUGRIN, Sec'y.

HALIFAX, 3RD APRIL, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 29th March, and accompanying Resolutions of the Provincial Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick, in which proposals are made for an Inter-Colonial Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures, and Agricultural Productions.

I shall not fail to lay these Documents before the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia as soon as this can be done. But as our Statutory Meetings are held only twice a year,—in March and October—it may be sometime before an opportunity occurs. In the meantime, I shall adopt means whereby the Members of the Board may be informed of the contents of your letter.

Permit me to assure you that your present Communication, and any others that may be received from your Board, will meet with the most careful and respectful consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt. servant,

GEORGE LAWSON.

Secretary, Central Board Agri. of N. S.

To Charles S. Lugin, Esq.,
Sec'y Provincial Board
of Agriculture of N. B.