

within six miles of us. It would surprise a student of the O. A. C. to see the quantity of coal \$1.00 will buy here. I have frequently got my wagon load (one and a-half tons) for eighty cents. Who would undertake to supply their home with wood, and coal at such a figure? So much for coal.

The summer of 1891 will be memorable in the history of Pictou County as that in which the mining of iron was begun. It has long been known by many that there were large deposits of this useful mineral in the East River mountains. Not till three years ago, however, was there any interest manifested in the fact by prospecting parties or capitalists. While since that time fortune-seekers have been attracted from far and near, three strong companies, representing some millions of dollars are now in the field, samples of the ore have been tested and pronounced to contain from 50 to 90 per cent. of iron, while the extent of the deposit has proved to far exceed the calculations of the most hopeful. Further, vast beds of limestone have been discovered immediately west of the iron, and in some instances on top of the ore. As there are large quantities of lime used in smelting, this will add much to the value of the property. Within the few past months, too, it has been found that in some sections there is as much manganese in the iron ore as is necessary for fluxing. Providence, evidently, designed this to be one of the foremost iron centres of the world, which it is now on the fair road to become. As a consequence the price of land has an upward tendency for some miles around me, while in the more immediate districts to the ore and furnaces, speculators and land-sharks have taken up large areas, and are now selling in small lots at the rate of as high as \$500.00 an acre. At some future date I may describe the construction of the smelting furnaces and the process the ore is put through in the same ere what is known as pig iron is produced. The other minerals that have been developed to any material extent in our county are gold, gypsum and fire clay—the latter is used in making fire-bricks, also in smelting iron.

You have likely arrived at the conclusion that mining is the principal occupation down here. But let me tell you it is not, vast as it is. Farming leads, both in invested capital and in the number of its followers. And the splendid—in many instances phenomenal—

crops of the past season will restore the courage that had fallen low as the result of a comparative failure of the crops in 1889, and a more decided failure in 1890. More particularly of the oat crop, which up to then was never known to fail in Eastern Nova Scotia. This year, in our East river valley, hay cut two and two and a half tons to the acre, oats seventy bushels, wheat forty bushels, barley forty-five. This is away above the average yield over a period of years. But I maintain that by proper culture and judicious manuring these yields may be attained and even surpassed in any ordinary good season. Too many of our farmers merely make farming a side issue rather than their study and their life work. Those near the shore go fishing, inland they go lumbering or trucking nine months out of the twelve. These are the men who tell us that "farming don't pay." Opportunity missed in the scramble for the "Almighty dollar." More anon.

J. B. McKAY, '85.

### Canadian Turkeys in Great Britain.

Some months ago, one of my friends, Mr. David Bateman, of 2 High St., Hull, England, entered into an agreement with a large firm in Ontario to try the English markets at Christmas. The quantity originally decided upon was fifty tons, but through a variety of circumstances not more than thirty-three tons were shipped, and a large proportion fell into the hands of other parties. There was not much reason for regretting such a state of affairs, for the weather in England in the early part of December was very warm and it did not begin to freeze until the 18th, when the turkeys were put on the market. The condition in which they arrived would have led anyone to suppose they would make fair prices. Yet, I know that one ton which a man sent to Bradford was thrown up before they had been in the town two hours. The dealer said he would not have them at any price, and they had to be sent to Leeds to be sold. Several other tons were similarly dealt with, and I am informed that the man lost £4 on each ton! This is not very encouraging for the future of the trade. People will not give 7d. per lb. for Canadian turkeys with the feathers on when they can get good Irish ones ready plucked in Hull at 8d. Still, one way and another, I believe the parcel will