

with just pride, point to the fact that Nova Scotia is at this moment, in proportion to population, the largest ship-owning country in the world.

I have not alluded to our gold mines, because I do not attach, and I never have attached, any considerable importance to this interest. There are few countries whose gold mines have been of much value to them, beyond the attraction they offer to the roving and adventurous, who become a really useful population only when their energies are directed to other and less hazardous pursuits. But the great industry which remains is the one to which your attention is more immediately invited, by the Exhibition of to-day. The men who live by the land in Nova Scotia far out-number those who live by the sea. Fifty thousand men are returned in the census of 1871 as cultivators of the soil, while the combined numbers of those who go down to the sea in ships, and of those who spread their nets for fish, do not exceed 19,000, the seamen counting about eleven thousand, and the fishermen about eight thousand; the farmers, therefore, are more than twice, nearly three times, as numerous as the aggregate of both the other classes together.

If they do not figure so largely in the table of exports it is because the productions of the farm are largely consumed on the farm, or, at all events, within the Province. It is only by looking at the returns of the census that we can measure the fair relative proportion which subsists between the products of the other industries in which our people are engaged, and of those of the 50,000 families occupied in cultivating the soil. Applying this test with as much accuracy as the defects of the tables in the census of 1861 will permit, we find that in actual value the product of the soil in 1860, the year before, was three times as much as the product of the fisheries of the same year, and this, too, without taking into account the increase in live stock—an element the importance of which will be obvious when it is considered that the returns show we had in that year an amount of live stock worth in all over eleven millions of dollars.

So that, while our farmers are vastly more numerous than our fishermen, it is pleasing to find that, man for man, they each year add more to the actual production of what sustains life than even that valuable part of the population which gives us the means of importing each year three and one half millions worth of foreign produce.

It is a happy peculiarity of the Province—it is a peculiarity which will always preserve it from the wide-spread disaster which occasionally befalls some countries, that we are not depending for subsistence upon any one single branch of industry. We are large shipowners, and yet, when freights are low, the country bears the depression without great suffering. We are extensively engaged in the mining and exporting of coal, and still when a paralysis of industry among our neighbors suddenly deprives us of our best market, we feel the depression, but it does not assume the proportions of a calamity. A failure in the fishery largely diminishes our power of exportation and

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