

Notes from the Ontario Free Grant Lands.

I live in the Muskoka Free Grant District of Ontario in the township of Hyerson. This is a township set apart by the government to try the experiment of building houses and clearing land for settlers. Twenty thousand dollars has already been expended for that purpose. A house is built and four acres of land cleared on lots of 100 acres, the settler to pay the cost, \$200, by instalments in five years. The scheme is good but can hardly be called a success; owing partly to its not being properly carried out. The lots selected are said to contain seventy-five per cent. of land fit for cultivation.

The soil is generally a clay loam covered with hard wood, with considerable pine in places. It is well watered and has the navigable river, Maganetawan, running almost through the centre of the township. There are several good mill sites within twenty or thirty miles, but no mills yet.

This has been the first year of farming, and crops promised well, but the grasshopper did a great deal of injury in places, clearing off wheat, oats and potatoes—everything but peas. Where the grasshoppers were less numerous, crops were excellent, the new soil especially suiting potatoes, some truly astonishing yields being reported.

Wheat, none in market; oats, sixty-five and seventy cents; potatoes, fifty and sixty cents, peas \$1.00. Prices will be higher in the spring when more settlers come in. Fall wheat looks well. Weather very mild, with very little snow up to date.—*Cor. Western Rural.*

An Agricultural Education.

Extract from Paper Read before the Onslow Farmers Club, by Major Wm. Blair.

What the farmer needs is the scientific education which the mechanic, the manufacturer, and the artisan receives, to enable him to become master of his calling. He must understand the processes of the vegetable kingdom, by what agents they are conducted, by what laws they are regulated, and how the whole may be turned to the best account with the least labor and expense; and for this knowledge of his art he must depend on the light of science. The thrift, industry, and intelligence of other classes have been conspicuous for the last quarter of a century; yet the tillers of the soil, not a whit behind any other class in natural talent and virtue, great in everything which pertains to personal worth, are left to toil on without receiving their proper share of scientific aid, and as if the *All Wise One* who has promised that seed-time and harvest, shall not fail, had prescribed no laws for them to study, no rules to govern their practice, and as though the fulfilment of this promise did not depend upon compliance with His unchangeable laws; for if there are scientific principles upon which successful cultivation is based, then no effort can be well directed unless founded on these principles.

There is no department of human industry in which the aid of science is more absolutely necessary, but the impression has too frequently been that farming is purely mechanical requiring muscular rather than mental power to ensure success, and this opinion has so greatly prevailed, that if a man attempted to educate himself for the duties and responsibilities of a farmer, he has been styled a "book farmer," or "a man of zeal, without knowledge." But what is an agricultural education? It is that system of training which teaches the application of science to the art of agriculture. And what is the science of agriculture? It relates to the principles of successful cultivation. For instance, it teaches that all "plants live and grow by eating;" what their proper food is, where it may be found, in what quantity, and how it shall be applied.

But how shall this be attained? By guessing? By long and doubtful experiments? By the clear, light of science, which can solve these problems at once! Science says to her chemist, tell me of what that plant is composed—then analyze that soil and tell me if that plant will flourish in it. If it will not, tell me what ingredients are wanting for its healthy development, tell me whether that soil is best adapted to the growth of grains, hay or vegetables. Tell me what ingredients the growth of these will abstract, and what kind and quantity of manure must be supplied to restore the productive energies of the soil.

The analysis of the chemist may settle all these points as satisfactorily as the longest and best practical experience of the farmer, and by which knowledge he may ascertain the proper food for his crops and for his stock.

Education increases power, and this is as true in agriculture as in any other pursuit or profession, and

reflection will convince any one that such is the necessity for science in this vocation, that a long life of study and experience would leave the most intelligent far short of perfection. In fact there is no pursuit which requires more intelligence, simply because the principles on which it depends, are more difficult to understand than almost any other. The farmer should have a scientific knowledge of his soils, and their adaptation to the growth of his crops, the preparation and nature of the different parts of the fertilizers he applies, the influence of his crops on the soil, and if exhausting, how its reproductive energies may be restored. He should also understand the laws of the various changes which take place in manures and soils, and their influence on vegetation, from the germination of the seed to the maturity of the crop, the nature and remedy of the diseases of animals and vegetables, the breeding and raising of stock, the habits of insects, and how their ravages may be prevented.—*N. S. Journal of Agriculture.*

Farm Life in Germany.

In a recent issue of *The Evangelist* a correspondent gives an interesting description of farm life in Germany, from which we make an extract:

As we proceed on our way we pass through several villages, in which the houses are pretty close together, in no way resembling the bright, neat farm-houses of our New England States. Here the buildings consist of a frame skeleton filled in with brick or clay, and generally whitewashed. The other ones have thatched roofs with a rich growth of beautiful moss upon them, and often a stork's nest at the gable end, which the peasant considers as a sign of good luck. When the Spring comes, and all nature begins to show signs of a new life, the children anxiously watch the return of the stork, who has spent the winter under a summer's sky. The more modern houses are covered with red tile, but even they have in front of them the disgusting manure heap, suggesting bad drainage and disease.

Over the double front door, which is large enough to admit entrance to a loaded waggon, is carved in large letters the name of the owner of the house, his wives and some appropriate verse from the Bible. The spacious hall, with its hard-trodden clay floor, forms the main part of the house, while from it right and left lead the doors into the stables. At the end we find a small sitting-room, with low ceiling and projecting beams, and the pine floor covered with white sand. Narrow wooden benches are stationary against the wall, a deal table stands in the centre and a few wooden chairs and perhaps an old clock in the corner, complete the furniture of the modest apartment. The bedrooms and kitchen are adjoining and in the former the mountainous feather beds, under which the people sleep Summer and Winter, attract our attention, as also the small windows, which allow of but scanty ventilation. There is no sign of book or newspaper, or anything that indicates taste or education. It is a life of toil which the poor peasant leads, relieved by very few pleasures, and which in no way compares with that of our commonest laborer in the country.

Land here yields barely three per cent., and while in our Eastern and Middle States every village can boast of a paper, an occasional lecture or concert, there is nothing here to change the dull monotony of daily drudgery. The men are drafted into the army for three years of their life, which, though it relieves them of their awkward, clumsy ways and revives the rudiments of their learning, makes labor scarce, and is the cause that so many women have to do hard field work, and appear more ignorant than the men.—*Western Rural.*

A Clerk's Success on a Farm.

An enterprising farmer in Vermont, once a clerk, relates his experience in the following communication to the *New England Farmer*:

Seven years ago I bought a farm of 350 acres for \$12,000, the stock and tools cost me \$3,000 more. I had \$2,000 to pay down, which left me in debt \$13,000. The first year I kept a cash account and found my receipts \$200 per month and my expenses about \$100, including interest and help. The first year I paid two notes, both before they were due, and in each succeeding year I paid my notes before they became due, and got some discount by doing so. I should have said in the first place that I had a dairy of forty cows, and a sugar bush of 1,600 trees. From these two sources I received most of my money, though I sold a few tons of hay, a few bushels of oats, corn, beans, potatoes and apples. I also

raised some pork to sell each year, and occasionally a fat cow or a yoke of oxen, when they were no longer useful for the dairy or the yoke. From seven colonies of bees I received a steady income and increased my stock each year.

But without going into details, I will say that at the end of six years I sold my farm back to the man of whom I bought it. He had been west, and came back thoroughly homesick, and wanted his old home. In no one of the six years did I clear less than \$500. Now, take my \$2,000 and my age, thirty years, and suppose that I should live to the allotted age of man, (three score years and ten,) and each year add \$500 and interest at six per cent., and I think it will compare favorably with the profits of any of the professions. I do not say I have not made more than \$500 any year; but I do say that this is the least I made in any one of the six years. At the same time I have had an experience which is worth more to me than all the rest. I have helped build one railroad by taking one share of its stock and paying for it, and I have endeavored to do my share toward the support of society, and toward encouraging every enterprise which is for the public good. I take and read at least five papers, and find money to pay for the same in advance.

Some of the glitter and show of our city and village cousins, which has so long dazed the country youth, has been sadly dimmed by recent events in our commercial cities and manufacturing towns, and some journeymen, clerks, &c., who have for years had large salaries or wages, are now looking forward to a hard winter without employment or work, with fear and trembling. The price of the farmer's produce may be somewhat lessened by these business crashes, but he knows nothing of the dread of being "out of work" for weeks and months, with empty cellars, store rooms and wood-sheds.

Agriculture vs. other Occupations.

Though agriculture is one of the most independent and ennobling employments in which any one can engage, yet there exists a strong desire among the young men of Canada to abandon it for other occupations. They regard farming as a monotonous drudgery, and they are, therefore, leaving the "bright old homesteads" in which their fathers acquired competence and wealth, to enter the "learned professions," or follow some "genteel calling." They could not in the commencement of life commit a greater blunder. In Europe, practical agriculture is regarded as one of the most aristocratic pursuits, and the highest nobles are engaged in it. No doubt other occupations require less physical labor, but they are vastly more wearisome and unhealthy than farming. As a class, the farmers are happier than those who follow the "trades and professions," and, as to competence and independence, there is no calling in which they can be more certainly attained than in agriculture. The well cultivated fields, the well stocked farms, and the handsome mansions, to be seen in every part of the country, afford evidence of this fact; and why should it not be so? Is not agriculture the most primitive of all occupations, and is it not also the true foundation of all national prosperity? In it men do not require to crowd each other as in the "professions," for between the sons of the soil there need be no undue competition. Let all young men, then, think of this, and stick to their farms; for, of the many who abandon agriculture, and enter the professions, or engage in business, nine out of every ten fail, and are often ruined for life. Instead, therefore, of turning their attention to other pursuits—beset with cares and anxieties, often ending in bitter disappointments, and, frequently, in hopeless bankruptcy—let our young men apply themselves to practical agriculture, and by employing their energies of mind and body in the cultivation of their broad acres, and the improvement of their stock and farms, they will, in the end, secure the happiness, as well as the independence, of themselves and their families.—*Orangeville Sun.*

AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—Officers for the ensuing year. Hon. Horatio Seymour, President; Prof. L. B. Arnold, Rochester, N. Y., Secretary; Hon. Harris Lewis, Treasurer; and thirty-one Vice-Presidents from various states.

COLLEGE-MADE FARMERS.—The Michigan Agricultural College reports its graduates previous to 1873, as thus employed: 21 farmers, 7 fruit growers, 4 engineers, 4 druggists, 2 mechanics, 7 business agents, 6 lawyers, 1 clergyman, 1 physician, 1 editor, 12 professors and teachers, most of whom are connected with agricultural colleges, several of whom have charge of farms and gardens.—*Live Stock Journal.*