



Farming in Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—With upwards of twenty years' experience as a farmer in Canada, and a lengthened connection with the management of agricultural associations and other institutions, I trust you will pardon me for venturing to offer a few remarks in reply to "A Subscriber" in your issue of Feb. 1st.

You are quite correct, sir, in stating that Canada is essentially the poor man's home, or rather the labourer's home; in corroboration of which I can point to hundreds in this county alone, who commenced without capital, except what they possessed in well-developed muscles and energetic minds, and who now own property, in fee simple, worth from \$5,000 to \$15,000 each, and some much more. None but the indolent and improvident (except in cases of sickness) have failed to procure a home for themselves and families. My experience agrees with your own—that those who have succeeded best are the men who hired out a year or two, to become better acquainted with the customs and the best methods of farming in a new and undeveloped country like this; and this applies equally to the renter as well as the purchaser. Those who have the most signally failed are the most bigoted in their notions, and most determined to follow the practice of the country from whence they came.

All who are acquainted with farming in the "old countries," especially in England, are well aware that master farmers, even those who rent only sixty or one hundred acres, do no large amount of physical work or "labour." The reasons are obvious; labourers are plentiful and wages moderate; custom, too, has a good deal to do with it. Farms are scattered over many miles—a field here and another there; this necessitates a good deal of walking, or generally riding on horseback, to oversee the work; then there is the marketing, which takes up time, the grain being all sold by sample, and delivered subsequently. Besides, nearly every farmer is a sportsman and keeps his dog and gun, and many are expected by their landlords to follow in the chase; such, of course, have to keep their hunters. Homesteads are generally grouped in villages, and this is taken advantage of for social gatherings in the evening, and frequent intercourse on various occasions, which render farm life more attractive. These are a few of the advantages enjoyed by English farmers, and, hence, it is not hard to comprehend why those who have so lived, feel the sudden change experienced by emigrating to Canada, and commencing life on a farm, where they are necessarily almost isolated during a great part of the year, and circumstances compel them to put their "hand to the plough"—literally. This will account for the dislike and frequent failure of "monied men." There are many, very many, exceptions in this country. I am acquainted with a large number, who enjoyed just such privileges as before named, and who brought from \$5,000 to \$7,000, and, at the same time, brought that necessary accompaniment, common sense, which guided them in the purchase of a home, and caused them to conform, in a measure, to the requirements of their new location. The consequence is, that they have not only saved their own, but have added greatly to their wealth, and become prominent leaders in agricultural progression.

If this is true of the past, it is equally true of the present, with this advantage: the rapid adoption of machinery of late for farming operations, obviates the necessity for the hardest manual labour, and, in a measure, renders a farmer more independent of the "Jack-as-good-as-his-master" class. He who does not relish the practical use of the scythe and pitchfork, will not object to a seat on the reaper, or consider it beneath him to guide the operations of a horse-fork. Other advantages, not enjoyed twenty years ago, are greater market facilities, increased school advantages, and enlarged social, literary and religious privileges, some of which are not surpassed

in any country. I may add also, that there are many new and important branches just brought into existence among us, which offer great inducements for a fuller development, such as flax, cheese, and grazing operations.

I will conclude by stating that a man with seven thousand dollars, just arrived from any country, can readily purchase in this county—which is acknowledged to be second to none in Canada—a hundred acre farm, in nearly a square block, for \$5,000, with an orchard, outbuildings, a tolerable, and in some instances a good dwelling house, with the usual appurtenances; situated within easy distance of a school, and probably near a village, where some of the privileges before mentioned may be enjoyed. The balance (\$2,000) would furnish his house (moderately), supply his farm with stock, implements, seed and bread for a year, and leave a few dollars for contingencies. He would require one man (even if he has sons) who understands working on a Canadian farm, and a girl to assist in the house. If he is healthy, and is possessed of an ordinary share of common sense, he cannot fail to keep his own. If he fails, it is not the fault of the country.

R. W. SAWTELL.

Oxford Co., Feb. 13, 1868.

The Agricultural Bill.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—So much has been said and published condemning the action and suggestions offered by the Toronto Convention, in regard to the New Bill, that I feel constrained to make a few remarks in reply.

The Convention has been invariably set down as a one-sided affair, inasmuch as the delegates were sent by county societies. It is true that they were so elected, and it is also true that very many of the delegates are as much interested in the prosperity of township societies as they are in county societies, and in their deliberations on that occasion they were actuated by less selfish motives than your correspondents, and manifested a more liberal spirit. There were a few who expressed a wish to annihilate township societies, but such a proposition was not entertained by the meeting. All admitted, however, that in nearly every locality there are too many exhibitions, and many instances were given to show that the Government grant is frittered away without producing any good results, a great deal of valuable time wasted, and expenses incurred needlessly, by such a multitude of organizations. A remedy is needed, and the most feasible that suggested itself was the raising the membership to 75 and lowering the proportion of the grant. This, it was considered, would induce those township societies that barely existed, to cease their operations, or stir them up to renewed exertions. But I here venture to remark, that any society that cannot raise \$75 among its members, or that would be so affected by the loss of \$12 or \$14 as to be crushed, should cease operations, and contribute its means and influence to sustain the nearest organization that is better appreciated. I would have no objection to the rule being applied to county organizations as well. If a county or electoral division cannot contribute \$200, at least, let the grant be withheld: for I hold that it is the duty of the township to sustain a central organization, whose operations should greatly exceed in extent and usefulness that of any of the branch societies within its jurisdiction. Instead of being antagonistic, the branches should be auxiliaries, and act in harmony with each other in promoting its usefulness and success. I shall pass over the very unkind and selfish remarks of your correspondents—who, evidently, are influenced by peculiar circumstances of their own, and the localities in which they reside—and refer to the manner in which the New Bill proposes to elect the members of the "Council of the Association." The division of Ontario into twelve electoral districts is an improvement, but the manner of electing one member for each district is scarcely feasible, in the way provided. Past experience shows that preconcerted action is seldom attained among farmers, and we have little reason to hope that in this instance it will be popular: yet in order to prevent eight or ten names being sent to the Com-

missioner, it must be resorted to. I would prefer electing two delegates at our annual meetings, making ten or twelve for the whole district, who shall meet at a central place soon after, and there decide, deliberately, who is the most fitting local man to represent the district at the Council. This would relieve the Commissioner from much responsibility, and remove the possibility of appointing his own particular friends. On the whole I think that we have reason to congratulate ourselves with the hope of having a more practical Agricultural Bill than the one hitherto in force.

R. W. S.

East Zorra, Feb. 13th, 1868.

Comments.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR—I am glad to see the subject of "Our Social and Industrial Condition" discussed (on page 8 of the present volume) by so able a hand as Prof. Buckland. There is, perhaps, more truth in the remarks of his correspondent in relation to the growing tendency abroad among our population, and especially the young, of avoiding the labors and duties pertaining to farm-life, or, indeed, of giving thoughts and attention to any pursuit that goes to make this world the better for their having been born into it, than editors or residents of cities will admit. Any one residing in the vicinity of our towns and villages cannot fail to be struck with the vast numbers of the idlers his correspondent describes, and others who love to congregate "around town," and all who can into our public offices, where they think (and have they not some grounds for the supposition?) they can gain that after which all men strive, and avoid to a great degree the discomfort and ignominy of earning their bread by the sweat of their brow. They cannot fail to observe the growing tendency, especially among the younger members of the rural classes, of shirking the active duties of life, and of forming a very low estimate of the true worth and dignity of human labor.

But may not we ascribe this growing evil, to some extent, to the imitating and apeing now common among us of the manners and customs of the old world, whose populations are divided into classes with broad division lines between, in which cultivators of the soil rank as *peasantry* and *serfs*, where public officials, from the highest retainer of the Government down to the lowest menial of office, roll in the wealth and splendor of the land; nay, more, is not this slavish contempt of labor one of the offshoots of the degenerate systems of class and caste common to the decaying oligarchies of continental Europe?

This servile aversion to work is one of the direst evils that this or any other country is cursed with. If labor could be divested of the odium now attached to it in the eyes of the idlers, of the shoals of would-be lawyers, not one in ten of whom have stamina enough to enable them to reach the goal of their expectations, and office-seekers of all kinds who now herd about our court-houses—in the eyes of thousands of young men loafing around our towns and villages, and forming, we may say, three-fourths of the non-producing classes generally—our country would be rid of one of its crying evils. Labor is honorable; the educated workers are our lords, our true aristocracy, and the sooner this principle is recognized, the better for our country.

PROFITS OF FARMING.

As to the Profits of Farming touched upon in the remarks of Prof. Buckland on the foregoing topic, it will, *other things being equal*, as a business, intelligently conducted, afford profits equal to the average of other pursuits. But there is no reason for supposing the fact, so long as farmers send lawyers, commercial men, and others of the non-producing class to Parliament, to legislate and regulate the tariffs for them. The profits of agriculture are so inseparably connected with the regulating of tariffs and the fostering care of Government, that there can be no grounds for believing them to equal those of other pursuits, unless these considerations are such as to warrant the supposition.

Again, the profits accruing to the cultivators of the soil, or any other class, cannot equal those of the adherents of other pursuits, unless they come up to them as a class in the matter of education. The educated few will always stand higher than the less intelligent many. Educate! educate! should be the cry of farmers. More than ever are we convinced of the necessity of the existence of a greater amount of