

time and harvest, guiding the farmer who watched her phases into health, wealth and wisdom. He cut timber and planted corn, he set trees and killed his pork in the moon, while the good house-wife had this inconstant star for the centre of her domestic system; it prescribed over kitchen and nursery, all revolving around the source of moonshine, from pulling flax, carding tow, gathering hops, to the weaning of the moon-faced baby. There is and can be no mode by which the resources of our country can be so fully developed as by educating the vast numbers of those who are to devote their lives to agricultural employment as tillers or owners of the soil. By education each man is trained to bring into action his whole mental and physical force. The immense loss of power through ignorance is saved. A dull, uncultivated man, though physically a giant, does little work for which brute power might not often be easily substituted. The skilled and highly trained farmer is sure to harvest larger crops, and with less labor, than his unskilled and untrained neighbor. Science working unobtrusively produces larger annual returns and constantly increases fixed capital, while ignorant routine produces exactly the reverse. It is true nearly all modern sciences are more or less related to agriculture or the mechanical arts, and they are liberally recognized by professorships in most of our institutions of learning, but as generally taught there is little special application to agriculture. Popular common school education has been slowly combatting the prejudices of the world for generations. Whoever is at the lowest round of the ladder manifests the least inclination to rise, and those highest up have the most ambition for still greater achievements. We find men attaining to eminence in a much greater ratio among the learned professions than we do among the agriculturists. This should not be. With the advantages we have at our command we ought to keep pace with, if not excel, them, and if farmers but realized the power and influence which education gives

them, we should not see our Legislature controlled by lawyers and men in other walks of life, rather than those upon whom all others rely for subsistence. How few of our farmers fit themselves to enter our Legislative Halls in order to assist and influence the legislation upon this, the greatest interest of our country. Why is it that with the millions of surplus revenue that Ontario has been scattering broadcast for years past, so little attention has been paid to the wants of the agriculturists? We might and ought to have had several Agricultural Colleges in full operation by this time, filled with the sons of our advanced farmers, qualifying themselves to disseminate scientific with practical knowledge, and by this means conferring an unspeakable benefit. Instead of this we have one weak, sickly Institution that has been made a sort of shuttle cock among the party politicians of the day, whose existence, even now, I will venture to say is not known by half the farming community of our country. This is not as it should be; and let me tell you that if you realized your privileges and interests it would not be so. Did you pay more attention to your real interests, in the selection of representatives and the exercise of your franchise, your influence in the Legislature should be on a par with that of any other interest. As it is, the only time when it is really felt is when aspirants for Parliamentary honors (and this, half the time, is likely to be some lawyer from a distance) comes soliciting your franchise. You are then represented as the intelligent yeomanry of our country, whose vote and influence they hope will be used to place the applicant in power, which is too apt to be the last that is thought of your interests till a similar season returns, when the same thing is re-enacted. We should have more practical agriculturists in our House of Assembly, in order that this great interest might have its due weight in shaping the legislation affecting it. This is a subject worthy of your serious consideration.

I do not know, gentlemen, whether in