

the course of events around us are all going in a wrong direction, but we generally find they are bound to go. Neither you nor I can stop them. If we don't get out of their way we will be crushed; if we doggedly stop we will be left far, far in a cold and lifeless rear. He advised all to keep pace with the times, trying to utilize what seems good in the inexorable march of events and to avoid what seems pernicious. He pointed out the many evidences that in almost every department of labor there is to be observed a change of the relative positions of the contending parties. I believe lawyers and doctors are about the only classes in society that try to stem the current and hold on to the old anchorage, but it is just possible that even they may have to take to sending out canvassers and drummers to catch the client or patient who will not come to us. In the course they were now pursuing this society was wheeling into line and adopting the now universally recognized methods of promoting the objects contemplated in its formation. He passed on to say a few words as to the prospects and condition of the farming class in this country. The natural inclination was so best to follow one's vocation as to make the pot boil. The higher motive to foster and strive to realize an ideal excellence, to seek to elevate one's profession and to mould it rather than to allow the profession to mould him, is extremely praiseworthy, but I have frequently noticed that when the alternative is squarely presented—one's ideal or his bread—the ideal generally goes to the wall.

The first question we ask ourselves on our farms or at these fairs is the same one Horace Greeley set before himself to solve, and egregiously failed in the attempt, viz: Can farming be made to pay? I believe that the farmers of Nova Scotia to-day are finding a very satisfactory solution of the question. At no time do I believe in the history of this Province has farming proved so remunerative as at the present day. Every product of the soil seems capable of immediate conversion into gold. The opening up of new markets abroad has created a greater demand for almost every article the farmer has to dispose of. Last month a new company of large capital and influential stockholders received a charter for the importation of meat, beef, mutton, veal and lamb, not from America, but from Canada alone, and already, I am told, has completed a contract with responsible parties in this country for the supply of 250 tons of meat a month. The effect of the drain upon this country must of course have two results, one logically following the other. It must raise the cost of living in almost every article that enters into the consumption of every day life, thus pressing unduly on certain classes of the community; but in the second place it must still more stimulate agricultural production, and thus aid in more thoroughly developing what is in fact the great resource and backbone of this country. The farmers, I say, are growing rich in this Province—the Savings Banks

tell the tale. The paying off of old mortgages; the more expensive style of living adopted, all show that they are no longer the hewers of wood and drawers of water they were supposed to be years ago; and as wealth rightly used becomes a powerful lever for social exaltation, for a broader and deeper intellectual training, and a higher moral culture, so should the farming class of this country rise to that influential position in the direction of affairs that is theirs by an undeniable right. I must not leave this subject without a reference to matters of importance which underlie, and must ever underlie, agricultural prosperity. They are, first—habits of industry, honest, hearty toil and sweating of the brow; and secondly—educational discipline—power to use as well as power to acquire knowledge. No man can succeed at farming in this country unless he labors hard—hard manual toil, early to rise and late taking rest is the price of success. There may be other countries where this close personal application is not necessary, but Nova Scotia is not one of them. Amateur farming, the adopting of it as a vocation for ones lighter hours, must be reserved for those who are not making their bread at it. He must have the physical strength, the will, power, and the general habit to work that will not repel him from going personally into the ditch with his shovel, and into the forest with his axe—that will not give the order "go and do the work," but "come and help me do it." I believe that the vice of laziness is the canker at the root of very much of the poverty and apparent misfortune that afflicts farmers as well as other classes. It will puzzle you to name a farmer who works hard and minds his own business who is not more than making the two ends meet. It is the vain effort to get what is called an honest livelihood without giving therefor honest toil, taking the world's wages without doing the world's work, living by one's wits and revolving in idleness cunning schemes to get one's dinner, that must in the end ignominiously fail, as it deserves to do. You may tell as you drive along through a farming district the men who are industrious and plodding and those who take things easy by the appearance of their farms. Why, I have in my mind's eye now a man, not a dozen miles from here, who coming from across the water with nothing but the clothes he stood in, but with bravery and willing arms, settled down on a little patch of gravel and rock so poor—well, I don't believe it could more than feed a goat—it was barren and uninviting to a degree, but he had selected it, and determined to stick to it, and stick to it he did, rearing a large family on it, encroaching year by year on the surrounding wilderness, laying by money from it, until now he is the owner in fee simple and unencumbered in title of smiling meadows and waving cornfields.—Labor truly does conquer all things. But labor after all is handicapped, hampered and grievously wasted without education. A man should be something more than an ox or beast of burden. The hands cannot work advantageously without the mind directs and assists the hands successfully—accordingly as it is itself directed and assisted. Hence the necessity for intellectual discipline even for farmers. The farmer who is not educating his son is doing him an enormous injustice. He is condemning him to a life of servitude—not only to a life of social inferiority which is sufficiently disgrace-

ful, but to that and bondage and incapacity in his life work which most other things being equal, keep him forever at the foot of the ladder, if not in actual poverty. Now there is no necessity as I think for the education of farmers at colleges and universities, although I have yet to learn that such would do them harm; but education, and that not of an inferior kind, is not so thoroughly difficult in the present day by our excellent common school system that almost every farmer's son in this Province can receive a training if he will, amply sufficient for the successful prosecution of his work. A prejudice, no doubt, exists to a large extent against the spending by a youth destined for the rugged work of tilling the soil of a long term at school. It is alleged that the sedentary life of a scholar and the absence for a time of all manual pursuits unfit him for the tougher, and to some extent more solitary, occupation of a farmer. No doubt there is something in the objection when the period of study is prolonged; but I hold that any such apparent disadvantage is amply compensated by the advantage which science affords him in the understanding and treatment of soils, the chemical properties of manures, the introduction of labor-saving machines, the drill and strengthening of the mental faculties, which is important for the farmer as well as the professional man, and the general ability to apply principles unknown to him before, thus increasing the productiveness of the soil and paying him better in the end. But there is a phase in this matter, I think, most unfortunate for the interests of agriculture, caused, no doubt, by the ample provision in late years for both common school and the higher education, which has had the effect, so it seems to me, of withdrawing from farming pursuits an undue proportion of the farming population, and the last decade has witnessed something like a rush from the rural districts into trade and the various professions. There are men selling tobacco and tea in the towns and villages of the province eking out a scanty livelihood, who ought to be cultivating the waste acres lying almost within gunshot of them. There are lawyers and law students who are pouring over Blackstone, but would be much more profitably employed at the grindstone and hayfield. It seems to have become almost the highest ambition of fond mothers and proud fathers to get their promising boys away from home, away from the farm, away from the ennobling pursuit of agriculture, into a lawyer's or doctor's office, or behind a greener's counter. I think the mistake of all this is already becoming apparent. The inexorable principles of political economy are asserting themselves and people are beginning to see that with potatoes at eighty cents a bushel, beef, fifteen or twenty cents, butter, 25 or 30 cents a pound or so in proportion, it is after all a part of wisdom rather to live in unpretending affluence in the country than starve on respectability in the city.

A New York correspondent of the *London Agricultural Gazette* says cottonseed meal is often badly adulterated by mixing Plaster of Paris, &c., with it. This is a very bad adulterant, as, when taken into the stomach, it will set into solid, insoluble masses.