

by its enterprise and industry, to rival the older centre of Pictou civilization. Beyond this again and higher up the East River, where the country in 1830 was almost a wilderness, stretches the prosperous community gathered around the Albion Mines. The General Mining Association, who sunk the first shaft, and erected the first steam engine set to work in Nova Scotia, have given to our coal trade, both here and in Cape Breton, a practical development profitable to themselves and beneficial to our country. The works of the Drummond Colliery and of the Acadia Company we cannot discern, but we shall soon hear the whistle of the steam engine conveying fuel down the West River from the former, and may now see the cars of the Acadia carrying their coal over the Provincial Railway to the loading ground at Fisher's Grant.

Of this cheering scene of natural beauty and material progress, how faint, after all, is the estimate we can gather from what Pictou has sent to this Exhibition. But what she has sent will be of great value, and what I have said may not be out of place, if thousands of Nova Scotians are attracted, as they ought to be, to the top of Fraser's mountain to see the noble outlines and industrial development of the fine country which I have so faintly endeavoured to describe.

There were two persons that I almost wished could have stood beside my friend and I on Fraser's Mountain. The one was my father, who, when Postmaster General of this Province, established the first mail between Halifax and Pictou. It was carried in the pocket of a Highlander, who walked over bridle paths and performed the service once a week. On the track where my father placed the Highlander I placed the locomotive, and I pay my tribute of praise to those, who, adopting a truly Provincial policy, enabled me to see it thundering over this eastern portion of the line.

The Duke of Sutherland, many years ago, evicted from his estates and shipped to Pictou some hundreds of his tenantry that he might clear the land and turn it into pasture. The motive of this deportation was probably selfish, and the mode in which the policy was carried out was severely criticised at the time. But Providence sometime brings good out of evil, and if the Duke had stood on the mountain beside me he would have seen the hill where those hardy old men sleep in peace, after well spent lives of successful industry, and where their children live in comfort and abundance, rarely, even at this day, enjoyed by those whom their fathers left behind.

I would glance at the counties further east, including the Island of Cape Breton, but I have already trespassed largely upon your time, and have a few observa-

tions to make upon the more salient features of the Exhibition.

Having dwelt upon the more obvious evidences of our material progress, let me frankly acknowledge that there is one department in which we are sadly deficient. I never go abroad, and return home, but the conclusion is forced upon me by comparison that in horses we are behind all the world but Labrador, where there are none, and Newfoundland where there are very few. The English Dray Horse who would, weigh down or draw two of our ordinary draught horses, we have not got at all. The English Hunter, who, with a man of two hundred weight upon his back, will gallop to hounds for hours over ploughed fields and meadows, leaping fences and ditches by the way, we never see in Nova Scotia, and rarely anything approaching to him for bone and action. In racing stock we are far behind the point we had reached thirty years ago, and a well formed Suffolk Punch or Shetland Poney is a rare sight in these days.

But, putting aside all comparisons with the mother country, truth compels me to acknowledge that we are not only beaten by every State of the Union with which I am acquainted, but are not on a level either with Canada, New Brunswick, or Prince Edward Island. Our gentlemen should take this matter in hand, and give some thought and spend some capital to wipe out this reproach, for next to its men and women all countries are judged by its horses, and our farmers should look to it, for there is no more profitless stock, either for the field, the road, or the market, than poor horses.

The show of cattle, sheep and pigs, at this Exhibition, if not all that could have been wished, has been very creditable and satisfactory. Larger and fatter animals would be seen at the great Christmas show at the Agricultural Hall London, but it must be remembered that it would not pay us to cram oxen with oil cake until they were unwieldy, nor to employ boys to chip-turnips and slip them into the mouths of pigs too fat to stand upon their legs. The conditions and climates of the two countries must be taken into account. Cattle, in England, can browse out nearly all winter, and the high prices of meat and the prices which, at its great shows, such a wealthy country can afford to give, will always encourage high feeding to a point which it would be folly for our farmers to attempt to reach. In a country where cattle must be housed and fed for four or five months in a year, starting with good breeds, our policy must be to fatten quick and kill early, because every winter that the animals live over increases the risk or diminishes the profits. Our farmers appear to be acting upon this policy. Though I have seen larger animals in former shows I think I never saw

a better average display of stock, such as appeared to me to be suitable to the condition and wants of the country, and calculated to yield fair returns.

The poultry show has been very fair, and a better display of roots and vegetables I never saw in any country. It is not, perhaps, generally known that nearly all that will come to perfection in these northern Provinces are more succulent and tasty than are those produced by the States lying further to the South. In this connection I may observe that though the potato rot still lingers in some quarters, this valuable esculent, in all parts of the country which I visited this autumn appears to be rapidly recovering its ancient vitality and flavour.

One great branch of our industry has been poorly represented at this Exhibition. A quintal or two of dried Fish, a box of Digby Herring and a few barrels of Salmon, Mackerel and Shad, with a Net or two and a few Hooks, have represented our Fisheries. The collection made by an amateur, was excellent, so far as it went, but it did not seem to satisfy the eye, or to convey to the mind of a stranger, unacquainted with our country, an adequate idea of the proportions and value of that great interest which underlies all other interests, and which, from the very nature of things, must be one of the most permanent and enduring.

Turning from this small court the other day, with a stranger on my arm, I tried to make him understand that he must not judge of our Fisheries by what he had just seen. "Glance" said I "along the map from Westport to St. Anne's, and you will see a frontage of nearly four hundred miles of sea coast upon the Atlantic. The primitive rocks and rugged headlands along this coast form a natural breakwater, which protects the softer soils behind from the abrasion of the northern current and the perpetual roll of the sea. Fish love the clear waters of this southern coast, and trim around its inlets. We cannot see them, but we know the fact, that every summer day nine thousand boats are employed, counting the coast and inshore fisheries alone, while about a thousand vessels of a larger class are employed catching Cod upon the Banks, Mackerel in the Gulf, or Herring in George's Bay or on the coast of Labrador. The exact value of the catch I do not at this moment remember, but, altogether independent of the mariners who man our ships and conduct our carrying trade, we have fifteen thousand hardy men who live by these fisheries alone. Of course," said I, "once in a while there is a failure in some branch of this great industry, as there was last year; but with these vast fisheries in front, annually replenished by a bountiful Providence, and with gold mines in the rear, even our southern coast, which used to be so much