

look for retaining and bringing back to agriculture the class to whom I refer. Putting aside the sense of duty which has had far more weight than is generally supposed in inducing noblemen and wealthy men of the older countries and men of means in our own Dominion to take a lively interest in agriculture, there can be no question but that the emulation produced by competition at public Exhibitions has rendered stock raising and owning a very interesting and engrossing occupation. A desire to excel is to be found in every breast, and to excel in something useful has special attractions for many dispositions. In our desire to attain our end—the improvement of Agriculture—we must study human nature, and get the benefit of even such amiable weakness as this.

It is much to be hoped that our men of means may be induced to do in this Province as such men do in almost all other parts of the world, when retiring from active, professional, or mercantile life—take to farming as a pastime. The Hon. George Brown, of the *Toronto Globe*; Colonel Taylor, of London, a retired army officer; the Hon. John Abbot, a leading lawyer, and Hon. M. Cochrane, a retired merchant of Montreal, are examples of men who have done much for agriculture by importing and breeding thorough-bred stock, and their examples might well be followed by some of our wealthy people nearer home.

It is not only in neat cattle raising that we can do well. The country is, as a general rule, well adapted for sheep. With these the wool may be the main profit, and, not to speak of our own homespun, which is world known, and was selected by General Sir Garnet Wolseley as most suitable for the troops going to the late Ashantee war, and which also won high commendations at Philadelphia, I may give an instance showing what is thought of our wool. I asked a friend to take with him on one of his business trips to England, a fleece from one of my sheep, and enquire of English woollen manufacturers what they thought of its quality. I gave the price and a general idea of what could be got here. A Bedford manufacturer was so pleased with the staple and appearances that he sent out a request that £800 worth might at once be shipped to him. Other matters more strictly professional interfered, and prevented my making any arrangements at the time to fill the order. My friend was soon after lost in the ill-fated *City of Boston*, and the matter fell through. It stands to reason that if we can obtain such a good quality of wool from our unimproved sheep, that we should strive to preserve their good qualities and devote ourselves rather to increasing the size of the ani-

mal, and so with comparatively little outlay in additional feed or housing, obtain a much increased yield of wool. Reverting to the subject of Exhibitions and their effect in the improvement of stock and making farming more generally popular and without going into an array of statistics, which although valuable would be wearisome, I may mention that according to the entries made, one exhibitor will, at the present exhibition, show as much thorough-bred stock as was shown by all the private exhibitors in the Province in 1874. Whilst one exhibitor this year shows sixteen thorough-breeds, four herds of thorough-breeds consisting of six each are shown, and several other exhibitors show three or four each, whilst in 1866 only ten in all were shown by private individuals.

I have excluded in this comparison the Agricultural Societies, as they only keep a fixed number of animals for the use of their members, and this number remains nearly stationary. It is only by comparing what individuals have done that we can really ascertain what progress we have made. One gentleman, won over by the appearance of the Cattle Exhibition in 1874, and of our English imported cattle, last autumn, but who up to that time did not own a single thorough-bred, now appears as the exhibitor of a whole herd of thorough-breeds.

It is but a few years since the Legislature and the Government were so convinced that stock improvement could not safely be left to private enterprise, that the former voted a sum for the establishment of a Government stock farm, where the several breeds imported from time to time might be perpetuated in a pure state. Fortunately there were some who did not despair of their country. The money has been from time to time used for thorough-bred importation, on a larger scale than heretofore, and of a better class, some of the best herds in the Old Country, such as the Queen's herd at Windsor and Sir Wilfred Lawson's short-horns in Cumberland, and that of Mr. Fleming of Ayrshire, being laid under contribution, and the value of our thorough-bred stock is much enhanced thereby. These cattle have been disposed of by auction under certain restrictions, and now, instead of one Government stock farm, which might possibly have become an expensive political establishment, we have in addition to single entries of thorough-breeds from all parts of the Province, no less than four herds entered for competition, thus showing that at least that number of stock farms in private hands, and at no cost to Government, are in active operation.

Let us hope that this is but a sample of the general progress made by the farming community, and that in each succeeding year those interested in the Exhibition may make a still more rapid improvement than that to which I have referred.

This Province has, in the past, borne a good name for the horses raised here, and most of those present will recollect how in the late inflated times in the neighboring States our horses were eagerly sought after, and bought up at high prices—so much so, indeed, that our country was stripped of good horses. We must exert ourselves to replace them and to restore our former credit.

A very important matter to the farmers is to acquire a knowledge of the most suitable implements to do any given farm work, and facility for obtaining the article desired. How often have we seen the farmer wearying himself to perform by manual labor, what mechanical skill has enabled him to do much better, and far more economically. I trust that exhibitions will bring implement makers and their wares amongst us; will also stir up our own farmers and mechanics to adopt the machinery pleaded before them for our more special requirements. I say farmers advisedly, for none know so well as the wearer where the shoe pinches, and none know so well as the farmer how he wants his work done, and most inventions and improvements in farm machinery have come from the farmers and those connected with them.

It would be most improper to close without noticing in terms of high praise the work of the Local Committee of the county, who have converted a swamp wilderness into very capital exhibition grounds, and have erected permanent buildings, thus setting an example of push, which will certainly not be lost on other counties. They deserve high compliments for the way in which the work has been carried out.

Our cousins across the border are now celebrating the hundredth anniversary of their existence as a nation. Their exhibition at Philadelphia shows the wonderful progress they have made in a century, and it is a curious coincidence that we as a Dominion are now starting virtually for ourselves with about the same population as our neighbors started with in 1776. They had the experience of the Mother Country to help them in their development. We have them as well as Old England to guide us in the right path, and to warn us from the wrong. I have often been told that life is too short to give one's time and energies to such work as the improvement of land and of agriculture. Such men reason that we should take things easy and enjoy ourselves. I acknowledge that