

the Northern District, but even the gravelly and rocky land of the shore and midland sections of the County, may be brought to pay tribute to the victorious ploughshare; and we may now with profit take a candid survey of the situation, and after noting our advantages and placing them against our disadvantages, strike a fair balance. If we find this on the wrong side, we must only cast about us for some means of providing a remedy for the difficulty.

As to the advantages, we have the first which may be noted is a good local market. By this, it must not be understood that anything and everything of which the farmer chooses to rob his farm and stock, and take it to market, will bring a good price as it did in former times, but that everything he ought to sell—his surplus oats, wool, yarn, socks, mittens, cloth, beef, pork, etc., if of the proper quality and marketed at the proper time, bring higher prices in our local markets than can be got for the same goods in any market in the Province, outside of the counties of Queens and Shelburne. Let anyone take the prices current of the farmers' markets in Halifax, and compare them with the prices of the same goods at the traders' shops or the farmers' houses in the farming districts of this County, and he will find that the prices are much lower there than here. To give an example or two: If you wish to buy one or a dozen pounds of good yarn from the makers here you will be charged 65 cts. or 75 cts. per pound for it; but you can go into the shops in Halifax and buy as good an article for 55 cts., and sometimes for 50 cts. And let it be borne in mind the latter yarn has paid a profit to at least three persons, one to the producer, one to the trader who sold it in Halifax, and one to the merchant there, while the former has paid but one, or, if bought from a trader, two. We have said our market was good for everything a farmer should sell. Well, what should a farmer sell? Why surely such products as he can make more valuable by his labor—such products, in short, as can either carry themselves to market, or can be so concentrated in value as to reduce the cost of carriage to the lowest possible percentage. Another example is that of beans, which can be bought in Halifax and most of the local markets for \$1.60 to \$1.80 per bushel, while they bring with us from \$2.00 to \$2.75. Then as to beef and mutton. Our local market is practically bare of good beef for five months of the year, and a supply has to be obtained of beef and mutton from the neighboring counties east and north during that time. True, there is one season of the year when our market is so overstocked with beef that the price runs far below the paying point, but that is because the farmer

chooses then to glut the market with good hay and inferior beef, instead of keeping both at home till his beef stock having by judicious feeding put the whole of his hay and roots into portable shape, they could be sent to market when the price was best.

Then there are certain difficulties in the way of our success in agricultural pursuits, but as most of them are of our own making, until we make a determined effort to remove them we must blame ourselves if our circumstances are not improved. First, we cultivate too much land, or rather we half cultivate too much, and thoroughly cultivate scarcely any. If proofs of the advantages of thorough cultivation and liberal manuring were wanting even in our own County, their might not be such cause for wonder that so many of our farmers will persist in performing the extra labor of fencing, manuring and half cultivating two acres with no better results than may be obtained from the proper care of one. An example or two will illustrate this. I am told that the average yield of hay per acre throughout the Northern District one year with another is about one ton, while the average in the Southern District is about two tons. This is explained by the fact that land here being most rocky and much harder to clear, we have to content ourselves with a smaller average than we would otherwise, and so are able to manure more liberally what we have. Another case in point is that of two neighbours formerly living not a thousand miles from Liverpool. A. owned ten acres of cleared land, three of which adjoined his house and barn, and another field of seven acres was three-fourths of a mile distant. Not thinking it good management to allow his seven-acre field to lie waste, he built a costly fence around it, and half cultivated and manured it, and was able to get from the two fields about ten tons of hay, eighty bushels of potatoes, and sometimes less, and a half ton of oat or barley fodder annually. B. had but three acres adjoining his house and barn. He often envied A., his luck in having so much more land than he, and thought himself most unfortunate in being obliged to put all his manure on his three acres, but from them he got a crop of hay only three tons less than A. got from his ten acres, and quite as many potatoes as A. This present year Eldred Cohoon, Esq., of Port Medway, got from three acres of well cultivated land, ten tons of hay, half a ton of oat fodder, and ninety-six bushels of potatoes, as a result of liberal manuring and thorough cultivation. Had he done as many others, and spread the same manure over eight or ten acres, his labor would have been nearly doubled and his crop somewhat reduced.

There is no part of their business in which the farmers of our County are far-

ther behind those of other counties, as in their breed of horses. Joseph Howe once said of the Province, that we had better horses than either Lapland, Iceland, Greenland or Newfoundland. This was "damning us with a faint praise," sure enough. But to what lower depths of dispraise might he not have consigned us had his acquaintance with the horses of Nova Scotia been limited to those bred in our County. During the past twenty years we have owned perhaps as many good horses as any County in the Province—more good ones certainly than many of them, but, of the whole number, those bred in the County might be counted on the fingers of one hand. With a practically unlimited market for really good horses, it is surprising that not more than one or two of our farmers has made it his business to secure really good breeding stock, and thus obtain the advantage which the farmers of other counties have reaped from the same source. That farmer who can improve our scrub stock by a cross with the Cydesdale or Percheson or other good stock, or better still who can introduce the pure stock itself, will earn the lasting gratitude of his fellow citizens and reap the rich pecuniary reward due to his enterprise.

Then, again, we keep too few sheep. Ask why this is and the answer is to this effect: "I know there is no stock that pays as well as sheep. I had a good flock once, but just as I was beginning to take some pride in it, the dogs got at them and destroyed half of them. And this has been repeated so often that I've half a mind not to try it again. If we could only get a law," he will say, "that would exterminate the whole miserable pack of sheep-killing dogs there might be some chance to make money by keeping sheep, but it is so much of a lottery few of us dare keep more than will supply cloth and yarn for our own families."

It is a stubborn fact that too many moose dogs are kept, and if the truth must be told, we have too many moose-hunters. Not too many—aye! not enough—of those who are willing to take their chance for a moose in the calling season, when there is in the sport everything the true hunter rejoices in, and when he must rely alone for success on the qualities which only the true hunter possesses; but far too many bull-dog moose hunters, whose dogs too often eat the victuals, which but for them, would be given to the owner's half-starved hogs, and whose chief delight, when snow lies deep, is the worrying to death of the poor helpless moose. And they call this sport! It is sport which no man with the soul of a hunter will tolerate, and which is more worthy of the instincts of the journeyman butcher, than of a man with a heart in his bosom. Then when