

A Trip to Montreal.

With the double purpose of enjoying a little relaxation and attending to business, we took the train for the east. We farmers of the west are apt to look on the eastern counties too disparagingly; we are apt to think that the inhabitants are all French, and a very poor class of people; that the soil is rocky and sterile, and that farming in the true sense of the term is there quite unknown.

But the fact is, that although a large proportion of the land is only "scratched about" by the French farmers, there are many really fine farms having as good soil as any in the west. Some of them are farmed by Europeans and are well conducted. Many have amassed money and property as fast as any in our western section. Their climate may be a little colder than ours, but vegetation is quite as forward in the spring as it is here. People can and do live as happily there as in the west. Near the city, and as far as one hundred miles east of it, we have travelled through sections that would compare favorably with Western Canada, and we have reason to believe that farmers in some parts of the east are better off than many in the west. They have herds of pure bred cattle, not inferior to any in the western province, and they have the finest blood horses.

On Mr. Sheddon's farm, ten miles from Montreal, is the celebrated horse "Thunder," which we consider, taking all things into consideration, the best and most valuable blood horse we have seen in Canada. Many of the blood horses have a name and nothing more, but this one is so handsome and well proportioned that he looks as if he was of a class greatly superior to such wretched looking animals as are usually found under the name of blood horses. A lot of very valuable Ayrshire cattle, Clydesdale and other mares are also kept on this farm.

Mr. Daws, of Lachine, has the best Clydesdale stallion in Canada. Mr. Allen has such a herd of Alderneys on his farm as no one in Ontario can equal. He has also a blood stallion that cost \$4000. We have not seen spring wheat or root crops this year in the west to surpass what we have seen in the east. Mr. Cochran's Durhams and Ayrshires, and Messrs. Whitney and Irving's Ayrshires belong also to the lower province.

Mr. Henderson, the tenant that occupies the Molson Farm, has this year planted 70 acres of potatoes. Last season large quantities of potatoes were shipped from this place to western Canada, as far west as to Toronto. What are our western men doing to have the east supply them? We do not think any western farmers have hogs or poultry superior to those we have seen in the east.

When we compare the prices of land, the cost of labor, and the great conveniences of the eastern province with the western, we sometimes think that many would do better in the east. The daily laborer would, no doubt, do better by going west, but many of the emigrants that come into the country with money and engage in farming, would often be more successful here than in settling in the backwoods or on the prairie.

A RUINOUS EXPORT.

It is of undoubted advantage to reside near a good market, especially if people understand farming in all its bearings. But circumstances sometimes alter cases; the French Canadians cannot be called the best farmers.

We have travelled over fine tracts of land that were once covered with valuable timber, but now firewood and fencing are not procurable except at enormous expense and long journeys. Coal has now to be purchased by some French Canadian farmers. The land for many years after being cleared produced excellent crops of wheat. It was compelled to yield its riches until from exhaustion its wheat-producing powers had been so reduced that it had to be abandoned.

Many of the farmers are taking advantage of its hay-producing powers, and are yearly cutting smaller and smaller crops of hay, which instead of being kept to feed stock is sold to American dealers.—We hear that one dealer alone kept sixteen hay-presses in operation in Canada during the last season, and the quantity sent to the States must have been enormous. Some consider that the injurious consequences of this system should be in some way checked by an export duty or prohibition act.

NO PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION IN QUEBEC.

From a conversation with Mr. Le Clerc, the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Agriculture of Quebec, we learn that no agricultural exhibition is to be held there this year. The reason given for this course is that they desire to foster their funds to erect permanent and substantial buildings for the future use of the Association. It is certainly true that better buildings are needed. The exertions put forward in Guelph last season were such as to cause the erection of better buildings for stock, &c., than are to be found in Quebec.

We may appreciate their desire to erect these buildings, but at the same time we do not think it a judicious or wise policy to abandon the exhibition even for one year. It speaks but a sorry tale for the Quebecites. There is one feature that may palliate this course: the labor and making up of the exhibition there falls on but few, as the majority of French Canadian farmers take but little part in it. We know it is difficult to get some of our western farmers to take an interest in our exhibitions in the west, but they are rapidly improving in this respect.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

At the present time there are two Agricultural Colleges in existence in Lower Canada, which are maintained at Government expense. We understand that the lowest number of scholars must be ten, and it is with the greatest difficulty that the required number can be obtained to enter the establishment to enable the recipients to draw the Government pay.—We learn that the education is free to the scholars. We had not time to visit the institutions, but from what we have heard the accounts are even worse than from the Agricultural College or Test Farm that was established in Toronto.

Perhaps it would be well if some of our legislators were to make enquiries into the results of the Government expenditures for agricultural education that have been made in both eastern and western Canada, before laying an additional tax on the farmers for something that might be only an injury to them.

DEATH OF ANOTHER AGRICULTURAL PAPER.

Are agricultural papers of service to the country?

This is a question for farmers to answer. In a recent issue of this journal we gave notice of the decease of the *Ontario Farmer*. Now we have to record the chance of *Le Semain Agricola*, which was the principal agricultural paper published in the Province of Quebec since the cessation of the *Agriculturist*, which was published in that province. It is now no longer confined to agriculture but is a general newspaper. The *Globe* Printing Company are still publishing their paper, but at a loss. Our farmers are becoming supplied with American papers.

Does not this speak volumes in support of the subject on which we have so often treated, namely, the oppression that has been placed on agricultural publications? We do not cite the demise of these agricultural papers with pleasure: we would much rather see them flourishing. Does this report speak well of our country?

Where is the fault? what are the reasons? We doubt not that the proprietors have labored to maintain their papers and have expended money for such a purpose. If the existing papers are not as good as they should be let each farmer try to make them better, either by writing or by adding more subscribers names. Perhaps there may be some members of Parliament who may yet bring this subject before the notice of the Legislature.

MACEACHRAN'S VETERINARY INFIRMARY.

Mr. McEachran is one of our western men who has planted himself pretty snugly in the east. He has the best arranged horse infirmary we have seen in Canada. Horses of all kinds are continually being brought to be cured of one disease or another. He is doing a very large business, and has charge of Mr. Sheddon's stock of horses. Mr. Sheddon keeps about 180 horses in the city, and we know not how many on his farm. These alone give Mr. McEachran a great deal to do, as there are always some sick and some bought and sold continually. He also has the charge of several herds on farms around Montreal, that is, in the veterinary way.

The veterinary school is progressing favorably, and must afford an excellent opportunity to young men to learn the art. We are highly pleased to see Mr. McEachran prospering so well. He has now the leading establishment of the kind in Montreal. Perhaps our Forest City may yet have its veterinary infirmary and college.

AYRESHIRE CATTLE.

Eastern Canada is the great centre of the Ayrshire cattle on this continent.—Americans and Canadians look to it as the place from which to obtain their supplies. They are quite as much in vogue here as the Durhams in other places, and gentlemen of unlimited means purchase them in preference to the Short horns. They are considered much better adapted to the country and more profitable. The prices paid for these animals in the east would astonish most of our western farmers.—Mr. Whitney, a wealthy merchant of Montreal, has perhaps the finest herd of them in Canada. His farm is at Frelighsburg, a beautiful section of country about sixty miles from Montreal.

Messrs. Daws, of Lachine, are very wealthy; they have an extensive brewery and a farm of 700 acres. They have gained considerable celebrity by their Ayrshires. We saw on their estate two small calves for which they paid Mr. Whitney \$100 a piece.

Mr. A. Allan, of the Steamship Co., with almost unlimited wealth, is just now stocking his farm with Ayrshires and Alderneys, blood, Clydesdale, Shetland horses, &c., the best and purest bred that money can buy. He has expended \$300 per acre on a farm to prepare it for such stock. Money is not to be spared to make the farm a model of neatness and beauty, and stock it with first-class animals.

We might also mention Mr. Sheddon of the Grand Trunk, and Mr. Cochran, both gentlemen of wealth. To such men it would matter little, as regards the price, whether their purchases were Durhams or Ayrshires; but it is their conviction that Ayrshires are the stock for the country.

We are sorry that so few of our Western farmers have stock of this class; they are growing in favor, and we are of the opinion that for breeding for profit they are a better and safer investment at the present time than the Durhams. We do not wish to disparage the Durhams, as they stand at the head of all our stock, but the Ayrshires carry off the palm from them when we touch the milk-pail. There is more profit to be made in Canada by cheese and butter making than by beef.

The Elections.

During this month you will all have an opportunity of again recording your votes. Let not the hue and cry of party lead you astray! We have watched the plans and plots of party for many years, and from our observations we are led to the conviction that the main impulses are 1st, self, 2nd, friends, and 3rd, the country. There are undoubtedly some that look to the welfare of the country, but most of the candidates will look through their own spectacles.

There are many farmers fit to represent the country and look after the agricultural interest. All it requires is a plain, honest, common-sense man. Do not be led away from voting for a plain farmer because he is one of yourselves, or because he is not so ready at repartee or logic, or as fluent, or as full of statistics as some of the trained citizens that will be running through all parts of the country and acting so kindly and courteously to you for a few days. Do not think a plain farmer is not fit to represent you. By all means prefer to vote for a farmer similarly circumstanced to yourselves. Why borrow so many men from professions? The cities will send all the professional men necessary to watch and look after their interests, and why should you choose men of your own calling? Send more farmers; never mind about party; your party is agricultural interests. Do not deceive yourselves nor disgrace your calling by voting for men from other callings.—Nominate and vote for a farmer, or stay at home!

Send more farmers to Parliament; the interests of the country demand it, and your interests demand it. Our party is the farmers' party.

State of Crops—July 24th.

Having recently taken a journey through Peterboro, Victoria, Simcoe, and part of York, we noticed very few pieces of good fall wheat, most of it having been badly winter-killed. Several pieces have been ploughed under and re-sown with spring crops. Some small pieces are tolerably good where the woods have sheltered them, and even the protection of a fence shows a marked difference. The farmers are becoming alive to the necessity of planting trees for the protection of their crops. The fall wheat must be far below the average.

Early sown spring crops look well, but the later sown crops have suffered from the drouth. The hay crop is light; there appears to be no bottom or undergrowth, which we attribute to the killing out of much of the plant during the winter. Potatoes look remarkably well; the potato bug has not done much harm here. Turnips bid fair to be a good crop, although some pieces looked inferior.

Book Notices.

The School of Chemical Manures, or Elementary Principles in the Use of Fertilizing Agents, from the French of N. Georgeville, by A. A. Fresquat, chemist and engineer.

There is no study connected with the science of agriculture more beneficial than agricultural chemistry. The knowledge of the constituent elements of the soil, of what elements necessary to increase its fertility, what manures it needs—this knowledge is required to constitute a thoroughly good farmer. The title of this work, which we give in full, introduces the reader at once to the subject. It is written in the method of question and answer, and is a "school" preparatory to more elaborate works. The appendix is to us the most valuable part of the work; we hope to refer to it when we have more space.

The Model Potato, by John McLansan, M. D. We have barely space in this issue to acknowledge the receipt of this book. The subject is one that more specially demands the attention of men of science as

well as farmers.

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