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Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturæ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. III. HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER—NOVEMBER, 1879. No. 31.

HALIFAX, 5th November, 1879.

We have re-printed, by request of a correspondent, a portion of Mr. Barnard's Prize Essay on Agriculture, which may well be read, with profit, by or to every young man and boy in the Province. Mr. Barnard is speaking to the Quebec farmers and their sons and daughters, but his remarks will come home to our own people.

"Green Fields afar off" is also intended for family reading. Some of the truths dwelt upon are well worth pondering.

Our Agricultural Societies will soon be making arrangements for the purchase of animals. Our advertising columns will indicate to them where their wants may be supplied.

It will be noticed from an article which we re-print from the *Maritime Farmer* that a proposal for a great Exhibition at St. John next year, is agitating the citizens of that ambitious city. The financial estimate is:

Prizes.....	\$ 8000
Expenses	12000
	\$20,000
Receipts at gate.....	\$ 8000
Government grant.....	12,000
	\$20,000

The principal difference between this scheme and our Nova Scotia practice is that the New Brunswick Government re to give twelve thousand dollars, whilst we have managed to get along with four. Twelve thousand has been sufficient in the past to defray the expenses of our whole agricultural organiza-

tion, including the grants to Agricultural Societies in all the counties, the working expenses of the Central Board, and the Annual Provincial Exhibition. But our agricultural organization is progressive, and an increase of the grant cannot long be delayed.

"A Novel Potato Contest" is well worth reading, 1st, for the useful information which it contains, and 2ndly on account of the hints it may give to energetic farmers to try their hand in high cultivation. We hope before this time next year to be able to record in our columns a number of similar "contests" carried out in our own Province. To determine the method by which the largest possible quantity of sound potatoes can be raised on a rod of his land is surely not unworthy the attention of any farmer. The kindly spirit of this contest, in which the contestants acted as weighers and judges of each other's crops, and the successful one finally sold the produce for the benefit of all, is worthy of imitation by every Agricultural Club and Society, and every agricultural and other community.

The details published of the Liverpool Exhibition, Queen's Co., should arouse sleeping sections to a sense of the value of "man's energy and woman's worth."

It will be seen that Prince Edward Island has had a very successful show.

Of New Brunswick Exhibitions we give details sufficiently ample to show that that Province is fairly aroused, and that Nova Scotia must keep awake if she is to maintain the lead.

The excellent speech of ex-Speaker Mack at the Liverpool Exhibition is full of wise and suggestive remarks.

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF 1879.

THIS Exhibition was held in the new Exhibition Building and Grounds, at Tower Road, Halifax, commencing on Monday, 29th September, and closing on Friday, 3rd October. There were extensive exhibits in nearly all the departments; the attendance of visitors from all parts of the Province was very great; the weather was propitious; and the financial results were as satisfactory as could be expected.

So much attention was devoted to the Exhibition by both the city and country newspapers, that the reading public are familiar with almost every detail of its management. We think it right, however, to place on permanent record in our columns (as we have done in former years), the speeches delivered at the opening and closing, since the carefully prepared statements which they contain afford the means of comparing the results of this Exhibition with those that preceded and those that may follow it.

MAYOR TOBIN'S ADDRESS.

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

We shall now proceed with the inaugural ceremonies of this, the Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of 1879, which is held in this city by consent of the Central Board of Agriculture and with the approval of the Local Government, both being necessary to that end; and I take this opportunity of thanking the gentlemen who compose these Boards for their ready acquiescence in the application submitted to them by the City Council. I trust it may be found that

we have acted up to its terms faithfully and honorably, and that we have shown a proper appreciation of the interests committed to our care. This is our maiden effort in the matter of exhibitions, and I, therefore, claim for it that generous consideration which is usually extended to first attempts. All previous exhibitions have been organized by, and under the immediate auspices and control of, the Local Government, who, with the inexhaustible coffers of the Provincial Treasury at their back, (hear, hear) have had comparatively little pecuniary responsibility. With us it is different. We are more or less tied down, so that the undertaking assumes something of the risky character of a speculation. Nevertheless it is one into which we have entered with good heart, wishing to keep pace with the "spirit of the times," and endorsing in this practical manner what we believe to be the growing sentiment of the people of Nova Scotia in regard to the principle of annual exhibitions. May I not say that it is asserted very practically here to-day, in a manner which leaves no doubt of its popularity, and which must convince all who witness and all who read of the scene before us, that it is the declared wish of the people that these displays and competitions shall be of yearly occurrence in our Province. In this we are only following the example set us by the larger Provinces, and if we may judge by the frequency of exhibitions held in Ontario, we may truly say that the feeling there has reached fever heat. During the last six weeks some seven or eight, perhaps more, agricultural shows and fairs have been held, and each one has been attended with a full measure of success. Of these the largest were, of course, those held at Toronto and Ottawa, which were monster gatherings, opened under vice-regal auspices, and attended by thousands from all parts of the Dominion.

While I am alluding to the Ottawa Exhibition, I may be permitted to enter a mild protest against the term *Dominion*, as applied to that exhibition, inasmuch as that the Maritime Provinces were not represented in any measure there, nor do I believe that they were intended to be; in fact there was no representation from this Province, and I have yet to learn that Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, which divided the honors and spoils, constitute all Canada. The term was a misnomer, and was practically admitted to be such by His Excellency the Governor-General, who in his opening address upon that occasion, advocated as an original suggestion an annual exhibition to be removed from Province to Province in each successive year. This would give it a *bona fide* Dominion character, and as the idea emanates from a source, which of all others commands most attention in this country, we may hope that it will not be a lowered to rank as a mere passing allusion, but that it will ripen into action, securing to each Province the privilege of being, as it were, the host of all others, drawing us closer together commercially and socially, thus advancing the moral and material interests of the whole.

Coming from the contemplation of this higher order of things, to the level upon which we stand to-day, I may say it is not my place or intention to attempt any reference in detail to the accumulated treasures which surround us. The representatives of the press have been busily engaged in preparing these, and will place them before you in a full and reliable manner. I desire, how-

ever, to refer to two or three objects which add much to the interest of the display in this building. Suspended from the southern gallery is a fragile boat, termed a "shell," which has a history. I had also hoped to have been able to point to a handsome piece of plate, which also has a history. I have just been informed that it has not yet arrived, but will, in all probability, to-morrow. I refer to the Merchants' Cup, so that we will consider it as one of the exhibits. These jointly proclaim the prowess of our Nova Scotian youth on sea and land. The one is the boat in which Warren Smith sped away from the champion oarsmen of New Brunswick and Pittsburg, the other is the London Merchants' Cup, carried off by our volunteers in the recent rifle contest at Ottawa. They tell of victory to our Nova Scotian arms, bloodless, it is true, but none the less deserving of the best praises we can sing. There is also a very interesting specimen of our productions in a glass case, under the opposite gallery, in the shape of a brick of gold from the Montagu mines, valued at seven thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, and forming the best recent illustration of the mineral wealth of the Province. These are all sent here to add to value of our collection and not for competition, and I consider that in singling them out I am merely making a recognition to which they are entitled.

I will now say one word in regard to our enterprising mechanic, to whose pluck and energy we owe the presence of this, the most capacious wooden structure ever erected in the Province of Nova Scotia. The contract was taken at a comparatively late moment, and at a figure which was considered very reasonable; and, without committing myself to an approval of its details, I may say the general effect is all we can desire. It is substantially built, it exhibits within and without the evidences of skilled labor, and is on the whole a building to which the people of Halifax, who own this building, can point with pride, and reflects infinite credit on its contractor, Mr. M. E. Keefe. I cannot close these remarks without expressing my great gratitude to this assembly, and in the name of the general committee I extend to all here and to all who may visit this great scene, a hearty and sincere welcome.

He then, in accordance with the usual routine, handed the Exhibition over to Col. Laurie, President of the Board of Agriculture.

COLONEL LAURIE'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Mayor, your Excellency, your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen.—In taking over from you the present Provincial Exhibition, I must naturally express my gratification at the success which has attended the efforts of the Executive Committee, which have resulted in placing the Annual Provincial Exhibition for 1879 far in advance of any yet held, and by none will this be more readily allowed than by the managers of the late Provincial Exhibitions at Truro and Kentville.

I shall certainly not attempt an argument as to which is the most suitable locality for the Provincial Exhibition, but we must all recognize that if the metropolitan town is really in earnest, its wealth and resources give it an advantage that no country locality possesses. Former Provincial Exhibitions have been held here, but under the auspices and at the expense of the Government; held at uncertain intervals, they displayed the

resources and progress of the province, but the impetus given by each died out before the next was held, and hence the system now in force of annual exhibitions was established. That Colchester and Kings should at once have stepped in to take advantage of the terms offered was only what was to be expected of the energetic inhabitants of those thriving and prosperous counties. Grand successes those Exhibitions were, far in advance of what had been anticipated, and the agricultural interests of the province owe those two counties a debt that cannot easily be repaid.

All this time a few Halifax residents were quietly urging on the community the importance of securing the Exhibition for the city; but the expenditure seemed immediate, the benefit only prospective, and the response was *tardy*. This year, however, the energetic men have carried the day; the citizens have awoken to their interests; the country has shown no selfish spirit, but has responded nobly to the Halifax efforts to make the Exhibition a success; and in the splendid exhibit of to-day we see what Nova Scotians can do if they will only pull together; and this leads me to a subject on which any one connected with agriculture must touch at a time like this. I allude to the food supply of the Old World from our markets. For a long time past the return freights of Atlantic liners have been largely composed of grain and farm products; but lately the dull times in the United States so reduced their purchasing powers, that Ontario beef raisers were deprived of their accustomed markets, and the experiment of shipping live cattle to England was tried in order to clear off the surplus stock. All know how successfully it turned out, and how suddenly the trade has developed to enormous proportions, until now, instead of agricultural produce being simply taken as a return freight, the carriage of food has become the trip on which ships depend for their returns, the outward voyage being made on any terms that may offer.

In addresses lately delivered at Toronto and Ottawa, Lord Lorne very eloquently enlarged on ideas associated with this trade, and drew a happy contrast between the Spanish vessel of three hundred years since, bearing to old Spain the golden treasures of America, won from the deep mines by the toiling subjects of the imperious masters of the New World, a relation of the countries unnatural in itself, and which brought misery and ruin to ruler and ruled, and finally led to the entire disruption of all ties between parent and child; and the position we occupy in the present day, sending our rich and golden tribute to our dear mother land, furnishing her millions with cheap and healthy living, thus enabling her to hold her place in the van of the nations; a tribute not followed as of old by curses denounced against the recipients, but with warm feelings of thankfulness that of our plenty we can provide for her wants from the fertile acres that under Providence we have reclaimed; a tribute too, that instead of impoverishing brings us wealth and makes us more powerful as a portion of the Empire to which all our feelings bind us.

But what is our share as a Province in this trade and in this prospect of profit? In the winter, thanks to what nature has done for us as the only open port in Canada, we see Ontario cattle run past our doors and find shipment here; whilst during the summer months cattle from the Lower Provinces are taken by rail to Quebec and thence shipped

to England. Inquiry as to the cause of this brings us to the fact that cattle alone will not load a vessel. There must be a bottom cargo, and those who would wish to see a cattle trade from this port developed must set themselves to find a bottom cargo for the ships engaged. Were our apples classified and packed so as to arrive in a merchantable condition in the English market they would furnish a large amount and the production is only in its infancy. Our cheese factories and our dairies, if well conducted, should furnish a large export in addition to satisfying local requirements, and this business could be largely increased. I trust I am not over sanguine in looking to the time when West Indian sugars, after passing through a well conducted refinery here, may yet be amongst our exports to Europe. The want is serious, and injures our trade. Let us hope that it will in some way be met.

In all this Halifax is interested quite as much as the country.

On china breakfast sets it is not uncommon to see on the platter intended for the bread "God speed the plough," the consumer thus being made to show the deep and constant interest he must necessarily take in all that relates to the producer. To every man this motto must come home, for whilst the farmer lives by the plough all the world besides depends on him for their living. The backwoods man and backward farmer raises what actually maintains him; but he has no surplus for the rest of the community. Hence, if our agricultural class were limited to such men all must farm or some must starve. So, from the most selfish motives all are interested in the improvement of farming; and the more skilfully it is carried on the larger will be the return for the labor expended, and relatively the greater the portion that can devote their time to other pursuits; and I look upon it as a healthy sign—as a recognition of a community of interests—that the city has pressed its claims to apply to the country the stimulus of a well-conducted agricultural exhibition.

In the past the interests of this city have been more in the line of importation than production; times have changed, men have changed, and system must change. We are now casting about to ascertain not merely what we can produce for ourselves, but what we can export; in this all Canada is in earnest; Halifax has fallen into line, we want no stronger proof of this than the spirit with which an Industrial Department and handsome prize list have been added to our Agricultural Exhibition. On behalf of the Central Board of Agriculture, and as the farmers' representative, I welcome the innovation. Commerce has held out her hand to Agriculture and Manufactures—we welcome the auspicious union.

Let us hope that this is really the commencement of a new era in which all petty local jealousies shall be sunk, and that we shall all pull together for the good of our Province, our Dominion, and our Empire.

OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS HONOR ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD, C. M. G., LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Halifax occupies to-day a position of which she has just reason to be proud. She has erected this magnificent structure, which,

besides being an ornament to the city, is, what is of far more importance, a monument of the interest she feels in the great industries of the Province. If she has been slow to arouse herself she has done her work well when aroused. By erecting this noble building, Halifax has asserted her position as the metropolis of the Province. She has recognized the obligations which devolve upon her as the centre of our social and political life.

There are many things in which our city may well take pride. The beauty of the site will challenge comparison with that of any city in the world. In the peerless waters which surround the city, there are three admirable harbors, the poorest of which would compare favorably with—and one at least—transcends any other harbor on the continent.

The city is defended by numerous fortifications of the first class. The original idea of these fortifications was to protect all British America from the attacks of a Power which has long ceased to be a factor of any consideration on this continent. But another Power has succeeded that which has passed away. Unhappily the antagonisms of the world are not yet at an end, and men of our own kith and kin, who helped us to drive out the French, sometimes talk and write as if they would like to drive us out too. Long may it be before such an unnatural strife is waged, but if it ever should be, we shall then be sensible how much we owe to the restless aggressions of the French, persisted in for more than a century. A large part of our power of defence could never have existed but for the rivalry between two powerful European nations, separated from each other only by a narrow sheet of water, and constantly engaged in hostilities in every quarter of the globe. No British ministry, but for this, would ever have ventured to lavish on Halifax the expenditures which have made it one of the best fortified cities on the continent.

With its fortresses, let us enumerate their gallant defenders. The only spot in the great Dominion where the British soldier lingers—and we may add loves to linger—is this same Halifax. But we need not confine our remarks to military men—taking Englishmen generally, if there be any spot out of the old land, on which it may be said an Englishman feels himself at home, it is here. He is among a people with habits, and tastes, and manners, and even prejudices, like his own—all that he can object to is the excess of sunshine and clear sky. His happiness would be complete if he could be assured of more fog and rain, and could never stir abroad without an umbrella.

A city with all these claims to distinction could not afford to show itself insensible to its obligations. It could not, without abdicating its functions, leave to small country towns, such as Truro and Kentville, to unfurl and uphold the Provincial Banner. That role belongs to Halifax—NOBLESSE OBLIGE. This sentiment, which has prompted many a noble act, is crystallized in the noble structure we see around us.

When on former occasions I have argued in favor of holding these displays in the country rather than in the city, I put it largely on the ground that Halifax did not care for, or at all events, had given no evidence that she cared for the progress of agriculture. The Press of Halifax thought differently, but when the proof was asked for, what Halifax had done, it had none to give.

In my address at the opening of the Exhibition at Truro last year, I said, "until the city incurs actual sacrifices, such as the country has done both east and west; until it has submitted to taxation and raised a suitable structure for the Exhibition, it does not show, as the country has shown, a real and substantial interest in the matter. Till then we cannot treat the capital as a place for Exhibitions."

A year has now passed away. The proof that was lacking then, is now supplied. A beautiful site has been found, and, almost like magic, a building has sprung up that will be a lasting credit to the city—

"Si monumentum queris, circumspice."

This noble building puts an end to the objections made against Halifax as the place for an Exhibition. I have the greatest pleasure, a pleasure beyond the power of words to express—in withdrawing, and that without any mental reserve—all that I have said, and that under the circumstances I was justified in saying, as to the apathy of Halifax in the great industrial interest by which four-fifths of our people earn their bread.

I am glad too, to see that this display of public spirit on their part has met with its appropriate reward, in the rush which has been made to the Exhibition.

This is, no doubt, due, in part, to the increasing hold on the public mind which these Exhibitions have taken since they have been held yearly.

When last I had the honor to address a Halifax audience on this subject, at the opening of the Exhibition in 1874, nobody dared to hope for such a result. That was only five years ago. Yet such has been the revolution in public opinion, that nobody now thinks of any other system.

In the address referred to I took occasion to say that "the true way to stimulate improvement was to have these displays either every year or at frequently recurring periods. The spirit of emulation which is begotten at an Exhibition of this kind, would operate more powerfully if the opportunity for its exercise recurred without too much delay. The man who came there with the best of his products for display, when he found himself excelled in the department in which he hoped to shine, returned home determined to make a greater effort for success next opportunity.

But if his fortune could be retrieved only by waiting seven years—if he could vindicate his fame only when his boy, then at school, should become a man, it was very obvious we would lose much of the benefit these displays would afford if they recurred at shorter periods."

It cannot be doubted now that this view is correct. Year by year the facilities for attending on such occasions are increasing. The present month has witnessed the reception into the brotherhood of Railway intercourse, of one of the finest agricultural counties of the Province, and, if the people of that county are alive to the privileges they possess, and exert themselves as they should, the effects of the event lately celebrated at Antigonish, will soon be seen in the improvement of their stock and the better cultivation of their lands.

Presently the counties of Yarmouth and Digby will be in direct communication with the rest of the Province, so that whatever is excellent in any part of Nova Scotia can

easily be collected and exhibited in any one of several central positions. This will give a decided stimulus to these displays.

A good time, we think, is coming for the Dominion in general, and this Province in particular. The symptoms to me are very evident. The immediate cause to which we will owe the beginning of the change, is one which, however much we may profit by it, we cannot contemplate without regret. I refer to the wretched weather which has prevailed in Europe, and the consequent failure of the cereal crops over a large part of that region.

This has been the most calamitous season which the Fatherland has had to pass through for many years. Four bad harvests in succession had tried the patience of the British agriculturist. It was hoped that his troubles were over, but they were not. The weather of the present season has been the worst, and the crops the poorest, of the whole five.

When I left London for Liverpool, about the 17th ult., on my return home, I saw miles of country under water. Hay which had been out for weeks and which there had been no sun to dry, was floating about in the floods. Wheat was rotting in the stock, and really the frightful waste of hay and cereals, destroyed by the incessant rains, was a most melancholy sight.

The *Times* newspaper of the 3rd September thus describes the situation: "We know that the British farmer has had to contend with a succession of adverse seasons. Upon the top of repeated losses has come a harvest which in every particular is most afflicting. The climate from the beginning of this year appears to exhaust itself in efforts to disappoint the hopes of the agriculturists. A winter of extraordinary severity was followed by a sunless and chilly spring, and by a summer remarkable for an excess of rain and deficiency of heat. Not alone do the corn crops shew a probable decline from the average, estimated at one-third by some authorities—and one-fourth by others, and entailing a loss on the agriculturist computed at £25,000,000 sterling, while other crops—peas, beans, peas, potatoes, turnips and mangolds, hops and hay, have, from various causes, suffered in an equal, or even greater degree."

It is not surprising that these losses are regarded as crushing, and that there appears nothing wanting to complete the ruin of the poorer class of tenant farmers.

The loss sustained by this dreadful season is set forth with some particularity of detail by the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 29th ult. "Calculations," says the editor, "are already being made as to the amount of loss which the farmers will experience owing to the bad season. An estimate published the other morning puts down the amount below an average, on the corn crop alone at £25,000,000, and £28,000,000 if beans and peas are added; potatoes show a loss of £15,000,000; hops of £1,250,000, and hay of £15,000,000. This is a total of little less than £60,000,000."

These calculations, if not exaggerated, are appalling. In this country we are sometimes reproached with running into debt too easily. The debt of the Dominion has been spoken of as enormous. If it be, it will serve to give some definiteness to our idea of the loss which England has sustained in a single year. For, if the calculations we have quoted are to be depended upon, one bad season has

cost the people of England more than would pay the debt of the Dominion twice over.

Is it any wonder that the agriculturists of England, groaning under the pressure of these enormous losses, should look about for some means of escape? One such means they see open to them in the new world—in the vast prairies of the West—where a virgin soil of the richest mould invites and will reward their labors. There the farmer may count will certainly, so far as anything in this world is certain—an abundance of the necessaries of life. He will enjoy many comforts and comparative ease. If he has ordinary industry and health he will die the owner of broad acres which cost him nothing but the sweat of his brow, and leave to his children the freehold of lands for more fertile, and intrinsically more valuable, than those on which, as a tenant in the old world, he had exhausted his strength and ruined his fortunes.

It certainly gives force to the contrast when we find the first minister of the Crown, pointing, as he did on a recent occasion, to our great West, as a recourse open to those whom an adverse fate leaves little to hope for in the old land, as a country where they may, without giving up their traditions or abandoning their flag, pass their days free from the anxieties and embarrassments which make their life in the old home one incessant struggle.

No doubt there will be a vast emigration to Canada. It will comprise a valuable class of emigrants—men with some capital and much skill. This Canada of ours will bound forward with a rapidity which would be the source of unmingled satisfaction, but for the feeling that so much of this progress will, in the first instance, be due to the misfortunes of our brethren in the old land.

The first thing to be done as the result of the bad season in Europe is to transport to that country an enormous quantity of bread-stuffs.

The crops of Canada have been excellent. They are much beyond an average, and we shall have a large surplus to export. As a Province we raise no grain to spare; but we have other things which our Western brethren have not. With their wheat and our ships, we have between us what the emergency requires. It needs no gift of prophecy to foretell the effect all this is going to have on two at least, of our greatest industries. So that with the prospects of improvement appearing in the United States, which are already telling favorably on the iron trade of England, we are getting the first glimpses of the bright sky, through the gloom that has enveloped us. I trust and hope and believe it is the dawn of a better day, and that the light will increase and enlarge till the whole sky shall glow with the perfect day of returning prosperity. The tonnage of Nova Scotia was returned in 1878 at 541,000. This means in money value over 20 millions of dollars. A sudden revival in trade, which raises the returns from this source by a very small per centage, will pour into the Province a stream of prosperity, which will be felt in every branch of industry.

It is quite true, as I have already said, that Nova Scotia raises no wheat to export. Yet we have this year grown a large part of what we require for our own use. This is a great stride. Probably we may never hope to do much more than supply ourselves, for Providence has denied to us the boundless

extent of fertile soil, which she has lavished on Provinces further West. But what is there to prevent us from competing for a part of a trade which is now acquiring great importance. I mean the trade with England in cattle. There can be no better grazing country than Nova Scotia. The 1200 miles of transit between Ontario and the sea shore is a premium to us to enter on the trade. What we want mainly is improvement in stock, and, thanks to the men who have designed and carried out such Exhibitions as these, great improvements have already been made in this respect. When our stock is equal in quality to that of Ontario, we have great advantages in our position at the seaside. If we export our cattle alive, they may be landed on the shores of Great Britain with less injury to flesh and condition, than the cattle of the West will have to sustain before they commence their sea voyage. If we export them as beef we still escape the long journey from the west, with the cost of appliances for preserving meat in the transit over a long land journey with its changes of temperature.

I see nothing to prevent this trade assuming large proportions. Its success would cause many changes in our mode of fattening. We should grow more turnips and other fattening crops, and these again would react on the farming, by placing at the disposal of the agriculturist the means of enriching his soil through the consumption of such crops on the farm.

Within a few years a very marked progress has been made in the cultivation of the land. Side by side with this progress has grown the interest attached to agricultural pursuits. No better evidence can be given of these facts than the changes which have taken place as regards the frequency of Exhibitions. Formerly they were held at an average interval of seven years. Three only took place between 1854 and 1875. In 1876 we adopted the plan which prevails in England, in the United States and in Canada. Since then we have held one each year. Truro had the honor to lead off in 1876. It erected the first permanent building in this Province for such a purpose. Kentville followed in 1877 with a larger building and improved arrangements. In 1878 Truro increased its building and took lessons from the past as regards its arrangements, and now Halifax follows suit in 1879.

Every Exhibition has thus far been an improvement on its predecessor, and so also every building has been larger and better adapted to the purpose than the one last previously constructed. But this progress must cease here. No other county can hope to rear a structure to vie with this, either in cost or in adaptation to its purpose. Any man would have been considered mad, who would have ventured five years ago to propose to the citizens of Halifax the construction of such a building as this, and hopelessly so, if he had supposed such a proposal, if made, would be accepted. What a change must have come over the citizens of Halifax, when this splendid building is erected without a murmur on the part of those who have to bear the cost of it.

If we find the atmosphere entirely changed: if the position of the farmer is raised in public estimation; if the men who own our broad acres are taking their proper rank in the community, we owe it largely to such Exhibitions as these.

In the Old World Shows of this kind have long been in use. They are held in every county. But besides the local Shows, which date back very far, there have been National Exhibitions held by the Royal Agricultural Society since 1862. One was held that year at Battersea, in the neighbourhood of London. The latter Shows of the Society have been at Taunton in 1875, at Birmingham in 1876, at Liverpool in 1877, at Bristol in 1878, and again in the neighbourhood of London, at Kilburn, in 1879.

It will be seen that the Exhibitions migrate from one agricultural centre to another, on much the same system as that adopted here.

It is satisfactory to perceive in these Shows the same kind of progress which marks our own. The entries increase in number year by year. They were doubled between 1875 and 1879.

If numbers were to be taken as the test, we would compare not disadvantageously with them. The entries at Bristol in 1878 were of—

Horses	350
Cattle.....	443
Sheep.....	397
Pigs	164

Making in all..... 1354

At this Exhibition the similar entries are—

Horses	208
Cattle	407
Sheep	251
Pigs	33

Making in all..... 899

So that as respects the Stock yard at least we may well be gratified to find the comparison in point of numbers so favorable.

The London Exhibition of the present year was on a much larger scale than that of Bristol. The entries, as regards the articles already enumerated, were 2,874, or more than double those of the previous year. Great efforts were made to give eclat to the Kilburn Show, but never were such obstacles to be encountered on such an occasion. For a week preceding the opening there was one incessant pour of rain, which converted the ground into an absolute mire. The "Times" of the first of July winds up a description of the scene by saying that "A witness of wide experience testified that the slough of despond at Kilburn exceeded the mud field of battle at Balaclava—in respect of the difficulty of transport to be effected, and the degree of discomfort to the men engaged in the delivery—of the loads of machinery. Some traction engines worked their way through the mud, and now stand with their wheels resting on at least three feet of thickness of timber, which has been pressed down by the weight into the soft soil.

An Exhibition held under such disadvantages of weather and ground, could hardly be a success, notwithstanding the great preparations and the largely increased entries. But somehow Englishmen get through any difficulties, and the mind of Kilburn, like the mud of Balaclava, only called forth the pluck for which the race is noted.

An old and rich country like England is the place where the greatest improvements can be made in stock. Men of wealth think nothing of expense compared with the reputation of being the owners of the best cattle.

In my recent visit I spent a few days at the country seat of a nobleman of high rank,

who takes great interest in stock raising. While there I examined some of his cattle with some care. He had upon the estate some sixty cows and fifteen bulls, all pure bred Shorthorns, of the finest type, besides a lot of young cattle of the same breed. The prices paid for some of these animals will give an idea of the lengths to which men of means will go to become the possessors of choice stock. The Duke of Underley the 3rd, a Roan Bull, cost the proprietor \$15,760. The Marchioness of Oxford 3rd, a white Cow, \$9,500, and Waterloo the 33rd, a Red Roan Cow, \$6,300.

Two of the calves, about three months old, were valued at \$5,000 each. One of them, when I was there, was slightly indisposed. It showed some symptoms of feverish excitement, when straightway professional advice was called in. Two distinguished veterinary surgeons attended the patient. They felt its pulse, examined its tongue, and prescribed for its ailments; they waited upon the little sufferer with great care and attention. If the patient had been human it could not have been better cared for. I am inclined to think in that case a single physician would have been considered ample. In a country where such sums are lavished in the purchase, and such care taken in the preservation of stock, the natural result is the production of the finest specimens. These will far surpass the average character of the class. Probably the entries of the great Exhibition are confined mainly to very choice animals. Any others could not stand competition. This may account for the fact, which strikes us with surprise, that in the English shows the entries in respect of cattle should be so few, compared with the whole of the stock of the same kind in the country.

There are one or two matters connected with this Exhibition to which, before closing, I would like to call your attention.

In the great Exhibition of 1854, not a single specimen of thoroughbred cattle appeared among the entries.

Only five years ago, at the Exhibition held here, there were but 49.

To-day you have 216 of that class. In five years they have more than quadrupled.

At the first Exhibition cattle were shewn only in single specimens. A herd consists of six, and no man owned enough to entitle him to exhibit a herd. To-day we have eight herds on our entries. Of these three are Short Horns, three Ayrshire. These breeds are evidently the favorite of our farmers, the Short Horns for beef, and the Ayrshires for milk and cheese.

One herd of Devons and one of Jerseys, shew that other valuable qualities have attracted the attention of some growers.

Herds of Short Horns, Ayrshires and Devons, have been entered at previous Exhibitions, but this is the first appearance of a herd of Jerseys.

The system of registry for pure bred cattle was introduced in Nova Scotia in 1868. It began, as may well be supposed, on a very modest scale. There were three of the leading breeds admitted to registry.

So far as the printed Herd Book enables me to judge, there were registered:

	Bulls.	Cows.
Of Short Horns.....	5	3
Devons	3	1
Ayrshires	2	4
	—	—
	10	8

In all 18 animals. Besides these there were two Hereford Bulls, but these do not appear to have been favorites; there being none of the breed registered since 1868.

There was not a single animal of the Jersey breed on the register of that year.

In a single decade the number in the Register has swollen from 18 to 592.

Deductions must, of course, be made for those that have died—but on the other hand there are probably enough entitled to registry, but from carelessness, or other reasons not put on the list—to restore the balance.

The number of grade cattle in the Province, composed of a mixture of the pure breed with the common cattle of the country, is very large; of these there appear among the entries on this occasion:—Of Special Grades not pure enough for Herd Register, 48; and of commoner Grades, 143—in all 191.

In every county of the Province the Common Breeds are more or less improved by this intermixture.

I might extend my remarks to other branches of farm produce, but I purposely confine myself to cattle, because first, that is one of the most important in reference to our immediate future, and for another very valid reason, that I have already trespassed as far as I dare upon your indulgence.

Let me only say in conclusion, that the gentlemen who from time to time have interested themselves in getting up and carrying out these Exhibitions, may look with pride on the success which has attended their efforts. They have truly served their country by the work they have done, and are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the people of Nova Scotia.

Among the names we must associate with this great progress, are, in the past, the late John Young, pioneer of Agricultural Science, and the late Dr. Forrester, the pioneer of Exhibitions.

Of those still living we owe much to a number of excellent men who have devoted themselves to the improvement of our agriculture, and whom it would be invidious to particularize—but I trust an exception will be allowed in the case of Col. Laurie, the energetic President, and Dr. Lawson, the indefatigable Secretary of the Board of Agriculture. I am sure a grateful country will never forget any of the men I have named or be insensible to the great benefits derived from their exertions and those of their fellow-laborers in the cause of Agriculture in the Province.

HON. MR. HOLMES

then addressed the assembly as follows:— I would not at this time have dreamt of making any remarks at all, were it not for two reasons. In the first place it was announced in the newspapers that an address would be expected from me; and in the second place, because His Worship the Mayor has been pleased to allude to the Government in such terms as to require from me an acknowledgment on their behalf. It need not be a matter of alarm to any person here present, nor need any one suppose for one moment that I am going to make a speech; for I have more prudence at this stage of the proceedings than to impose such an infliction upon you. With regard to the Government, I can say that we feel proud of the energetic manner in which the City Council of Halifax has

completed the necessary arrangements in connection with the Exhibition. From the time it was taken hold of till the present moment they have been engaged in endeavoring to make it a grand success. I may say that this is a matter of which the people of this Province may well feel proud. When we look around us and see products of all kinds displayed before our eyes, we have, as Nova Scotians, great reason to be proud of the exhibition we have made. I think it a great success. No doubt it is due to the indefatigable industry and energetic action of the City Council that we have such a laudable and praiseworthy undertaking brought to such a happy completion. An allusion was made to the exhibition at Ottawa, and it was intimated that this was the first of a series to be held all over the Dominion; this is good; the results will be beneficial. Nova Scotians can compete with their fellow countrymen. While speaking of Nova Scotia, let me say, that although it is a small country, yet it has produced more men of eminence, in whatever department of life we look, than any of its larger friends. Among her sons we find illustrious names; names recorded on the page of history. Who was it that stretched, as it were, a line of steamers from Halifax to England? It was a son of Nova Scotia; I refer to the late Sir Samuel Cunard. It was he who made that voyage as safe as the journey from London to Edinburgh was a few years ago. Again, if we turn to the page that tells us of the heroes of our wars, we find the names of Nova Scotians. Think on the names of Sir F. Williams, and General Inglis, the gallant defender of Lucknow: names not only known in Nova Scotia, but elsewhere. Turn to literature, and here we have names of which we have no reason to be ashamed; authors born in Nova Scotia, whose works are read wherever the English language is known. In conclusion, I may express a hope that our farmers will still continue to use their best exertions to enrich their land, &c., so that when the time comes for another exhibition, it may be their privilege and their pride to exhibit their produce in the best condition. Then will our Nova Scotian products still occupy a high position when compared with those of our sister Provinces, as in this in which they are distinguished. I shall not trouble you further with any remarks at this stage, but thank you for your kind attention.

The Lieut. Governor then declared the Exhibition to be open.

THE PROPOSED NEW BRUNSWICK EXHIBITION OF 1880.

(From the Maritime Farmer, of Fredericton.)

A LARGE and influential meeting was held in St. John on Monday evening last, to consider matters relating to the Exhibition of next year. From the array of names published in the St. John papers of those who were present, and those who were placed on the Committee, we are inclined to think that St. John has taken hold of this matter in the right spirit, and we will expect good results from the deliberation of such a meeting. St. John is proverbially slow to move,

but when her citizens once resolve to do anything, they do it with a will, and seldom fail to be successful.

The Mayor occupied the chair, and two resolutions were passed, one affirming the opinion of the meeting that an Exhibition should be held in St. John in the Autumn of 1880, and the other appointing a committee to act with the committee of the St. John Agricultural Society, in considering the preliminary arrangements, and ways and means for holding the Exhibition, and report to another meeting of the citizens. The committee appointed in conformity to this resolution numbers eighty-two, when that of the St. John Society is added, it will be large enough in all conscience. We hope there will be wisdom in the multitude of council.

Mr. Magee, on behalf of the St. John Society, submitted a statement of the probable cost of the Exhibition, which he put at \$12,000, and \$8,000 for premiums, say in all \$20,000. He estimated the receipts at the gate would be \$8,000, leaving a balance of \$12,000, which the Government was asked to pay.

At the meeting of the St. John Society and a few others held last week, the Attorney-General and the Secretary for Agriculture were present, when the same statement was read and explained by Mr. Magee. The Attorney-General then stated that the Government would expect St. John to provide the necessary accommodation for holding the Exhibition, and this being done, the Government would pay all other expenses and the premiums, and of course collect all the receipts. This statement does not seem to have been clearly made to the meeting on Monday, and perhaps the meeting did not reach that point, as they resolved to appoint a committee to inquire into all these matters. Any locality getting the location of an Exhibition, should be prepared to contribute largely towards it, Toronto gave about \$60,000 this year for that purpose; Halifax gave \$20,000; Fredericton gave upwards of \$7,000 last year, and why should St. John expect to get it next year, without paying anything. We do not deny that St. John has strong claims for consideration at this time, and we hope to see a liberal policy adopted towards it, but to ask too much may have the effect of injuring their course. We hope the committee will be prepared to do all they can, and in this way enlist the sympathy of the Government to meet them as far as possible.

The Government might hold the Exhibition in Fredericton without being put to the cost of one dollar for accommodation, but we do not put this forward at present, as we believe it for the general good that it should be held in St. John this

time, but in the event of satisfactory arrangements not being made, we would then expect the Government to decide upon holding it here. This shows the wisdom of giving aid only to permanent buildings. Spending large sums time and again upon temporary buildings is costly and unsatisfactory. If St. John was putting the money in permanent structures, we could heartily advocate a much larger grant.

THE LIVERPOOL, (QUEEN'S CO.), EXHIBITION, 8TH OCT., 1879.

(From an "Extra" of the Liverpool Advance.)

THE Exhibition for South Queen's was opened at 2 p. m. to-day. There was a very large attendance from various parts of the County, and the Exhibition was highly creditable, and one of which we may well be proud, as the fruits and roots are far in advance of those exhibited in Halifax. When the time arrived for opening the Exhibition, in due form, J. L. Hemmeon, Esq., President of the Society, took the Chair, and after a few appropriate remarks introduced I. N. Mack, Esq., the late Speaker of the House of Assembly, who delivered in substance the following address:—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I could have wished that the opening address of to-day, had been entrusted to one more capable of doing justice to the occasion. Those who remember the creditable display made at the Exhibition of 1877, and the able and eloquent opening address delivered then, and then call to mind the great improvement which was apparent in the display of last year, and the appropriate and practical speech with which it was opened, on looking at the spectacle presented here to-day, and noting on all sides the improvements visible on the Exhibitions of the last two years, might reasonably expect that the opening speech to-day should exhibit the same marked improvement over those of the two former occasions. Such, I fear, will be disappointed. I have been able but to jot down, as occasion offered, such suggestions and remarks as presented themselves, but have been prevented by stress of circumstances, from extending these or putting them into such order as the occasion demands.

The increased and increasing interest in agricultural pursuits, shown by the people of our County in the last three years, is one of the few pleasing aspects of an outlook otherwise sufficiently gloomy and disheartening. Several causes have contributed to this, not the least of which have been the very successful exhibitions of the past two years. They have shown that not only the rich and fertile soils of

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 wools, 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

the snow is gone and with it the legitimate occupation of Mr. Bulldog, his master is forced to go to work, and he takes his holiday. And the depleted sheep-folds of the neighboring farmers bear gnatly evidence how well he and his friends have enjoyed their vacation. Public opinion has hitherto regarded favorably all legislation calculated to preserve our moose from extinction; but if these villanous moose dogs can be extirpated in no other way, then the sooner the last moose shall have disappeared from our forests, the sooner will a great obstacle to our agricultural prosperity be swept away.

It is being said of many of the older farms in the County, that they are getting worn out, and in these cases it is evident that the methods of farming in vogue, when new land was plentiful, and there was always a reserve of woodland to fall back on, when the older land showed signs of exhaustion, must be dropped, and others more systematic must be adopted. Happily we have the experience of others who have successfully overcome the same difficulty which now confronts us, to guide us. This points to two remedies—more manure, and a rotation of crops. We must get more manure in two ways; by turning to better account the materials now at our disposal for making it; and by resorting to a plowing in of green crops—clover or buckwheat—for fertilizers. It is safe to say that on the majority of farms in this County, the loss from the waste of fertilizing liquids is greater than that from all other causes put together. None but the crudest methods of saving the liquid manures are employed in most of the few instances where any attempt of the kind is made, but in the majority of cases the drainage from the houses and out-buildings, which if properly handled, could be made to fertilize many acres of land annually, is allowed to run to waste, and worse than waste. This question of the utilization of sewage is so closely connected with the preservation of health, that I am tempted to run the risk of digressing by referring briefly to the sanitary aspect of it. We must bear in mind that there is a two-fold inducement that all who till the soil should take jealous care that the drainage from stables, offices and houses, should be turned to account by being mixed with the absorbants which may be collected on the farm for the purpose; or by being run into a suitable place for its collection, from which it may be applied to the land in liquid form. In either case it will be prevented from filtering into the earth and contaminating the water of the well, and thus becoming a fruitful source of disease and death. The unanimous opinion of all the authorities on sanitary subjects is that scarlet and typhoid fevers,

and that most deadly disease, diphtheria, are more frequently due to defective drainage—in other words, to the waste liquids from our premises being allowed to enter the soil, causing noxious exhalations, and poisoning the water of wells, than to all other causes put together. In the village I live in, there has been but very few visitations of diphtheria, and scarlet fever attacked us but twice in my recollection, the disease having been brought in from adjoining places in both cases. The cause of this comparative exemption from infectious diseases is found in the fact that most of the inhabitants use great precaution in disposing of sewage matters, and in the perfect natural drainage of the land in the vicinity. The soil being largely made up of gravel and sand, any dangerous liquid entering it soon finds its way into the river, which, running through the valley, thus acts as an efficient sewer and carries the danger away from us.

In some parts of the county a different state of things exist. The sewage not being utilized runs into the soil, which, being in many cases largely composed of clay, retains the dangerous liquid until it, is exhaled as poisonous gas or finds its way into the well; in either case doing its deadly work amongst the children. This is no light matter. The fearful ravages of diphtheria in parts of the county during this year, demand that earnest attention be paid to the subject.

To return to the subject of manure; anyone who has read in the agricultural papers of the excellent results obtained by the use of green clover crops plowed in as manure, will admit the method to be worthy of a faithful trial here. A gentleman lately returned from an extensive tour of the Southern States told me as an instance of the benefits of this mode of manuring, that land which will not bear a crop of cotton worth gathering is restored to fertility in this way, producing a heavy crop of cotton from one manuring.

As to rotation of crops, we practice it now in a very imperfect manner; and if we would employ the method to advantage, must enlarge the circle and give greater attention to roots and other hoed crops. Couch grass, the worst enemy we have to fight, will be thus most readily conquered. By our present practice we allow our fields to remain too long under grass, and thus give this insidious and persistent enemy plenty of time to fortify his position and get full possession of the soil, and, when we do undertake to rout him, we don't always come off more than conqueror. A rotation which might be adopted with good results in this. Commencing, we will say, with potatoes the first year—turnips, mangels, and other roots of the second year—corn, with

beans and pumpkins the third year, then wheat, preceded if necessary by a manuring of green clover—then barley with timothy and clover. The land then to remain under grass not longer than three years, to prevent the couch from getting a start. Then the sward to be plowed up and the rotation ended with a crop of oats, commencing the following year with potatoes again. An attention to these methods, or similar methods of improved cultivation, would, I confidently believe, enable us to raise our own bread, and an impetus would thus be given to our agricultural interests which could not fail to result in benefits to all other occupations in the county. Old mother earth is kind and beautiful; no amount of neglect or ill usage can provoke her to severity; but when her undutiful children, as in the case of many in the County to-day have tardily returned to the neglected tasks she has given us, she pours her blessings on us with as rich profusion as if we had never failed in dutiful submission to her.

THE LIVERPOOL AGRICULTURAL SHOW, Oct'r 8th, 1879.

(From the Liverpool Advance.)

ONCE more Queen's County has held her Annual Exhibition. A visit to the display, large and varied, on Wednesday and Thursday, could hardly fail to please the most expectant or fastidious. Tables spread with luscious fruit and useful bulbs met the eye at every turn. Minerals were not forgotten, and the women of Queen's County showed their handiwork in various forms, and here and there fragrance of flowers greeted the senses with pleasurable perfume. Here, indeed, we missed a little of the display of other years. The field, the dairy, the garden, and our cottage homes, all spoke alike of worthy energy and thrifty excellence.

We had quite as large a display as at last year's exhibition, but for excellence of exhibits, this year stands unsurpassed. Even Halifax, with its "Provincial," might find it difficult to compete with the display of apples, and certainly could not surpass our potatoes.

In the sheds erected for cattle there was quite a considerable display. Our farmers seem to be in earnest as to the improvement of stock. The display of poultry pleased the eye with many very fine specimens. In the Hall, everything was *recherche*, as far as it went, and we imagined the judges would have some difficulty in deciding who should have the prizes, but it might be that our gardens could furnish to those annual exhibitions a larger floral display.

Viewing the whole affair as the product of this County, we have really, as a

people, something of which to be proud. Such exhibitions speak of the capabilities of our soil. They tell us at once that faithful labor and manly industry will not fail of noble results. Our annual exhibits are the products of industry; of genuine persevering work; of practical knowledge added to the laudable desire of showing that this rockbound coast of ours can successfully compete with more favored shores and sunnier climes. They speak the praises of the busy man in the visible eloquence of God's own gifts, and tell others to reap the like benefits.

In the midst of all this we must not forget the noble part which the Ladies of our County fill. Their handiwork graced the Hall in various forms. Even the "lords of creation" could not help admiring the beautiful mats, furnished for their lordship's feet—when occasion should require them. Perhaps some loving swain gazed with admiring eyes on the pretty bouquet, graceful Fuchsia, or gentle Rose, as he thought of the gentler hands which trained them in their native beauty, and taught them to breathe more perfectly the language of flowers. Here, too, we find that the dainty fingers which trace the chords of music, can weave the warp and woof of domestic life, adding to tones of harmony, the melody of contented, happy houses. Cheese, butter, and a variety of other things, all tell about the home-work of the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of our county, forcing us to the welcome conclusion, that our Annual Exhibitions tell us no more of man's energy, than woman's worth.

The weather for this occasion was all that could be desired, and no doubt added largely to the number of visitors. Nor must we forget the strains of music, which helped to add pleasure to a good time. Mr. Hammett and his band deserve every praise for the generous public spirit which prompted their good services, and we always think, that they little know how much the public of Liverpool appreciate their efforts to please.

His Lordship Judge McDonald, having, at the request of the Committee of Management, kindly consented to deliver the address on the occasion of the closing of the Agricultural Exhibition at Liverpool, a more than usually large number were in attendance, on last (Thursday) evening. The large Hall of the Exhibition was, indeed, crowded to its fullest capacity, quite a large number of persons having come in from all parts of the County. The learned Judge's address, while practical in its character, abounded in passages of extreme beauty, and was listened to throughout with the most earnest attention by all within sound of his voice. Again and again, as some sentence appealed more strongly to their sympa-

thies, or stirred their pride or patriotism, hearty applause on the part of his auditors would interrupt the speaker, while at the close, on the vote of thanks being put, the whole vast multitude responded, 'aye' with a thunderous unanimity of assent that spoke volumes for their interest in the subject, and their warm appreciation, as well of the flattering remarks of the speaker, as of the honor that had been conferred. Some remarks made by Mr. McCoy, on the call of the audience, were also well received, and elicited hearty applause.

QUEEN'S CENTRAL EXHIBITION OF HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, &c.

The Ninth Annual Exhibition of the Queen's Central Society was held on the 14th of October. The day was beautifully fine, with a good bracing air, and was all that could be desired by exhibitors as well as visitors, who thronged the grounds in large numbers during the day.

The history of the Society since its organization, which bears the date of Oct. 26th, 1867, is one worthy of its membership, which is composed of men of sterling integrity and indomitable pluck, who seem ever ready to grapple with any ordinary undertaking, so long as they believe good can be effected thereby; during the twelve years of its existence nine exhibitions have been held.

Their commodious Hall, which is so beautifully situated on the bank of the St. John, near what is called and generally known as the *half way* clump of trees, on our river, has been nicely coated with color, and to-day looked its best, with its decorations and bunting. Inside the building the ladies had woven wreaths and festoons of evergreens, while on the tables could be seen the beautiful articles which their skilled fingers alone can produce; neither had they forgotten the more useful articles required for home and family use. Kersey, little if any inferior to the celebrated Oxford, while quilts and rugs were exhibited in such great variety of patterns, as to suit the taste of the most fastidious. Here also could be seen samples of the bountiful harvest vouchsafed to the husbandmen of "Central Queens." Wheat, Rye, Oats and Buckwheat of the best quality, on the right of the building as we enter, while on the left, and directly opposite, is the show of Potatoes, and such Potatoes? We claim some knowledge of the show made in this class elsewhere, and we feel safe in saying that the Potato exhibit made by this Society is equal to anything previously exhibited in the Province, if not superior. Californias, Silver Dollars, Breeze's Prolifics, Bradleys, Coppers, Compton Surprise, Early Blues,

Owons, Black Kidneys, Early Rose, Markies and Carter's were to be seen in mammoth size.

In the Horticultural class the samples were not so fine, on account of the unfavorableness of the season. We were scarcely prepared to see so fine a display of fruit made by a district which, up to the present, has been little known as a fruit growing section.

The show of Horses, Cattle and Sheep indicated considerable advances. There were eight Brood Mares on the ground. The Short Horn prizes were gained principally by Mr John Slipp, who had fifteen prizes for animals of this breed. One of the "Driving" Horses arrived just in time, having started from Woodstock at noon the day before, and driven 105 miles to take the prize.

NOVA SCOTIA POULTRY AND FLORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held on Monday evening, 20th October, Andrew Downs, the veteran naturalist, presiding. The report of the Executive Committee was adopted. It gave a full account of the proceedings of the committee for the past year, dealing principally with the exhibition of poultry in February last, which, though successful as an exhibition of fine birds, did not prove self-sustaining.

The receipts were..... \$294 97
Expenses 202 39

Leaving.....\$ 92 67
Toward paying the prizes awarded amounting to..... 216 50

Or a deficit of\$123 83

This was reduced by donations of \$56, and some available funds to about \$50, which the committee would have had to raise in some way if the prizes were to be paid in full. A clause in the regulations authorized the committee, in case the receipts fell short of the requirements, to pay the prizes *pro rata*, but they were unwilling to take advantage of this provision, if they could possibly avoid it, and adopted a course which was honorable to themselves, and showed their interest in the honor and welfare of the Association—they paid all the prizes in full, *except their own*, of which they were satisfied to receive only 33½ per cent., leaving the balance to be paid when the Association is in a position to make it up.

The Association had made arrangements for an exhibit of flowers in August, but in view of the Provincial Exhibition in September and October, they abandoned the project, and offered \$50 to extend the prize list in the floral department of that Exhibition.

An effort was made during the last session of the Legislature to obtain a grant towards the funds of the Association. The members think that poultry raising has attained such a position, as one of the important industries of the Province, that it is as deserving of Government recognition as other branches of stock raising, or fruit growing, and it is more than probable that at the next session the Committee will renew their effort, and endeavor to get the Government to give their application a more favorable consideration than it received last year. At this Exhibition the committee introduced the new feature of a professional judge. This added to the expense, but obviated any complaints of partiality or incompetency, and worked so satisfactorily that at the recent Provincial Exhibition the managers engaged the same gentleman, Mr. Abel F. Stevens, of Natick, Mass., to award the prizes in the poultry, and one or two other classes.

The treasurer's account duly audited, showed as follows:—Receipts—Fees and dues from members, \$123.35; in connection with Exhibition, \$254.97; special donations, \$57; sundries, including balance for that year, \$28.64, making a total of \$502.96.

Expenditures—Accounts standing over from last year, \$100.10; exhibition expenses, \$202.30; prizes paid, \$162.66; sundries, \$31.69; balance on hand, \$6.21. Total, \$502.96.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Some important amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws, which had been duly approved by the Executive Committee, were submitted for confirmation and adopted:

1st—Change in name from the "Nova Scotia Poultry and Floricultural Association to the "Nova Scotia Poultry Association," with a corresponding change in the objects of the Association.

2nd—Simplifying the amending of the Constitution.

3rd—Increasing the yearly dues to \$1.50.

4th—In addition to two Vice-Presidents already provided for, appointing two honorary Vice-Presidents from each county in the Province.

THE OFFICERS.

The meeting then proceeded to elect *President*—Andrew Downa.

Vice-Presidents—Professor Lawson, C. W. Anderson.

Honorary Vice-Presidents—Annapolis, Hon. W. B. Troop, M. P. P.; Col. W. E. Starratt. Antigonish, Angus McGillivray, M. P. P.; W. J. Beck. Cape Breton, Hon. H. F. McDougall, M. P. P.;—Brown, (Sydney Mines). Colchester, Col. Blair, M. P. P.; John Jamieson.

Cumberland, Hon. C. J. Townsend, M. P. P.; Jas. A. Dickey. Digby, Benjamin Van Blarcom, M. P. P.; Wm. Aymar. Guysboro', A. N. McDonald, M. P. P.; Rev. Mr. LeBlanc. Haliuax, W. D. Harrington, M. P. P.; A. McGregor Barton. Hants, T. B. Smith, M. P. P.; W. H. Blanchard. Inverness, D. J. Campbell, M. D., M. P. P.; G. P. Henry. Kings, W. C. Bill, M. P. P.; Henry Lovett. Lunenburg, Edw. James, M. P. P.; E. B. Hyson. Pictou, Alex. McKay, M. P. P.; C. D. MacDonald. Queens, L. S. Ford, M. P. P.; John A. Leslie. Richmond, Alex. McCuish, M. P. P.; Wm. Lovisconte. Shelburne, N. McGray, M. P. P.; Thos. Johnson. Victoria, W. F. McCurdy, M. P. P.; John KeLellan. Yarmouth. Albert Gayton, M. P. P.; Hon. L. E. Baker, M. L. C.

Secretary—R. J. Wilson.

Asst-Secretary—Geoff Morrow.

Treasurer—A. Mackinlay.

Committee—G. Piers, F. C. Stevens, T. Goudge, W. H. Gibson, H. Keelier, M. H. Richey, jr., Geo. Ritchie, R. T. Murray.

Auditors—Jas. Gossip, Thos. S. Veale.

The best thanks of the Association were voted to those gentlemen who showed their appreciation of the objects of the Association by voluntary contributions to its funds on the occasion of the deficiency arising from the last exhibition.

A number of new members were elected, and the meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE YARMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

[We regret that, in consequence of an accident, we are not able to give our readers the first part of this Report at present.]

Class 6.—VEGETABLES, ROOTS, &c.

Entries, 208, Premiums, 59; Amount, \$44.25.

Committee—Thomas Killam, C. G. Godfrey, George I. Handy.

The Committee report that the show in this department is, in most articles, very superior, being much ahead of anything ever shown here before; the potatoes being particularly fine, and comprising many now and scarce varieties. There are also several species of vegetables shown, which are quite new in this locality, and which the Committee thought, in one or two instances, to be worth a prize, although not in the premium list.

Class 7.—FRUIT.

Entries, 104; Premiums, 72; Amount, \$51.00.

Committee—C. E. Brown, A. J. Hood, T. B. Flint.

Class 7—Fruit—surprised all visitors to-day. Not only strangers, but residents of the County, had no conception of the progress made within ten years.

Four exhibitors showed collections of their own growing, two of 25 kinds, two of 24, mostly well grown apples, free from blemish, and in many cases well coloured, each of which, partly because two weeks later, was superior to the County collection, gathered from all sources, and shown at the Provincial Exhibition at Halifax. Seventy good dozens were shown of kinds named in Prize List and several extra dozens of good varieties.

Red Astrachan is too far gone by October, and should be dropped from the Prize List; also Munson Sweet, which does poorly, while Blenheim Pippin, Chango Strawberry, Early Sweet Bough, Nonpariel, Porter, Talman Sweet and Yellow Bellefleur should be added, good specimens of all these being shown.

Accurate and correct naming are important, and exhibitors should learn the true names of varieties of which they have doubt. In one collection the Gravenstein was represented in three plates by three names, two of them fancy names; the judges did not assume that this was a case of heathen Clinck "the same with intent to deceive," but it necessarily affected the rating of the collection. All through collections and dozens were more or less of errors in naming.

The ten plates of pears shown were apparently grown about town and were of no merit. Early varieties might do better, the Bartlett succeeds fairly; inland many kinds may be grown with good culture.

Twelve plates of plums were shown, several very good; too late for the early varieties.

The exhibit of foreign grapes from vines only two or three years planted in cold graperies was very fine, large and thoroughly ripened bunches being shown of Black Hamburg, Golden Hamburg, Black Prince, Buckland Sweetwater, White Muscat. White Flontigan and one or two others.

One plate of good peaches grown in cold grapery, one dozen of Quinces and three plates of crab apples, all good, complete the Fruit list. The exhibit of Fruit in 1879 should encourage growers to persevere in finding a sufficiently large number of varieties adapted to the County that may be grown with profit, and to compare favorably with the fruit of other counties in Nova Scotia.

Class 8.—FLOWERS.

Entries, 31; Premiums, 20; Amount, \$16.75.

Committee—Lieut. F. Eardley-Wilmot, Mrs. Wm. Law, Mrs. Oscar Davison.

The show of flowers and plants, owing probably to the coldness of the season, was not very good. The Committee are of opinion that many may have been deterred from sending plants from the fact of the bloom having gone off, but the Committee think that the public mind should be disabused of such error, as they are of opinion that the rarity and healthiness of the plant should be taken into consideration, in preference to the amount of bloom, especially as the Exhibition is held at so late a season in the year. The show of cut flowers was very good, as also was the show of phlox drummondii; the verbinas, of which there was only one entry, were especially fine. The Committee are of opinion that it would be better to make a better assortment of classes for premiums in the plants, by offering prizes, as far as the funds of the Society will admit of it, for sorts of flowers such as geraniums, pelargoniums, fuchsias, &c., as they consider that prizes only for one assorted lot of plants is inadequate, and not likely to produce sufficient competition.

Further, the Committee would suggest to the Managing Committee of the Agricultural Society, whether it would not be feasible to hold a special exhibit for flowers, earlier in the year, say in the month of August. In a town like Yarmouth, where so much taste is displayed in the cultivation of house and garden plants, the Committee think that a larger and very attractive show might be made, and the science of floriculture very much improved amongst us. If this is not feasible, might not a Floricultural Society be formed for this purpose?

Class 9.—FINE ARTS.

Entries, 66; Premiums, 21; Amount, \$22.50.

Committee—J. W. H. Rowley, Mrs. E. N. Viets, Miss Eudora Hilton.

In performing the duty assigned to them, the Committee at the outset established for themselves the following rule in awarding the prizes for Oil and Water Colour Painting, viz., that in all cases, other things being equal, preference should be shown to those productions which were either original in design or that were drawn from nature. They take the liberty of recommending that in future Exhibitions, if it should be found to be impracticable, the entries in oil and water colours should be classified, *e. g.*, in figures, whether of man or animal, in flowers and in landscape, as there must always be a difficulty in comparing a portrait with a bunch of flowers, or a bit of landscape scenery—as each have peculiarities which cannot well be brought into comparison with the others. In awarding the prizes in Water Colour to Lambrequins, No. 42 and No. 172, we met

with a difficulty something like that just referred to. We had to make a comparison there with work on silk and velvet, and work on velvet should be classed separately. The committee volunteer their opinion with reference to the two pieces of work just referred to. The draping and proportions of Lambrequin, No. 170 were very graceful and effective, more so than No. 42, the appearance of which was marred by the stiffness of the bullion fringe, with which it was bordered, but nevertheless we found ourselves compelled to make the first award to No. 42, as the painting of it was the best, and this was more especially the point under consideration. Pencilings and Crayons made but a scant exhibit, there being only six of the former and one of the latter. More attention ought to be given by the younger persons in the community to this branch of artistic work, as in the every day events of life they are more readily made use of than either oil or water color work. Of maps by public school pupils but one was shown, and that one but indifferently drawn, and to which only a third prize was awarded. There were no exhibits of drawing by public school pupils, but there were seventeen copy books, all apparently from the lower section Public school, and all of which presented a creditable appearance, being well written, neat and clean.

NOTE.—Owing to a misunderstanding of a rule of the Society, the Oil Painting which took first prize is debarred from competing, but this rule does not detract from the merits of the painting.—*Sec'y.*

Class 10.—BREAD, PRESERVES, &C.

Entries, 82; Premiums, 30; Amount, \$33.

Committee—William Law, Mrs. J. C. Farish, Mrs. J. K. Ryerson.

The Committee on Bread, Preserves and Jellies are happy to report a marked improvement on the exhibit this year. In quantity it has doubled. In Wheat Bread the quality was very fine, and the Committee found it a nice point to decide which was the best of the best, and the first of the first. Some of the Bread was a dainty dish to set before a King. It gives us much pleasure to see this improvement, for bread-making is an important, may we say, art? Next year they hope there will be a still greater advancement, and that there will be more Brown Bread entered, also Graham, Rye, and Indian. We would suggest that each loaf should be plainly marked, what it is. The exhibit in Brown bread was not much superior to former years.

In Preserves, Jellies and Pickles, there was a very good display of excellent quality, collections doing great credit to

the careful house-keepers. We recommend that at a future Exhibition separate prizes should be offered for Preserves and Jellies. Two collections of Pickles were entered, so exactly alike that the Committee could not say which was to receive the first prize, as both were especially good; so it would take a Solomon to decide. There were only two entries each of Wax and Honey, and both good.

Class 11.—DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, FANCY WORK, &C.

Entries, 105; Premiums, 40; Amount, \$37.50.

Committee—James D. Dennis, Mrs. Thomas Allen, Mrs. J. L. R. Webster.

The Committee on Domestic Manufactures have much pleasure in being able to report that a marked improvement has taken place during the past year on almost all classes of articles in the above department.

The exhibit of rag and yarn mats was large and excellent, and the committee regret that they could not award a dozen prizes instead of three. There were quite a number of mats entered made of rags and yarn combined, which were well worthy of a prize, but as the prize list of the Society specifies rag mats and yarn mats, the committee was compelled to confine the prizes to mats made entirely either of rags or yarn. Two crimson dyed sheep-skin mats entered were well done, although more attention should be given to endeavor to render the skin soft. The Committee recommend that the Society include this article in its prize list for another year. Two door slips made of yarn, entered by No. 190, deserve honorable mention for beauty and harmony of color. There was not a large exhibit of home-made carpets, but as a class they were considered good. The twilled grey homespun was excellent, as was also the plain white, while the twilled white was not up to the previous years. The committee was also pleased to note a good collection of socks and mits of a high standard. The good farmers' wives have also made much improvement in homespun yarns, although, as a rule, more care might be taken in the preparation of the wool. The exhibit of patch work quilts was fair and the work good; but in some cases the taste displayed in colorings was not the best. On the whole, the committee think that the Society may congratulate itself upon the display in this department, and whilst they performed their duty to the best of their judgment, they felt that in many instances they would like to have recommended special prizes, would the funds of the Society admit of it.

Class 11.—FANCY WORK.

Entries, 56; Premiums, 13; Amount, \$11.

Committee—Mrs. Smith, Miss Isabella Farish, F. A. Baily.

On account of there being no entry for chemises, one of the classes specified, and only one for shirts, the committee took the liberty of awarding special prizes for lace work, of which there was a creditable exhibit. In non-classified fancy work, the committee, on account of the large and varied exhibits, had considerable trouble in judging which article showed the largest amount of ingenuity, taste and originality, and, if possible, at a next meeting, would recommend a more extended classification in this department. One exhibit, in particular, deserves notice—a model bridge—which was excellent in conception and workmanship. Another excellent piece of work was a fern stand, (rustic), which seemed perfect for the purpose intended. In fancy Berlin work also, the designation covered a large field, and the committee had some difficulty in deciding between the respective merits of crochet Afghan and the various other wool work exhibited; but the committee, when in doubt, decided the claims to prizes by the superiority of the workmanship.

Class 12.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Entries, 38; Premiums, 36; Amount, \$82.

Committee—L. E. Baker, S. A. Crowell, James D. Horton.

The Committee on miscellaneous articles wish to notice the great improvement made in this department. The neatness and ingenuity shown deserve special commendation. In machinery we would notice a watchmaker's lathe, made by Mr. David Hilton, one of the neatest and most complete we have ever seen; also, a steam engine by Mr. Rowe, on the working beam principle, is very perfect and neat. The assortment of axes and edge tools was the best ever exhibited here. Many articles not put in for prizes, we think deserve special mention. A horse-shoe made by C. Gould is certainly well made, also a potato hack by B. Barreau. A case of boots, shoes and slippers by H. W. Crowell was very nice. The assortment and quality of stoves we do not think can be beat in the Province. The wood carving was excellent, also the fret work.

In Thornton's London "Short-Horn Transactions," just published, we observe among the births a red-and-white Bull Calf, by Grand Duke 31st, to the Earl of Bective's Rose of Underley. This cow is full sister to the White Rose of Lucyfield, being out of Cawood's Rose, by Captain Tregunter. She was purchased as a heifer by the Earl in 1875 for a hundred guineas.

THE SACKVILLE AND WESTMORLAND EXHIBITION.

In the *Transcript* of Sackville, N. B., we find an interesting report of the Sackville and Westmorland Agricultural Society's Exhibition, from which we extract the following:—

The Exhibition of the Sackville and Westmorland Agricultural Society, held in this place on Tuesday, 14th October, gave broad hints as to the possibilities of our country. The display in almost all departments was excellent. A decided advance on the shows of former years was noticeable. The stock-yard and sheds were well filled with Durham cattle and their grades. Some splendid specimens of this breed were on the grounds. Prominent among these were a pair of two-year-old steers, belonging to Mr. Bradley Etter, said to girt over seven feet.

SWINE.

The hogs, both fat and for breeding purposes, were well represented. White Chesters and Berkshires were the predominating types. The number and quality of the specimens shown proved that the farmers in this vicinity were fully alive to the importance of careful selections for breeding purposes.

SHEEP.

In the matter of sheep we cannot report that there was any evidence of improvement on the exhibits of former years. Good sheep can be, and have been, raised within the bounds of the territory covered by the operations of our Society. But, lacking the extended ranges of hilly pastures favorable for sheep grazing, it is probable that other parts of our County and Province will always be able to excel the parishes of Sackville and Westmorland in this department.

HORSES.

Some good horses were shown, but indication of great advancement in this agricultural product was wanting. However, some very fine young colts were exhibited; and, if there was not so much evidence of improvement as is desirable, there was no evidence of a falling off.

IN THE BUILDING.

The display of the more direct products of the soil were such as would have disgraced no section of our country. Of roots, there was a splendid spread. Turnips, carrots, parsnips, mangels, beets, sugar beets and potatoes attracted a great deal of attention. And here there was evidence of progress and of improvement in the methods of cultivation. In this department there were more samples exhibited than last year, and of a superior

quality. The prize mangels averaged a pound more in weight each, and the Swedish turnips a pound and a half more than those of the previous year.

A large quantity of grain in the building, especially of wheat, was a very pleasing feature. The wheat was very good, notwithstanding that our harvest weather was not as favorable as usual. The prize bushels weighed over 60 lbs. to the bushel, and were clean and bright; and all that was offered for examination would, with good milling, make superior bread.

Arranged on a table and shelf along one side of the building were cabbages, squashes, pumpkins, tomatoes and other horticultural products. The season has not been a favourable one for the growth of these, and for size they did not come up to those that have graced this table in former years.

DAIRY.

On a raised platform at one of the rooms there was a display of products of the dairy. In this department there was a larger quantity of butter than of cheese. The butter was almost uniformly good. And those who took the prizes have cause to congratulate themselves. The judges were a long time tasting and re-tasting before they could place the tickets satisfactorily.

The display in domestic manufactures was very creditable, showing that the farmers' families could be comfortably and tastily clad in the products of their own wheels and looms.

John Barnes, of River Herbert, N. S., had some very excellent dyking spades on one of the tables. He has been making these tools since 1838; so that he has become very skillful at the work. Recently he has been making some entirely of cast steel, which have given great satisfaction to those who have used them. These spades took first prize at the N. S. Provincial Exhibition at Halifax.

In speaking of the Short Horn cattle, reference ought to have been made to a recent importation from Ontario, exhibited by Mr. Albert Fawcett. A very fine three year old heifer and a bull calf, pure bred.

VENOR has put forth a prediction as to the approaching winter, of which he says: "Though still distant, looked at through the weather-glass of past experience, appears formidable. There are well defined indications of severity and lengthy duration when it does set in, but the outline presented to him just now depicts the heaviest snow-falls, as characterizing chiefly the latter half and end of the winter."

QUEEN'S COUNTY, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, EXHIBITION.

The *Examiner*, of Charlottetown, Oct. 7th, gives the Prize List of the Queen's County Exhibition, prefaced by the following remarks:—

"The show of live stock to-day was the best ever held in Queen's County. We make this assertion on the authority of competent judges. The horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were all of the finest breeds and descriptions. Thousands of farmers, etc., were present."

We observe that Henry Longworth, Esq., is a prominent prize taker in the Short Horn and Ayshire, and especially in the Sheep, classes.

AGRICULTURE.

[Extracted from a Prize Essay, by Ed. A. Barnard, Director of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec. Translated from the French by Arthur R. Jenner Fust, Esq., M. A.]

AGRICULTURE is the most useful, the most moral, the most noble of employments, as it regards individuals; so, as regards nations, it is the only solid basis of general prosperity.

A well thought out system of agriculture demands, not only great bodily exertion, but also great mental study.

In all ages, and amongst the most celebrated nations, agriculture has been considered the first and the most honoured of all the arts. Thus in ancient history, the Chaldeans, the Egyptians, the Romans, as well as the Jews, were eminently agricultural peoples; and from the beginning of the Christian era up to our own times, the most powerful, the most prosperous, nations have derived their riches and their strength chiefly from this source. That "agriculture is the very foundation of human life and the nurse of the human species," is a maxim that has never been controverted. If, then, man is only truly great and noble in proportion to the benefits he confers upon his race, what occupation is more noble and more useful than that of the husbandman. The magistracy, the liberal professions, trade, the mechanical arts, are of the greatest use to us. Since the fall, in proportion to the increase of population, the increase of power, courage, wisdom, and of knowledge to direct, defend and control society, has been necessary. More energy has been requisite to extract from the bosom of the earth, and from the depths of the waters, their riches, and to utilize and spread abroad those blessings without limit which the Creator has placed at the service of mankind. But what does all this avail

without the life of the body? How elevated an art, then, must that be which alone can supply those fruits, those products which, pleasing our appetites and rejoicing our hearts, establish and strengthen the life of man.

The cultivation of the land must necessarily tend to raise the mind of the cultivator to a higher moral tone. Throughout his varied toil, he feels his immediate dependence on God. Man becomes the docile instrument of the Creator in the continuation of his creation. The farmer stirs the earth; he waters it with his sweat; he entrusts the seed to its bosom, and then his part of the work is over; the rest he leaves to God; from whose tender care come the heat, the refreshing dew, the necessary rain and the vivifying light of the marvellous eye of the Great Creator—the wonder-working sun itself. It is God alone who gives the increase; here ten fold, there fifty fold, there a hundred fold.

All the more manly virtues—sobriety, economy, activity, perseverance, foresight, are the property of the cultivator. And so we find amongst the agricultural population, generally speaking, a richer judgment, a purer life, a firmer religious faith and a healthier progeny, than amongst the inhabitants of our towns. What says Columella on this subject? "A country life is the neighbour, if not the actual parent, of wisdom." The wise Cato affirms that: "It is amongst the farming class that the best citizens, the best soldiers are born." Cicero, again, declares that: "Luxury has its origin in cities; luxury produces cupidity; cupidity, in its turn, shamelessness; and thence spring all those crimes which cannot derive their origin from the sober and laborious habits of a country life. The lessons taught by agriculture are economy, industry and justice. The love of one's country, source of so many virtues, exists in the highest degree amongst the agriculturists who bring up their families on their patrimonial estates. It is there that the bravest of our soldiers are born." It is indeed a flattering testimony that these pagan writers bear to agriculture. What then should be the honours paid by christian peoples to a profession so noble and so useful? Does not the farmer feel that he, more directly than another, is placed under the very eye of God? Can he ever forget to notice the beneficent action of the Almighty in the result of his different labours? Who feels so acutely as the husbandman the daily necessity of prayer, that the rain, the heat, the fine weather necessary to the seasonable ripening of his crops, may be granted to him? Is there anyone who can enjoy, more than he, the beauties of nature? And can he, to whom so much is granted, refrain from offering, from the depths of a grateful

heart, the thanks due to his adorable benefactor. Thus, this occupation offers purer pleasures, a more virtuous youth, a better spent life, a happier and more tranquil old age, than any other with which we are acquainted.

* * * * *
Let the State protect agriculture; let our legislators and our public men who are more directly charged with this duty, encourage, as they ought, farmers to study and observe the laws of good farming; then, this country, already recognised as one of the most peaceful and happy countries in the world, will become, what it ought to be, one of the most productive.

* * * * *
And, in the future as in the past, our only hope for safety, as a people, does it not lie in the ownership of the soil, in the colonisation and clearing of our forests, in the development of our riches and of our population by fostering the regular and intelligent improvement of our agriculture.

* * * * *
If we would know the source whence springs the strength of certain modern nations; how it happens that, in spite of the most disastrous troubles, more than one country has emerged from its trials more united and more vigorous than ever; we shall find the secret in the progress and the perfection of their agriculture.

* * * * *
Proud as these English are of their flag, on which the sun never sets, they owe the retention of their numerous conquests, in all parts of the world, more to the arts of peace than to the arts of war. Do they pay no homage to agriculture? Need I say that nowhere is that pursuit more highly honoured than in the British Isles? There, are grown the greatest average crops known in the whole world. It is to the English that are due those wonderful improvements in the races of the domestic animals, which have gained for their producers not only reputation, but prices well-nigh fabulous. Drainage, steam-cultivation, in fact all the greatest inventions in the science of agriculture, have their origin in England; and it is there that the cultivation of the soil is held, and will, probably, always be held in the highest and most reverential esteem.

If there is a gentleman in the world who attaches a high value to the rank he holds, and who never forgets the dignity of that rank, it is the English gentleman. To follow trade, or commerce, would be alien to the ideas in which he is brought up. Few careers are open to him; arms, the priesthood, diplomacy, the bar and—agriculture! What a lesson should this be to those amongst us, too many are they, alas, who despise the gentle art, and blush for their origin, and for the occu-

pation of their ancestors. Many, if not most, of the great noblemen of England, nay the very members of the Royal family themselves, gave no small portion of their time to the persevering study of this industry. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, compete for prizes at the annual exhibitions, and do not disdain personally to inspect and direct the operations on their laudet properties. It would be well to remark that, in England, the exhibitions of agricultural products, implements, &c., are held yearly in different districts, in order that the best practices of the most improving farmers may be carried into various parts of the country.

And, lastly, whence arises the distinctive character of the Chinese, a people so ancient that its origin is lost in the darkness of ages gone by? Is it not from the wisdom of its laws, which, paying due homage to agriculture, have raised her to that position which she so justly merits; laws, which have enabled the soil to produce sufficient food for the wants of the population without exhausting its fertility, by obliging the cultivator to return to the earth, but, in another form, that which, in his harvests, he takes away from her. * * * * *

Agriculture demands, in addition to bodily labour and those qualities of the mind indispensable to the successful prosecution of all human occupations, it demands, I say, more than any other career, the union and support of the deepest learning with the most varied knowledge. * * * * *

See, how many careers of diverse kinds are connected with the cultivation of the soil, when it is fairly and sensibly carried out, and then say, if the future open to our children, if we direct them to an intelligent study of agricultural science in its fulness, be not filled with the most beneficent and hopeful prospects.

I intended to speak, in this essay, of those allied industries which have changed the face of entire countries, which have caused the most ardent labour, the study of science in its deepest moods, and the most enduring stock of prosperity. It may be said, with profound truth, that the sister sciences are the richest crown, the last perfection of agriculture.

But, I must stop here. I think I have shown that agriculture is of divine origin, taught to man by the Creator himself at a time when man seemed fated to enjoy immortal happiness on this earth; that the labour which it demands is still a source of strength and enjoyment; that agriculture is the safeguard of the family and of the State alike, and that it offers a career, intellectual and scientific, noble and productive; a career, in fine worthy of pursuit by the most elevated, the most solid, the most thoughtful minds.

A NOVEL POTATO CONTEST.

A NOVEL contest, in the culture of the potato, has been going on the past summer among a few members of the Franklin, Mass., Farmer's Club, which may prove of interest to others outside the association. The contest was started by Monroe Morse, a successful cultivator of this crop, who challenged any or all the members of the Club to compete with him for the largest and best crop of potatoes grown upon a single square rod of ground, the competitor who should show the best yield being entitled to the product of all the other competing rods—size and smoothness both to be considered. Competitors were required to plant from the same lot of seed, a barrel of Early Rose, purchased in Boston, being provided by the challenger for that purpose. Rules for measuring the ground were adopted, and each planter was restricted from planting nearer to the outside lines than allowed by the rules, unless he chose to select a rod from a potato field, in which case the lines must extend only to the middle of the adjoining spaces between the rows. Ten members accepted the challenge, making the number of competitors eleven. The potatoes grown were placed on exhibition at the meeting of the Club, at the residence of Wm. E. Nason, October 4, and statements concerning the methods of culture placed on file with the Secretary. The reports show as wide a difference in the methods adopted as in the quantity and quality of the crops presented. Below we give the names of the competitors, with the number of pounds grown by each, commencing with the smallest yield:—

S. F. Sargent.....	38½ pounds.
A. C. Bullard.....	56 "
Wm. Mann.....	76 "
Wm. Adams.....	78 "
G. S. Hancock.....	91 "
Monroe Morse.....	93 "
• James Hood.....	125½ "
Alfred Clark.....	132 "
S. W. Squire.....	159 "
A. W. Cheever.....	183 "

V. R. Warren was a competitor, but by mistake his rod was dug and the potatoes consumed without weighing. The small yields obtained by Messrs. Sargent, Bullard, Mann, Hancock and Morse were due solely to the failure of the seed in germinating—more than half of Mr. Sargent's failing to grow, and nearly half of those planted by Messrs. Bullard, Mann, Hancock, and Morse. To promote smoothness, Mr. Sargent laid dry straw in the bottom of the drills, planting the sets upon the top and then covering with soil. For the same purpose Mr. Bullard used forest leaves in the bottom of his drills. As the season was dry at the

time of planting, and for some time afterwards, this proved a serious damage, although the quality of their product was unexcelled. Messrs. Hancock, Clark, Adams and Hood depended chiefly upon stable manure, while Messrs. Morse, Bullard, Sargent, Squire, Mann and Cheever used principally guano and other commercial fertilizers. Mr. Adams, we believe, applied considerable potash in the form of spent lye, and from this or other causes had a very inferior crop of scabby potatoes. Mr. Squire used Peruvian guano at the rate of 800 pounds per acre, and sulphate of potash 200 pounds per acre. Mr. Hancock applied a two-horse cart load of stable manure to the rod, ploughed in, and nine pounds guano sprinkled in the hills. Mr. Cheever ploughed in a light coat of manure, and applied guano and sulphate of potash, at the rate of 1000 pounds of the former and 400 of the latter per acre. Mr. Morse used 800 pounds of guano and 200 pounds of potash per acre. Mr. Clark applied stable manure freely and watered the ground occasionally after the potatoes were growing, with a solution of hog manure and poultry droppings. Mr. Hood used a spoonful of Bradley's superphosphate in the hill. Messrs. Hancock, Hood and Adams had each about fifty hills, while Mr. Clark had 125 hills. Mr. Squire planted in five double rows or drills, the seed being just twelve inches apart each way with room for horse cultivation between. Mr. Morse practiced horse cultivation exclusively, never using a hand hoe at all, either in covering or tending the crop, while Messrs. Clark, Hood and Cheever cultivated by hand exclusively. Mr. Squire cut his seed in halves, planting one piece in a place, Mr. Mann used pieces with two eyes, while most of the others were cut to single eyes. Mr. Hood cut his seed two weeks before planting, and found it much dried, but only one hill failed. The lots were planted from May 7th to June 8th, and were dug at three different periods, several competitors being in each case present and taking a hand in the measuring of the land and weighing the crop.

By mutual agreement the competitors were required to act also as judges, and, after inspecting the several yields, they unanimously decided that the 183-pound lot, though not quite equal in quality to two or three of the smaller lots, was nevertheless, on account of both quality and quantity, entitled to the first place on the list. The 1013 pounds of potatoes grown on ten square rods by ten competitors, was, therefore, awarded to A. W. Cheever, who, in response to the announcement stated that, although at the earnest solicitation of his friend Mr. Morse, the challenger, he had joined in the competi-

tion, and had done his best to give some one a handsome yield of potatoes, yet, with his well-known views concerning the injurious tendency of all forms of games of chance in which one man's luck is another man's loss, he could accept only those grown upon his own plot; and as parties had expressed a desire to secure seed for planting from these trial lots, he would direct that they be sold at auction, the proceeds to be placed in the treasury of the Club, to be used toward paying for a lecture during the coming winter. The other competitors agreeing to the same arrangement, the whole lot was sold, netting to the Club the sum of \$11.47, thus closing a competitive trial in which valuable experience had been gained by all and without loss to any. The following is the

STATEMENT OF A. W. CHEEVER.

The land on which I grow the trial rod of potatoes has been under cultivation several years, producing chiefly forage crops. Last year it produced a crop of rye fodder and a crop of oat fodder, and these were followed by a crop of barley, each crop being manured either with stable manure or commercial fertilizers. The soil is a heavy loam exposed to the east, quite moist early in the season, so that an early ploughing caused it to form somewhat into lumps, which remained unpulverized during the season. It was ploughed but once this year, a light coat of stable manure being turned in about seven inches deep. This was somewhat mixed with the soil by deep cultivation after ploughing. The rows were marked out with a large cultivator tooth about eighteen inches apart, run quite shallow, so that the potato sets, when planted, were scarcely below the surface of the ground.

Before planting, about 800 pounds of guano, and 400 pounds of sulphate of potash, per acre, were spread broadcast over the furrows. The seed was prepared by exposure several days to a strong light, to start the sprouts into a short healthy growth. When ready to plant, single eyes were cut from the seed, selecting only those which were well started and of good strong appearance. Most of the eyes were cut from the stem end or middle of the potato, where considerable potato could be taken out with each eye. As they were cut, they were laid in a basket, with plaster dusted over them in sufficient quantity to cover the cut surface, and to partially protect the sprouts from bruising while being handled. The pieces were dropped singly, and about fourteen inches apart, the whole amount of ground planted in this way being from two to three rods.

The sets were covered by hand not over an inch deep. Just as the shoots were

breaking ground, the plot was dusted over with guano, at the rate of 200 pounds per acre, and then raked into the soil with a garden rake, killing, at the same time, all the small weeds which had started. As the potatoes were so near the surface, and so thickly planted, it was found impracticable to hill them in the ordinary way, so the ground was mulched with chopped straw for a protection, not only against weeds, but to keep the new potatoes from being sunburnt as they showed themselves above the surface. The mulch also, in a measure, secured a cool, moist soil during the hot, dry weather of midsummer. The straw was put on some three inches deep, but soon settled to an inch, and was then covered with a second coat of mulch which remained undisturbed till digging time.

To keep the bugs in check, a sprinkling of dry plaster was used three or four times, with just enough Paris green to shade the plaster, giving it a slight greenish tinge. A very few weeds were pulled by hand during the season of growth, but it was the aim to travel over the patch just as little as possible, as the plants covered nearly the whole surface. The rod of land was measured off from near the centre of the patch, at digging time, by Horace Morse and S. W. Squire, and the potatoes weighed by Mr. Morse, who certifies that there were 183 pounds; a yield per acre equal to 488 bushels. The most important lesson I have learned by the experiment is that potatoes *must* have room to grow *under* ground, or the yield will be diminished and the quality impaired. I would never plant so near the surface again, and with an equally favorable season should expect to do better another year.—*New England Farmer*.

GREEN FIELDS AFAR OFF.

It is, always, almost painful to hear of young men leaving the Provinces for the far west, lured by some "will o' wisp" fancy that there the sun is always shining, the pastures are always green, and the fields yield abundantly without much trouble. It is a pity that they should go forth to break up the soil of Manitoba, when there is abundance of land in the Maritime Provinces, that would repay their labor. Great exertions are being made to advertise Manitoba as "the land of promise," "the bull's eye of the Dominion," as possessing the finest of agricultural soils. Many have been induced to settle there.—We by no means say that they have been induced to settle under false pretences, but are afraid that not a few will come to think that they have been deceived by the too flattering reports that have been given of the general fertility of its soil, and of its climatic advantages. There is little

doubt that the soil of that province, and particularly that of the valley of the Saskatchewan, has been too indiscriminately praised, as fit to grow the finest crops of all descriptions, and capable of sustaining millions of happy families. It is the fashion now to cry up the far west. But there are those who have been there, and tell a very different story of the far famed valley of the Saskatchewan, and who assert that only a small percentage of its soil, deserves the character that has been given to the whole of it, while the settlers subjected to far greater extremes of cold and heat (with a plague of flies superadded) than is experienced, let us say, in the Maritime Provinces. But even if the soil of the Northwest Territory, to speak broadly, was all that it is pretended to be, it seems to us that it is not for the interest of the older provinces of the Dominion that their young men should be enticed to settle there, while there are hundreds of thousands of acres of as fine land in the valley of St. John, the fertile bolts of Nova Scotia, and the productive hills and dales of P. E. Island, to be had on easy terms, why should our young men seek their fortunes in the valley of the Saskatchewan? Our provinces are young yet, and their extent but sparsely settled, and they require all their young energy and ability to develop their resources. How infinitely preferable is the position on the sea coast to that of landlocked and distant Manitoba. How finely placed are the Maritime Provinces for carrying on a trade in live stock, sheep and swine with England. With proper care given to the breeding, here as elsewhere in the Dominion.

It seems to us that in the cattle trade there is great possibilities for enterprising young men with a little capital to commence with. If the raising of stock for exportation was engaged in as regular business it would give an impetus to a profitable kind of farming, and employment to shipping. Steamers would have to be employed. But, as wooden sail vessels, will, in time, be driven off the seas, our St. John shipbuilders should prepare for the change, and commence constructing iron steamers. Then, if New Brunswick cattle are to be carried in New Brunswick steamers, the steamers must be managed by native captains, engineers and crews. Though wooden vessels will, in the opinion of many, be superseded, it will be done very gradually. For a long time there will be a demand for skilful captains to sail our vessels. The right sort of men are not plentiful, and good seamen are sure of employment. How great advantages, good schools and means of improvements do our young folks possess over the rugged pioneers who first made the province habitable? Even, if they have the pluck of the fathers of the province and go into the wilderness and

new themselves out homes—they are not cut off from the outside world. The telegraph and the press bring, as it were, the outside world to the door even of the backsettler. But a young man reads glowing accounts of other countries, that kindle his imagination, and make him restless and discontented with his native place. He finds it easy to leave, perhaps, but not so easy to return when his hope of finding competency and happiness abroad melts away like a day dream. Every one knows cases of young men who have gone "west" to make their fortune, and have returned to commence life again among "the old folks at home," and cases also of young men who, wanting the means to take them back, have to bear the pain of life-long regret, along with the burden of hard, unremunerative work. Take one case, known to us,—a young man in New Brunswick started a small store, and was doing very well for a beginner, and would no doubt have established a good business in time. But he grew impatient, and, dazzled by some accounts from California, disposed of his business at a sacrifice, and set out for that El Dardo. But he found on reaching it, that gold was not to be had for the picking up, and he was glad ere long to accept the humble position of stage driver and then of hostler. From the stable yard he removed to a farm, and hired himself out for the smallest wages to do the hardest work. If he had worked for himself as hard at home he could not have failed to have done well. Now, he is anxious to return to the place which he rashly left, but cannot, out of his miserable wages, save enough to pay his way back. There are many such cases, and their moral is, that it is safer to stay at home, than to tempt fortune abroad, and that if one works as hard here, as he will be compelled to do there, competency, content and happiness will be acquired.—*From the Maritime Farmer.*

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