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Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid adquiritur, nihil est agricultura melius, nihil ubcrius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1876.

No. 128.

Halifax, November 15th, 1876.

AGRICULTURE has reached a new stage of existence in this Province of Nova Scotia, and it behoves us to look well into the future from our elevated stand-point. The Provincial Exhibition of 1876 was essentially an experiment, and, as such, it was looked forward to, even by its most ardent promoters, with mingled hopes and fears. Fer fifty years the Legislatures and Governments of the Province had been striving to promote a better system of Agriculture. Local Societies were at work, local Exhibitions and ploughing matches were held; improved breeds of Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs were, from time to time, imported, seeds of new field crops were brought from other countries, and the claims of Agriculture to increased attention were urged upon our people, from year to year, in the most persuasive eloquence that ever stirred the echoes of our Legislative Halls. Under such influences much improvement was expected, and in coursoof years agood deal was effected. The comforts of the farming community in favored districts were manifestly increased, orchards were planted, much attention was paid to composting for the top-dressing of grass fields, artificial manures came slightly into use, the production of grain was notably increased through the efforts of Agricola, and many subsidiary improvements in rural economy were introduced, yet, until quite recently, rude implements of husbandry continued to be ganized four years before, made a third extensed and it travel successful, beyond employed, in most parts of the country attempt, and it proved successful, beyond Province to view the signs of the times wasteful management or neglect of land the fondest dreams of its promoters in Nova Scotia, and prepare for a rate was the rule, wretched cattle roamed at Yet another interregnam had to follow, of progress in the future such as we have

will through wilde ness pastures, and the Agricultural Profession, which, in highly civilized countries, is looked upon as the most dignified and honorable of all secular pursuits, was still allowed by its followers to rest on the lowest level.

In the memorable year 1851, twenty-five years ago, a new key note was struck in the history of European, and of the World's, Industry. Two years later, namely in 1853, the vibration had reached our shores, and the first Provincial Exhibition was held,—on a small scale, in deed, but with such measure of promise that it was followed in the following year by one of more ambitious char acter, which likewise proved a great success. But its success seems to have been more gratifying to contemplators than profitable in its effects upon the active portion of the industrial community, for the next fourteen years were allowed to glide over without any fur ther attempts, the same fourteen years during which the Province now called Ontario established nearly all the Industries, except Lumbering and Wheat grow ing, which go to make up its rich agricul tural and manufacturing prosperity, whilst our surplus energy was mostly expended in establishing Mines and building ships, and in realizing the profits of a temporary adventitious

and it was not till 1874 that the fourth Provincial Exhibition was held.

To those who have been accustomed to watch the close connection, even in old, but more especially in new, countries, between Industrial Exhibitions and the Development of National Industries, it was matter of deep concern to see the fitful way in which Exhibitions were dealt with in this Province. It was a proof, among many other things, that the vast substantial benefits which they confer upon a community were only very feebly realized by our prople. We speak plainly because our only object is to give wholsome lessons. But a brighter day was dawning. The several importations of Stock had given a new impetus to agricultural improve-ment. And the Legislature wisely de-termined upon a system of Annual Provincial Exhibitions, to be held in suitable localities from year to year. The benefits likely to flow from these Exhibitions are simply incalculable, hence the importance which we attach to the experiment carried out at Truro last month. That it was abundantly successful in every respect is already well known throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and that every succeeding year's Exhibition will bring an increased measure of success we have every reason to hope. In view of what has been accomplished this year at Truro, we invite the Agriculturists of every County in the Province to view the signs of the times in Nova Scotia, and prepare for a rate

had hitherto to look for in other countries. It will not do to stand still now. Year by year Capital and Labour will be applied more and more to the cultivation of our soil, and to the purchase and mising of Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Pigs, of races that have been long under the hand of the improver, veritable worls of art such ashave hitherto been almost strangers to our land. Agriculturists who are prepared for the new role will go in and win, those who keep to the old way will be left out in the colo.

It is already time for intending competitors to try to forecast the leading arrangements of next year's Exhibition. From what we have already learnt, we think we can promise much better preparation on their part than was visible even at the Truro show. The locality will no doubt affect the exhibits to some extent, but not to the extent that was anticipated prior to the Truro Exhibition. If a breeder has good cattle to show, a hundred miles of rail will make no hindrance, and if the cattle are not good they had better remain at home.

The Agriculturists of King's County, unwilling to let the Exhibition month go by without showing some sign, held a meeting on 31st of October, as we learn from a copy of the Berwick Star kindly sent by C. F. Eaton, Esq. Samuel Chipman, Esq. Custos Rm., was called to the chair, and D. B. Newcomb, Esq., acted as Secretary. A Committee appointed at last April Sessions, and consisting of Messrs. Roscoe, Lyons, Patterson, Dodge and G. Hamilton, reported that they had found a most eligible site for the Exhibition, of $25\frac{1}{2}$ acres, near Kentville Bridge, and for which they had agreed to pay \$40 per acre. The Committee turther recommended the sale of some unproductive public lands to pay for the new purchase. Dr. Hamilton moved appropriate resolutions for carrying the scheme into effect, which were seconded by A. McN. Patterson, The Committee's Report was adopted, likewise Resolutions favoring the holding of the '77 Exhibition in King's County, and calling upon the Court of Sessions to prepare an Act for the purpose of raising money, not to exceed \$4,000, by assessing rateable property, for the purchase of land and erection of suitable buildings.

Next comes a spirited communication from the Colchester Committee in charge of the late Provincial Exhibition, soliciting the Board of Agriculture to again concede to that County the task of carrying out the Exhibition of '77. Buildings are ready, which can be enlarged if necessary. The Committee feel that their success this year should be a strong argument in their favor for obtaining their request, and their experience has

taught them wherein they can readily improve upon their past work. The central position of Colchester, they say, was invariably conceded by farmers from the east and north as giving them (the Com.) great claims to the Provincial Exhibition. They offer a Prize List, including the Government grant, of \$6,500.

It is with much satisfaction that we can thus assure our readers that the system of Annual Provincial Exhibitions has become an accomplished fact. The favored County for the '77 Exhibition remains as yet to be fixed; but we think that the Agriculturists of the Province have learnt, from past experience, to place a fair amount of reliance upon the wisdom and judgment of the Central Board of Agriculture.

WE learn by a communication from HENRY W. ALBRO, Esq., of Liverpool, N. S., that an Exhibition of Fruits and Vegetables was held in the Music Hall, Liverpool, N. S., on the 5th and 6th October, and that a very creditable show was made. The Liverpool Times gives as full a report of the prizes as could be done, considering that there were not "any properly appointed judges." This last is a novel feature in the management of Exhibitions, and will no doubt disappear on next occasion. It is probable, however, that the first or preliminary Exhibition rather profited than other-wise by the simplicit, of the arrange-ment, which, if it had been adopted at Truro, would certainly have obviated many difficulties, as each exhibitor would have been free to enjoy his own undisturbed opinion as to the merits of his exhibits.

The practical result of the Liverpool Exhibition has been most satisfactory, for the Editor of the paper concludes his review in the following terms:—

"The success of this Exhibition has drawn the attention of our citizens to the fact, that we want an Agricultural Society in South Queen's, and we are glad to hear that a list has been opened for subscribers, and trust that the requisite number will be forthcoming to enable them to draw the Government allowance, and next year, by offering prizes for competition, be able to get up an exhibition which will be a credit to South Queen's."

The application from Liverpool will be laid before the Executive Committee of the Central Board at their first meeting.

WE have received from E. C. calved Hei of milk. a sample of Potatoes of a character new to this country, similar, in fact, to the small sized and solid but delicately flavoured Potatoes usually served in next issue.

hotels on the European Continent, and there invariably preferred for table use. Mr. Fairbanks's crop was raised from some imported from Rotterdem for a gentleman for his own use. One hill yielded 31, another 41 potatoes. They are said to be free from blight, good keepers, as sound in spring as when put in in autumn, and their appearance goes far to justify the promise. Mr. F's friend tells him that in his country, they fred the big ones to cattle. We can cordially recomment Mr. Fairbanks's Rotterdam Potato to the attention of Agriculturists for experiment. It would be useful to ascertain whether, in Holland, these potatoes are grown in the difficultly drained meadows near Rotterdam, or on the higher and drier sandy dunes away towards the German frontier.

We have a communication from Dr. Auguste le Jolis, of Cherbourg, France, announcing that the National Society of Natural Sciences of Cherbourg has completed 25 years of its existence, during which period the Society has contributed to the progress of science principally by the formation of a rich scientific library and by the publication of Memoirs, of which the 20th tome is now in the press. The formation of a scientific library is perhaps the most important function of these Societies, and we hope the day is not far distant when our own "Institute" will make this discovery, as the Torento Institute and Montreal Natural History Society have long ago done, and thus render the intelligent pursuit of science possible for our citizens.

It is, no doubt, well to find a market for our fish in the West Indies and to get their sugaras a return cargo. But suppose we raise our sugar on our own fields as the farmers are now doing in North Germany and Northern France, we shall then find a larger home market for our fish, created by the increased laboring population, and the expense of transit will be saved.

THERE is still a brisk trade in Ayrshires. C. P. Blanchard, Esq., of Truro, has sold his Cow Lille, Cl., and her Calf Stella, CCXXXIII. to H. Townsend, Esq., of New Glasgow. Several Societies that neglected to purchase at Truro are now looking around in vain for suitable animals.

WE hear that the Ayrshire Cows Blyth and Merry Duchess, imported by the Board and sold at Truco, are doing very well in Mr. Blanchard's hands. They have both calved Heifer Calves, and have a fine show of milk.

A NUMBER of Pedigrees registered during the month (November) will appear in our next issue.

P. River, October 22nd, 1876.

DEAR SIR.—The M. B. Agricultural Society held an Exhibition on the 19th. Enclosed you will find an account partially describing it.

The crops in this locality were below the average. Hay was very light. Potatoes all sound but small. Cabbage and Roots poor. The continuous dry weather has been hard on the cattle; very few fat this fall.

Yours. &c., J. M. FREEMAN, Secretary.

Our Exhibition was quite a success. A crowd was present. Liverpool, Milton, as well as all parts of the County were represented; and, besides, some exhibitors were present from adjacent Counties. A mammoth pumpkin and extra large mangelds were shown by Mr. Nathan Payzant of Liverpool. And such onions as 'is are not often seen.

Some line houses and colts could be seen, and the cattle, though most of them rather thin in flesh and not of extraordinary size, displayed some fine grades.

Prizes for animals, vegetables, fruit, cloth, &c., amounting to about one hundred dollars, were paid, and there seemed to be general satisfaction. Of course every body did not get a prize, and some of those every bodies tried to find fault; but even this feeling ended very pleasantly n a determination to try again next time.

The ladies had prepared a splendid dinner, and as course after course was served to the hungry crowd it is no wonder they left but little. Some of the last who partook found the tables pretty J. M. F. hare.

AT the Truro Fair, George Wiggins, Esq., sold his Ayrshires to Dr. Lawson. They are now at Lucyfield Farm, forming the basis of an Ayrshire Herd: -

FLORA, LXXVIII., N. S. Stock Register; nearly 7 years old; bred by Thos. Guy, Oshawa, Ontario; sire Jock (62), dam Effie by Duke. Took 36 prize at Hamilton and 3rd prize at Truro. In calf to Lord Raglan.

LADY WINDSUR, CCVII., 2 years; dam Fiora; sire Lord Raglan. Took 1st prize at Trure. In calf to Young Royalty.

LADY PANUKE, CCVIII., 1 year and nine months; dam Flora, sire Lord Raglan. In calf to Young Royalty.

LADY Avon, CCIX., 7 months; dam Flora, sire Lord Raglan.

· WE are informed that Colonel Starratt of Paradise is making still farther efforts to extend his Ayrshire Herd, being now in correspondence with one of the leading Ayrshire Breeders in the United States, in reference to the purchase of another Heifer.

ADDITIONS TO THE NOVA SCOTIA STOCK REGISTERS.

ATREMIRE BULL.

CCX.-DUKE OF EDINBURGH. White with a few black spots. Calved February 1873. Bred by L. E. Baker, Yarmouth. Belongs to the Annapolis Agricultural Society. Sire-Lord Ragian CC.

Dam-Effic the Second CCXI.

gr. d.-Liffie [59] by Duke. Bred by Mr. Cuthbert. Montreal.

g. gr. d.-Beauty by Bruce. Bred by J. Dodds, Montreal.

AYRSHIRE COWS.

CCXL-EFFIE THE SECOND [130]. Calved June, 1868. Imported by the Central Board of Agriculture, October, 1972. Bred by Thomas Guy, Oshawa, Ontario. Owned by G. W. Sanders, Hebron, Co. Yarmouth, N. S. Sire—Jock [62] (413). gr. s.—Eclipse [103] (137).

Dam- Effic [59] by Duke. Bred by Mr. Cuthbert, Montreal.

gr. d.-Beauty by Bruce. Bred by J. Dodds, Montreal.

g. gr. d.-Effie. Imported by late J. Dodds, Montreal.

CCXII. - Daisey, 22 N. B. The property of Major Blair, Onslow.

Sire-Jock the Laird. Dam-Aunty Mary.

AYRSHIRE BULL

CCXIII.—CHARLEY. Bred by Thos. Davidson, St. John, N. B. Took first prize at Provincial Exhibition, Fredericton, N. B.

Sire—Jerry.

Dam-Fanny.

gr. d.-Jennie. Imported by Thomas Davidson, St. John.

AYRSHIRE LEIFER CALF.

CCXIV .- DAISEY SECOND. Calved September 21st, 1875. Owned by Major Blair, Onslow. Sire-Charley, CCXIII. Dam-Daisey, CCXII, by Jock the Laird. gr. d.—Aunty Mary.

AYRSHIRE BULL CALVES.

CCXV.—Jook THE LAIRD. Calved March 31st, 1876. Bred by Major W. M. Blair, Onslow. Sire-Prince of Wales, XLL

Dam-Myra, 46 N. B.

gr. d.—Martha "597" by Girvan "575." CCXVI.—Peter. Calved September 20th, 1876. Bred and owned by Major W. M. Blair, Onslow. Sire—Prince of Wales, XLI.

Dam-Daisey, CCXII, 22 N. B., by Jock the Laird.

gr. d.—Aunty Mary.

AYRSHIRE HEIFER CALF.

CCXX. - Effic the Third. Red and white. Calved February 13th, 1876. Bred by and the property of G. W. Sanders, Hebron, Yarmouth, N. S. Sire—Lord Dufferin, CXCIV. gr. s.—Lord Lisgar, CXLIX, [693]. g. gr. a-Lord Cuthbert. Imported by Mr. Cuthbert of Montreal. Dam-Effie Second, CCXI (130). gr. d.-Effie [59]. g. gr. d-Beauty by Prince. Bred by J. Doods. g. g. gr. d. - Effie. Imported by J.

ATRIBHIRE BULL CALVES.

CCXXI. — Bob. Red and white. Calved May 1st, 1876. Bred by and the property of Henry Burrell, Yarmouth, N. S.

Sire-Lord Dufferin.

gr. s.-Lord Lisgar (693).

Doods of Montreal.

Dam-Lilly 2nd, CXXXI, by Eclipse (137).

gr. d.—Scotch Lassie by Prince of Wales (305).

g. gr. d -Spot by Rob Roy. Imported, (135).

g. g, gr. d-White Lilly by Dundee 3rd, Quebec. Imported by W. Simpson.

CCXXII. - WILLIAM. White and red. Calved June 7th, 1876. Bred by and the property of Henry Burrell, Yarmouth, N. S.

Sire-Wallace, CCXXIII. Bred by and imported from Thomas Guy, Ontario. Dam-Lilly 3rd, CXXXII, by Lord Dufferin.

gr. d.-Lilly 2nd, CXXXI, by Eclipse (137).

g. gr. d.—Scotch Lassie by Prince of Wales (305).

g. g. gr. d. - Spot by Rob Roy. ported (135)

g. g. gr. d.-White Lilly by Dundee 3rd, Quebec. Imported by W. Simpson.

AYRSHIRE HEIFERS.

CCXXXI.-Queen of Ayr. Brown and white. Calved 30th October, 1876. Bred by C. P. Blanchard, Esq., Truro, and owned by him. Sire—Whitehill, a Scot h Bull, "winner of prizes all over the country."

Dam-Blyth, CCXXV. (Imported by

C. B. of A., 1876).

CCXXXII. - DAIRY DUCHESS. Red and some white. Calved 31st October, Bred and owned by C. P. Blanchard, Esq., Truro.

Gire-Commander, a Scotch Bull. Dam-Merry Duchess, CCXXIV. (Imported by C. B. of A., 1876).

CCXXXIII.—Stella. Red & white. Calved May 4th, 1876. Bred and owned by C. P. Blanchard, Esq., Truro.

Sire-Young Prince of Wales, XLII. Dam—Lille, CI. gr. d.—Priscy by Napoleon.

g. gr. d .- Pony (Taylor Ayrshire Stock). Stella, and her dam Lille, sold to H. Townsend, Esq., of New Glusgow.]

SHORT-HORN HEIFERS.

CCLI. — Lora. Red and white. Calved April 24th, 1876. Bred by and the property of Edvin Chase, Cornwallis, N. S.

Sire-Lord York, 63, N. S. S. R. Dam-Lilly by Constance Dake, 7753

gr. d.—Dairy Queen by Oswald Cray, 514 C. A. B.

g. gr. d.—Dairy Spot by Snowball 696 C. H. B. 3,444, &c.

CLII.— WHITE ROSE White, etc. Calved July 16, 1876. Bred by and the property of Edwin Chase, Cornwallis.

Sire-Lord York, 63 N. S. S. R. Dam-Rose of Brunswick, 331 C. H. B. gr. d.—Dairy Queen by Oswald Cray, 514 C. H. B.

g. gr. d.—Dairy Spot by Snowball, 696 Č. H. B.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

OPENING SPEECH BY COLONEL LAURIE. PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Interested, as from my position as President of the Board of Agriculture, I must necessarily be, in the advancement of agriculture, I feel it an especial pleasure to deliver the opening addres at the First Annual Provincial Agricultural Exhibition. It is true that from time to time we have had agricultural exhibitions, both in counties and general to the Province. For in 1854, 1868, and 1874 exhibitions were held, and the progress made by agriculture in the Province, as shown at each successive exhibition, was clearly marked and commented on at the time; but this desultory way of holding exhibitions was most unsatisfactory. A great deal of labor was expended by enthusiastic friends of the cause; a great deal of interest was for the time aroused amongst the farming population, but it only reached its culminating point at the actual time of the exhibition; then good resolutrons were made, and the flame only wanted fanning to burn well. But each time the enthusiasm thus aroused went to waste; the fire was not fed, and died out.

At the 1874 Exhibition the feeling was most strongly expressed, that we had brought into play a spirit that had never before been so thoroughly roused, and that it must not be allowed to sleep

exhibitions at regular intervals. Such has for some time been the desire of the Central Board; but to carry out its duties successfully, it has been found necessary to lead the public feeling,-not to drive it or push it too hard. It was, however, evident that, with so strong a feeling in favor of our policy, a move should be promptly and decidedly made. A scheme for an annual exhibition was prepared by the Board, and submitted to the Legislature; it involved a grant of money to provide a prize fund, whilst it devolved on the locality the duty of furnishing buildings and carrying out the work in detail. The Legislature, with a liberality and a unanimity most creditable to them, and most satisfactory to the farming community, — whose claims are thus cordially recognized, granted the sum proposed as a prize fund. Three counties-all honor to themcame forward with offers to assist the Board in working out the scheme—Annancies Colchester and King's. The napolis, Colchester and King's. Annapolis arrangements fell through (I trust but temporarily, as that fine county must do itself credit by holding the Provincial Exhibition at an early date). Kings and Colchester pressed their claims, offering liberal additions to the prize fund, as well as the thorough working out of the schemes. Colchester, had, however, so much more matured its arrangements that the Board unanimously decided to accept the offer of that County, and hold the first Exhibition at Truro,trusting that one of the western counties will be in a position to carry out the Exhibition of 1877, and, benefitted by the lesson taught by that of the present year, will be able even to improve on it.

When Agricola, in 1822, woke up the people of this Province to the deplorable state of Agriculture here, he dwelt strongly on the fact that the Province did not raise food sufficient for its own consumption. Agriculture, thanks to him and those who followed in his footsteps,-some by precept (amongst whom I may name his talented son, our present public-spirited Chief Justice), and others in practice,-has vastly improved, but we are just as far as ever from attaining the end he sought, and feeding our own population; and, from the nature of our country, its resources and its industries, our fisheries furnishing lucrative employment for tens of thousands of cur hardy population, must, in the nature of things, and as the spirit of enterprise grows amongst us, be largely developed, and thus build up for us an export trade. Our iron mines, now for the first time, really being tested on a liberal scale, must, with good management, sooner or later command the trade of this fast growing Dominion, the coal mining again, but that we must follow on with I thus receiving its healthiest and truest I

development in being carried on to furnish fuel for home manufactories, and not in being shipped to furnish fuel for foreign factories, whose products come into our markets to kill our native industries, our shipbuilders and owners, who now do so large a share of the world's carrying trade, will, I hope, (and I trust I am not too sanguine), in the not distant future, when capital increases to justify it, put their acknowledged skill, as naval architects, to a further test; and, taking advantage of their proximity to iron and coal, engage in iron as well as wooden ship-building, and thus bring additional credit on our scaport Province. I therefore hold the opinion that we never shall reach the point of raising all the food that we consume, nor, indeed, do I think that, in the way he puts it, it is altogether to be desired. He urged on the farmers to turn their attention to wheat growing, and to raise their own bread. Communications were then difficult and expensive, and there was much force then in that advice as in all he gave; but things are changed since then. Our Intercolonial Railroad, the dream of the lifetime of some of our most brilliant men, is finished and open for traffic. We cannot as yet get all we wish for or hope from it; but, at any rate, we get flour from the great wheat-growing Province of the Dominion at a freight of fifty cents a barrel.

Wheat does best in a dry climate. The farmers of England have an old saying (I might almost call it a dry saying), which I have quoted before, that drought never brought dearth to England,-meaning thereby that the drier the season the better the wheat. The best wheat-growing parts of England are the dry eastern counties, the western counties, getting constant rains through proximity to the Atlantic, being mainly devoted to dairy farming; and Devonshire cream and Cheshire cheese testify to the results. Throughout Europe dry inland countries are invariably the best wheat-growing countries, and the same holds good on this continent; and we may as well, as farmers, get all the assistance we can from Nature In countries where communications are difficult, it may be necessary that each locality should, as far as possible, be self-supporting.

All who have travelled in the East Indies years ago, before the system of railroads was constructed, and when bullock carts, travelling about a mile and a half an hour, formed the principal means of transport, will call to mind that in dry Guzerat, - famous for its cotton, for which its soil is eminently suited,the villagers went to an immense deal of trouble raising water from their deep, old-fashioned wells by means of oxen, and so making artificial awamps to grow

rice for food; whilst a thousand miles away, in the low grounds of the Madras Presidency, suited by nature to the growth of rice, a still greater amount of labor was expended in draining swamps sufficient to grow patches of cotton enough to supply the scanty clething which the climate necessitates and which fashion prescribes.

Now, a wise paternal government has constructed railroads which so facilitate transport that each locality can devote its best energies to cultivating the crop for which Nature has best fitted it; and this I take to be our position at present. It is quite true that we can grow wheat here, but it is at best an uncertain crop, for climatic reasons, and, for our moist climate, specially suited for the product of grass and roots, it is but rational that we should devote ourselves to stock-raising and dairy-farming,-especially stock-raising,-rather than fight against Nature in the cultivation of grain; and we need have no fear that we shall overstock the market, and so depreciate the value of our produce.

It is stated that one firm in Montreal has shipped over 800 head of Canadian cattle to the old country during the present season, and with handsome returns both to the feeders and the shippers. What Western Canada can do in cattle, we, with a more suitable climate, can certainly manage; but management and skill are necessary. We must start with the best breeds; must feed in the most economical manner, studying what crops the land will best yield, as well as the food that will best develope the animals, and bring them forward most rapidly for market; also how we may so hous them as to prevent our undoubtedly severe winter from checking their rapid development into the most profitable form of meat.

It has been stated as an objection to the farmers' occupation, that they devote the greatest care to an animal, feed it, study its comfort in every possible way, and then, as soon as they have brought it near perfection, they kill it, and again go through the same process. It must be observed that there is something in the remark; but the soft-hearted people who raise the objection would probably not be willing to go without meat, and should, therefore, feel themselves under the greater obligation to the farmer for the supply he thus furnishes.

But if, as thus indicated, farming is reduced to a science, it is clear that it must be studied by those who devote themselves to the occupation: a comparison of breeds of cattle, of the kinds of food most suitable, of the methods of most advantageously administering them, thus becomes most necessary. We cannot assume that what has been proved to

be suitable or best in great Britain, in the United States, or in Western Canada, in all of which countries Agriculture has advanced far beyond its position in our Province, must of necessity be most advantageous here. Far from it; all such matters must, under a change of conditions, be submitted afresh to the test of experience. We are often told by those who do not look beneath the surface that we are not sufficiently advanced to necessitate Annual Agricultural Exhibitions; but it is here that exhibi tions are exceedingly valuable. Our stock-breeders will exhibit the various breeds of cattle which they cultivate, our feeders will show what can be done with the stock mised by crossing what is known as the common stock of the country, with the so-called improved breeds. It of course stands to reason that single examples will not be sufficient proof of the excellencies, or reverse, of any particular breed of cattle, or method of feeding. So much depends on the food animals receive, on the system or want of system in which any given quantity or quality of food is administered, that in forming our opinion, we must weigh all these matters after obtaining all the information in our power, and not rush to a conclusion formed from insufficient data. It is in such matters that the farmer seeking to improve is called upon to exercise his judgment. Exhibitions will thus bring much that is new before all, and will set a large number who already depend on farming for a living, thinking on the subject so important to them,—this is of itself a decided gain. In nine casea out of ten the shrewd natural intelligence of our people will at once lead them to apply the thought to practical purpose. Exhibitions therefore serve as a school for the whole farming community. Again, the would-be purchaser of thorough-bred stock, whether for himself or for a society, has in these exhibitions the best chance of selection. Knowing the style of agriculture and the requirements, as well as the peculiarities of his district, he is able to pick out, from all the differ ent breed rought together for his inspection, that which best meets the necessary conditions-here again is a decided benefit. Another class which benefits very largely by exhibitions is composed of those who have already inrerested themselves in Agriculture—have expended money in obtaining improved breeds-have taken pains in feeding, and feel satisfied with their efforts, and that nothing further is required. To such persons an Exhibition brings home truths in an unpleasant, but very salutary form. They find that their zeal and energy have brought results, certainly, but very far from what they

expected; that whilst their efforts have given them the first place in some points, other matters which they have neglected have been attended to by competing exhibitors, and that much more is necessary if they wish to take the position they consider themselves entitled to. The lesson is valuable, but often dearly bought; but it is only by such constant comparisons that attention is called to all points, that matters small in themselves, but which tend in the aggregate to make up real excellence, will be attended to, and the more publicly these comparisons are made, the more attention will be devoted to the preparation for them, and so much greater results will in consequence be ob tained. Thus we in this Province shan be incited to develope to the utmost the improved breeds we have imported.

But Exhibitions may be looked to as producing more important results. There will always be a tendency amongst the youths of the rural districts to flock to town, and indeed it is from them that the townspeople are largely recruited, and they carry health and vigor into a population that would otherwise, owing to the unfavorable conditions of town life, soon degenerate into a sickly and weak race. This has no bad effect in old countries, as there is always a redundant population. and land is scarce, and there is a constant struggle to obtain and hold on to it; but with us the case is different. Here land abounds and the population is scarce. All the world over an article is valued according to its rarity, and if easily obtainable no store is set on it. Consequently the possession of land is little valued, and the career of a farmer has been looked down upon. All this is so patent, and the causes so well known to all, that it is unnecessary to dwell at length on it; but a brighter day is dawning, farmers have been doing well. Many have become wealthy in their calling; still the rising generation turn their backs on the farm for too often, betaking themselves to other occdpations, when often and often they would do better by staying at home, and sticking to the farm. What seems to be wanted is something that will make country life more attractive, will create and develope interest in the occupation, specially amongst those who have some means, a class which our farming interest can least well spare, and who are most apt to withdraw their means from agriculture, and sink them in trade, often, indeed, sink them never to be brought to the surface again. Now it is just these we desire to retain; they are men who can well afford to invest in improved stock, and it is to Exhibitions, and to the interest taken in preparing for, and taking part, in the competitions, that we must

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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life is too short for all one would like to do; hence the greater reason to follow up one's aim to make the most of every minute, to spare no exertion.

Recognizing that agriculture is the foundation of all national prosperity, may we all so work and strive, each in his own sphere of duty, that when our work is finished, each of us may feel that he has done his share towards enabling our decendants to show as splendid a record of the progress of our Dominion on its Centennial, as men of the same race and blood as ourselves are now showing to the world in Fairmount Park; and may the flag of which we are so proud still wave over the same hale mother and her family of young and vigorous nations.

Ar the present moment, when a decided tendency is being shown in this Province to throw more capital and labor into the business of farming, it is of importance that those embarking in the pursuit should study carefully the relations between supply and demand, and the probable state of prospective markets at home and abroad, for our produce. The immense agricultural product of the United States exerts indirectly, when not directly, a well marked influence upon our prices from year to year. We can, therefore, venture to invite, in a more than usually pressing manner, the careful attention of our farmers to the following very careful digest by the American Minister of Agriculture of the official returns of the Field Crops of 1876, received from the various States and Territories of the We have omitted great Republic. Sweet Potatoes, Sorghum, Tobacco and Cotton as not likely to interest our agricultural readers :---

WHEAT.

Our October returns indicate a reduction in the yield of the wheat-crop of nearly one sixth, while the quality is somewhat superior. More accurate statistics may possibly be given after the results of threshing are more fully known. Every section of the Union indicates a reduced product except the Middle States, which increased about 2 per cent. The New England States fell off 4 per cent.; the South Atlantic States 2 per cent.; the Gulf States 27 per cent.; the Southern inland States 8 per cent.; the States north of the Ohio River 14 per cent.; the States West of the Mississippi River 27 per cent.; the Pacific States nearly two per cent. These figures point to a yield of about 245,000,000 bushels. This, however, will be the subject of further examination and inquiry in our November returns.

The condition of winter-wheat at the date of our last report before harvest (July 1) was about 5 per cent. below average. It had suffered severely from winter killing in all the Northern States; but the conditions of the growth during the spring months were, on the whole, quite favorable, and still better during June. At the end of May, Michigan was the only Northern State in which winter wheat was reported as of a full average condition; but on the first of July the general improvement of the crop had brought several other States up to the same figures. In the South Atlantic States a mild winter, followed, generally, by favorable spring weather, presented a condition of extraordinary promise, with a remarkable absence of the usual drawbacks. Every county in Maryland reported a full average condition, and some, 20 per cent. above. Only seven counties in Virginia fell below average, while rust and insect ravages had already left their mark upon the growing crops. These destructive influences, aggravated by local freshots, affected the crops of the Gulf States and Southern inland States, (except West Virginia,) so that, at the end of June, the whole wheat-field south of Virginia and the Ohio river indicated a condition of but three-fourths of average. West Virginia continued to improve, and rose to 15 per cent. above average before harvest. A general improvement was noted in the States north of the Ohio River, but the injuries from winter-killing were too severe and extensive to be repaired. All of the States west of the Mississippi improved during June, except Nebraska; Mississippi and Kansas rising above the average. During this month the condition of the crop on the Pacific coast fell far below the average.

Spring-wheat, on the 1st of July, had fallen to 15 per cent. below average. In the New England States, it had improved; but this improvement was more than counterbalanced by the imperfect conditions of growth. aggravated by insect ravages, in the great spring-wheat regions of the Northwest. The Pacific States also reported improvement; but our August returns indicated a decline during July, which still further reduced the general condition, especially from the depredations of insects in the Northwest. On the 1st of September, the general estimate of condition for both winter and spring wheat was 81 per cent. of a f, ll average.

Our October returns, as a general thing, indicate an advance in the wheat yield of those States in which the yield of 1875 had fallen below that of 1874, and vice versa; but in some States, especially in the Northwest, there is a fall-

1875, viz: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Iilinois, Iowa, Kansus, and Oregon. In the New England States, extreme summer temperature at a critical stage of the crop is complained of. together with occasional injuries of the midge. In some parts of Maine, early sowings yielded lightly, while later sowmgs were very satisfictory. In the Middle States, the marked mercese in New York and Delaware more than counterbalanced the slight decline in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; but the increased jield of this section is not sufficient to repair the losses of 1875 so far as to bring the crop up to the standard of 1874. Maryland and Virginia have made up their losses of 1875, but the decline in the other South Atlantic States, in the Gulf States and in the Southern Inland States, more than absorbs their previous gains upon the crop of 1874. Frederick, Maryland, reports that fields treated with phosphate ex-celled others in yield, and the crop exhibited a better color; Calvert made the best crop for many years. Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio have considerably increased the yield of 1875; but that showed a great reduction from the previous year. The other States North of the Ohio report a reduced yield, making the crop of this region about 14 per cent. less than in 1875, and nearly one fourth less than in 1874. The western and north-western counties complain of destructive insect ravages. West of the Mississippi, the crop of 1875 was a little larger than that of 1874; but that of 1876 shows a decline of 17 per cent. from its predecessor. Insect ravages were numerously reported, and the grasshoppers made their annual incursion in the north-western counties in time to injure the spring-wheat. Reports of their ravages also come from several points in the Territories. On the Pacific coast, California barely equalled her reduced crop of 1875, while that of Oregon experienced a still further reduction of 12 per cent.

RYE.

The rye crop of 1876 is reported 4 per cent. less than that of 1875, but in quality it averages somewhat above its predecessor. The larger deficiencies are mosty in States that produce small crops, though Illinois and . Wisconsin, with their large crops, produce 8 per cent. and New York 7 per cent. less than last The larger producing States generally report yields not greatly varying from those or 1875, while Kansas, in which rye culture has grown rapidly within the last few years, is 13 per cent. in advance of her previous figures. Of the great regions of the country, New ing-off from even the reduced yields of | England has made a slight increase; the

Middle States, which produce about onethird of the crop of the country, fell off about 5 per cent., the South Atlantic States about equalled their previous crop, the small crop of the Gulf States fell off about 10 per cent., the Southern Inland States about held their own, the States north of the Ohio River, produc ing about 28 per cent. of the whole, fell off 7 per cent., the States west of the Mississippi report a large increase, especially Nebraska, 42 per cent., and Kansas, 13 per cent., counterbalancing the defi-ciencies in Minnesota and Iowa, and bringing the yield of the whole section up to 9 per cent, above the previous year. On the Pacific coast, California advanced 3 per cent., while Oregon fell ofi 7 per cent., but the crop of the two States is about 2 per cent. greater than last year.

OATY

On the basis of the October returns, the oats crop of 1876 shows a falling-off of 23 per cent, compared with its predecessor. Every section of the Union is deficient, viz: New England, 7 per cent.; the Middle States, 7½ per cent.; South Atlantic States, 1 per cent.; the Gulf States, 5 per cent.; Southern Inland States, 2 per cent.; the States north of the Ohio River, 25 per cent.; the States west of the Mississippi, 49 per cent.; the Pacific States, 4 per cent. The States reporting a yield equal to that of last year are: Pennsylvania, 102; Delaware, 109; South Carolina, 126; Georgia, 115; Florida, 107; Alabama, 100; Louisiana, 104; West Virginia, 113; Kentucky, 103; Ohio, 102; California, The greatest deficiencies were found in Kansas, losing 51 per cent; Arkansas, 45 per cent.; Illinois, 39 per cent.; Missouri, 36 per cent. Ohio is the only Northwestern State that did not fall short. In the New England and Middle States, the crop was largely reduced by droughts prevailing at a critical period in the development of the grain. Several counties in the South bear their usual testimony in favor of winter-oats, but spring sowings were liable to rust. In Ohio, where the aggregate product was enlarged, there are complaints in several counties of light weight. The crop was affected by rust in many counties north of the Ohio River, and several report great injury in the shock from rain. In some cases, the grain was so light and shrunken as to be blown out of the windmill with the chaff. The same causes operated west of the Mississippi, where the ravages of grasshoppers added a fresh element of disaster. In very many localities, fields were not harvested, and where the grain was reaped it was frequently fed without thrashing. The grasshopper visitation was especially

severe at several points in the Territories. California on the whole had a good crop, but Oregon was deficient. In Washington Territory, winter outs are spoken of at several points as yielding very heavy crops, the Scotch Potato variety being especially satisfactory.

The crop equalled last year's crop in quality only in Delaware, 100, Virginia, 100, North Carolina, 100; South Carolina, 104; Georgia, 106; West Virginia. 109; Kentucky, 112; Ohic, 105; California, 100. The greatest deficiency, 52 per cent., was in Missouri, Kansas was 37 per cent. short, and Illinois 34.

BARLEY.

The barley crop of the country yields about 6 per cent. less than last year. In all the States east of the Mississippi River, the yield is deficient, except in Connecticut and Georgia, each of which reports an increase of 2 per cent., and Kentucky, which has equalled her previous crop. A great falling off is reported in the Middle States, in the States north of the Ohio River, in the States between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and in Oregon; but Kansas, Nebraska, and especially California, the largest barleyraising State in the Union, have realized a large increase of yield, which, to a great extent, counterbalances the short crops of the other States. New York, the second, and Iowa, the third, in the list of barleygrowing States, are deficient; the former 14 per cent and the latter 12 per cent. Kansas and Nebraska, in which this crop is growing in importance, report increased yields; the former of 5 per cent., and the latter 25 per cent. The quality of the crop equals or surpasses that of its predecessor in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Minne-zota, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska; in all the other States there is a decline.

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