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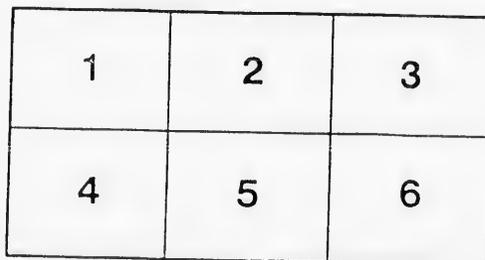
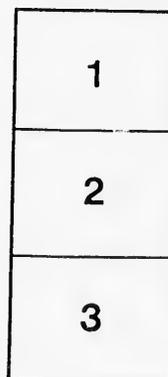
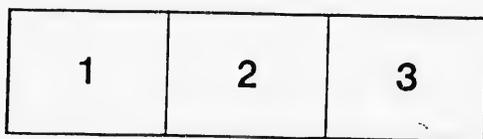
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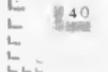
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PRIZE ESSAYS.

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NO. I.

On the Agricultural History and Condition of Sunbury County,

By REV. A. V. G. WIGGINS, D. D.

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NO. II.

On the Agricultural History and Condition of Charlotte County,

By JAMES G. STEVENS, Esq.

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1861.

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FIRST PRIZE ESSAY,  
ON THE  
AGRICULTURAL HISTORY AND CONDITION  
OF  
SUNBURY COUNTY.

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THE cultivation of the soil is the most ancient of human employments. Immediately after the creation, "God took Adam and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate and to guard it." And when for his disobedience Adam was not permitted any longer to occupy that delightful residence, "God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from whence he was taken." And this has continued to be the occupation of the great mass of mankind from the creation to the present day, and must so continue as long as man remains, in his present condition, to occupy the earth.

And as agriculture is the most ancient, so is it the most important occupation in which man can engage; and though the more polished and wealthy occupants of our cities may look down upon the rough farmer as occupying a position inferior to their own, such was not the opinion of the ancients, who regarded agriculture as a more honorable employment than merchandise, or any of the mechanical arts. And very properly so: for if we regard employments in proportion to the bearing upon the comforts and happiness of mankind none can compete successfully, on this ground, with the tiller of the soil: for every class of society depends, not only for its comforts, but for its very existence, upon the successful labours of the farmer. It is true many of our comforts and conveniences pass through the hands of various artificers before they are fitted to gratify the taste of the connoisseur, the epicure, or the fine lady, but all originally came from the soil.

"The profits of the earth, says Solomon, are for all. The King himself is served by the field."

In the most cursory review of the rise and fall of nations we invariably find, that their prosperity at home, and the success of their arms and commerce abroad, have been in direct proportion to the skill and industry of the agriculturists of the country; and their decline has been as invariably preceded by a neglect of agriculture, or a want of skill or diligence in its prosecution.

And notwithstanding agriculture is the most ancient and important, the most honorable and honest of human occupations, there is perhaps scarcely a science or mechanical art, the principles of which are generally so imperfectly understood by the great mass of those engaged in it; though to none

is success more dependent upon the application of correct principles. And we need not feel surprised at this when we consider how little time and how few opportunities farmers generally have for study and research, and then reflect upon the small part they perform in bringing to maturity the productions of the earth. They loosen the soil and apply the ordinary manures, throw in and cover the seed, and it springs up and ripens they know not how. The materials employed in building up the organisms of different plants, and the secret agencies by which those organisms are formed are subjects which most farmers seldom think about; though a correct knowledge of them is intimately connected with the successful issue of these operations. Agricultural chemists and vegetable physiologists have done much, since the commencement of the present century, towards developing this interesting science; but the great mass of farmers have neither time, nor the necessary preparatory knowledge, to avail themselves of these valuable discoveries.

It has been well and wisely said, "That he who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, is a benefactor to mankind;" if therefore my observations upon the past and present condition of the agriculture of Sumbury, and any suggestions I may be enabled to offer for its future improvement should enable the farmer in any degree to increase the productiveness of his fields, or to employ those productions more judiciously in feeding and improving his stock, my time and labour will not have been entirely misemployed.

Before enquiring into the agricultural history of the County it may be well to premise a few observations upon its geographical features, the nature of its soil, natural productions, first settlement, present population, and of communication with other localities.

Haliburton in his History of Nova Scotia remarks that "the County of Sumbury originally comprised the whole country bordering upon the River St. John;" though it has long since dwindled down to the very moderate proportions of about 67 miles in length by 18½ in width, comprising, according to Munro, 782,080 acres, about half of which has been granted, the remainder being still at the disposal of the government. It is bounded on the South-East by Queen's, North by Northumberland, North-West by York, and South by Charlotte. Nearly the whole of the County is capable of being brought under cultivation; although in 1851 there were only 15,587 acres, or about one-fiftieth part of it cleared.

The general features of the County are flat, offering few obstructions to the operations of the farmer; though it must be confessed that much of the soil on the North side of the St. John is of rather an inferior quality and at the present high price of labour would scarcely repay the expense of reclaiming it from the forest.

Every part of the County is well watered and abounds in water power for mechanical purposes. The St. John cuts it across nearly at right angles, dividing it into nearly two equal sections, forming the great road of communication between it and the cities of St. John and Fredericton, upon which comfortable steam boats ply directly up and down during the summer season, and affording an excellent road on the ice in winter. The Oromocto, a tributary of the St. John, which it enters about the middle of the County, extends its widely spreading branches over every portion of the County South of the St. John; and the Little River, Porto Bello and Millstream falling into French Lake, and various branches of the Gaspereaux and Newcastle falling into the Grand Lake in Queen's County spread their various ramifications over every portion of the North.

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Its geographical features have little on the surface to excite the interests of the curious, and not much is known of its hidden treasures, if such exist. A thin stratum of very good coal, about twenty inches in depth, spreads itself pretty widely over the northern parts of the County, at no great depth from the surface, and a good deal is taken up annually and shipped to St. John, and much is distributed about the County for fuel. Many are of opinion that this coalfield crosses the St. John; though an attempt to discover it by boring near Mr. Hubbard's in Burton some years ago was not successful. Few rocks appear on the surface. Those cropping out on the banks of the river consist mostly of new red sand stone.

The soil on the northern bank of the St. John, forming the front of Mangerville and Sheffield, is, with the exception of a few miles of the upper part of Mangerville, a very rich and fertile alluvial. The southern bank, through Burton is mostly a gravelly loam of ordinary fertility, the productiveness of which might be vastly increased by judicious draining, for which its gradual slope to the river affords great facilities. In the upper part of Burton and lower part of Lincoln a sandy loam prevails, which, though not favorable to the growth of grass is well adapted to the production of roots, and yields fair crops of grain. The upper part of Lincoln is of a stiffer character, more inclined to clay, and is much encumbered with stones.

The soil of Blissville, with the exception of the intervals along the banks of the St. John, is the best in the County. Mr. W. E. Perley, M. P. P., in reply to my enquiries, says, "The soil is composed of intervals on the banks of the river and high lands easily worked and very productive, requiring only a small portion of manure to make it produce excellent crops. It is of different qualities, some being composed of a light loam, much of it sandy, but generally free from stone."

The forests of Sunbury abound in spruce, fir, birch, hemlock and cedar, with small quantities of red and white pine, which formerly were much more abundant than at present. Rock and white maple, birch, beech and poplar are also abundant, with basswood, butternut and oak in smaller quantities. The native grasses are red top, blue joint, white clover, and joint rushes, (the latter of which possesses highly fattening and milkproducing qualities,) with many other less valuable varieties.

The population of Sunbury in 1851 was 5,301, which, taking the average increase for the previous ten years, probably now amounts to 6,500.

Its only village is the Oromocto, unless the little cluster of houses at Taylor Town claims that distinction. Its principal settlements, exclusive of those along the banks of the rivers, are the Geary, Shirley and Victoria in Burton, Carlow in Mangerville, and Hardwood Ridge and New Zion in Northfield. These are all comparatively new settlements, and their system (or rather want of system) of farming, is of the most primitive kind.

Maugerville and Sheffield are the oldest English settlements in the Province, having been selected, on account of their great fertility, by a board of emigrants who came from the agricultural districts of Rowley, Andover, and Bexford, near Boston, in Massachusetts, in the years 1763 and 1764, to take up their abode, among the aborigines of the country, on the banks of the *Ouanguindy*, the name by which the St. John was then known among the Indians. In 1765 the country bordering on this river was erected by the government of Nova Scotia into a county called Sunbury. (Vide Haliburton vol. 1 p. 248).

On the arrival of this little band of hardy pioneers, they began with stout hearts and willing hands to fell and clear away the giant sons of the forest

and to occupy their places with the various roots and cereals which they had brought with them, which in the newly cleared and naturally fertile soil sprung up and grew rapidly, cheering them with a hope of an abundant reward for their labors; but their fond anticipations were doomed to suffer a most bitter disappointment. An early frost cut down the growing crop before it was sufficiently ripe to be of much value; and as the country afforded no supplies of food except fish from the river, and the uncertain productions of the chase, in which the new comers were but little skilled, the infant colony was reduced to great straits before the arrival, late in the following summer, of a little trading vessel from Massachusetts, which came just in time to save them from actual starvation. But early frosts and want of provisions were not the only difficulties the new colony had to encounter. The Indians who had lived on friendly terms with the French settlers, who like themselves professed allegiance to the Church of Rome, were not at all disposed to be on such friendly terms with the descendants of the Pilgrim fathers. Fearing that the new comers might interfere with their hunting grounds and possibly eventually drive them from them, taking advantage of their helpless condition, they did not scruple to rob them of their property and especially of their guns and ammunition, thus depriving them of their only means of killing the bears and moose, with which the forests abounded, and on which they mainly depended for their daily food.

In 1764 was put up on Bartlett's Millstream, now included in the Parish of Sheffield, the first flour mill erected in the Province, which continued for a great number of years to grind all the grain grown in the surrounding country.

In November, 1776, a number of the new colonists, fired by the revolutionary spirit which had lately broken out in Massachusetts, joined a party of revolutionists from that country in attacking Fort Cumberland, and captured and carried off, during the night, a small schooner which the retreating tide had left on the flats. Their success however did not eventually turn out very profitable.

In 1783 the small colony, which had struggled on through many difficulties, was recruited by a large reinforcement of Loyalists, who, on the conclusion of peace between Great Britain and the United States, left their homes and all their property except what little they could carry with them, that they might enjoy, what was denied them in their native country, in the wilds of New Brunswick, the happiness of being under the British Constitution. A large number of these settled in the County of Sunbury, whose descendants now form a principal part of its population: and inheriting, as they generally do, the spirit that animated that noble band of unflinching adherents to the British Crown, are distinguished for their devoted attachment to British institutions.

With respect to our markets, I may observe, that the different lumbering parties in this and the adjoining Counties of Queen's and York, buy up a large portion of the surplus produce, for which they pay in the following summer, after the lumber has reached St. John. The remainder is sent to Fredericton and St. John, for the conveyance of which the daily steam boats in summer and fine roads on the ice in winter, afford abundant facilities. In this way every article of surplus produce meets a ready sale, and generally at highly remunerating prices.

Our farming statistics are not what they should be when we consider the rapidly improving condition of the country. Whilst in the United States labor-saving machines are used in every department of farm work, here the

hand hoe, rather than the plow, honors our fields. The farmer does us to the work of thrashing machines. He is not to be gaining much, however, as he has to do a great deal of *toil and sweat*.

The system of operations of improvement, with these operations, with equally practised.

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hand hoe, rake and flail, scythe and reaping hook still retain their ancient honors on most of our farms. Some few have so far overcome ancient prejudices as to employ the horse hoe and horse rake, by which one man can do the work of a dozen, and some few have introduced mowing, reaping and thrashing machines. During the past summer a large number of mowing machines have been introduced along the banks of the river, and appear to be gaining more favor among the people. The great mass of the people however, as Mr. Perley, whom I before quoted, expresses it, "*continue to toil and sweat it out in the old way.*"

The system of tillage, as well as the instruments by which the various operations of the farm are performed, has undergone generally but little improvement. Potatoes are still planted and tilled and dug, with few exceptions, with the hoe in the same way as they were fifty years ago, when *all these operations* might be performed at less than one-fourth the cost, and with equally good results. Shallow ploughing is also still very generally practised. Few plough deeper than four or five inches, thus affording their crops but a scanty range for the extension of their roots, which, if the soil was deeply tilled, would go eight or ten inches down in search of food, and would thus be much better prepared to withstand the effects of drought or excessive moisture. Draining too is very little attended to, and thus much valuable land, which a little labor would render highly productive, is so saturated with water during the early part of the season, that it never yields any thing of value.

With this imperfect system of management, we need not be surprised that our average crops are not more abundant. An intelligent and successful farmer in Burton gives the following as the average in that Parish: "In good seasons," he says, "our average crops are from the acre 18 bushels of wheat, 30 of oats, 200 of potatoes, 30 to 40 of buckwheat; rye, barley and peas are not much grown." In Maugerville and Sheffield the average is somewhat higher, oats may be put down at an average of 40 to 50, barley at 40, turnips, mangold wortzel and carrots at from 600 to 800. The fertility of the soil, in place of going on increasing, as it always will do under judicious treatment, is universally admitted to have materially diminished. All allow that the crops are not what they used to be. And when we think of the treatment the soil receives, we need not wonder at its diminished fertility. An old English farmer once remarked to me that his father used to say, "that land was the most honest thing in the world." "Treat it well," said he, "and it will treat you well; cheat it, and it will be sure to cheat you." Our farmers do not seem to understand this; for in place of returning a large portion of the proceeds of the soil to the shape of manure, as food for succeeding crops, the general system seems to have been, to sell every thing that could probably be spared and trust to the natural fertility of the soil to provide, as best it could, supplies for the production of future crops. Under this process of continued depletion, our rich intervals, which formerly yielded three tons of hay per acre, now scarcely average half that quantity; and other crops are reduced in proportion. Our farmers formerly entertained the notion that intervalle land was inexhaustible, and acting upon this principle their descendants are paying the penalty of their folly. Liebig speaks of some lands in Virginia so exceedingly rich in various alkalies that they continued for 100 years to produce abundant crops of wheat and tobacco; but the inevitable result, though long delayed, came at last. The rich supplies were exhausted and for many years past they have not been worth the labour of cultivation. Some of our richest lands are fast verging to the

same state. A venerable septuagenarian of Sheffield in reply to certain questions for information, in speaking of the early settlement of the country, says, "The new rich intervale produced exceedingly fine crops of grain and vegetables; corn, wheat, oats, flax or buckwheat, and superior grass, for more than twenty years. The system of rotation cropping or of manuring so as to prevent deterioration of the soil seems to have been unknown, or not practised until recently." He then goes on to say, "An intervale farmer asked my advice about a piece of meadow, which he knew I was well acquainted with as having been exceedingly fertile, but now very poor. To my enquiries as to how long since it had been ploughed or manured, he said, he believed it never had been ploughed or manured. This man was 56 years old, had been born on the farm, which he had inherited from his father. The soil was of the richest kind of intervale, and I well remember when it produced superior crops of corn, hay, oats and turnips." He then goes on to say, "I regret that such bad management and want of skill is too frequently apparent; a general belief prevailing that good intervale might be mowed annually, and closely pastured in the fall, without impoverishing it." I fear my friend Perley and his neighbors in Blissville are labouring under the same delusion. In reply to my enquiries respecting the rotation of crops in Blissville, he says, "Our farming is carried on without paying any particular attention to a regular rotation, as we think the same kinds of grain will produce successfully on the same piece of land twenty years in succession by a small application of manure. In this opinion I believe we will be sustained by some eminent farmers, although many think otherwise." Blissville may stand this depleting system for a few years longer; but the end must come.

As a natural consequence of this gradual deterioration of the soil, there has been a proportional falling off in the numbers and quality of farm stock. My Burton friend, from whose statement I quoted the average of crops for that Parish, and whose grey hairs testify his long experience, in speaking of stock says, "I can remember back 40 years well, and how was it with the stock at that time? Could we look into the farm yards of Jacob Loder, Holland Bridges, Jeremiah Burpee, James Taylor, Col. Miles, Samuel Nevers, and some others 40 years back, who were called good farmers at that time, we should see fine cows and large oxen that would girth over seven feet, well proportioned with heavy bodies and short legs. One of those oxen or cows was worth two that we now have. More butter and cheese was made in those days from one of these farms, than is made by four of our farmers now."

But this depleting and deteriorating system appears to have passed its nadir, *except in Blissville*, and we are beginning gradually to ascend the path of improvement. An idea seems now generally to prevail, the result of long and dear bought experience, that taking all the land can yield and giving back as little as possible is not, under any circumstances, the most profitable way of farming. Most farmers are beginning to see the propriety of adopting some sort of rotation of crops, though few carry it out into anything like a regular system. My Burton friend, whose opinions I have already twice quoted on other subjects, says, in reference to his own practice, "The meadow lands generally as soon as the grass begins to fail, which is in from 4 to 6 years, is, if possible, ploughed and *two crops* of oats or buckwheat taken, potatoes next well manured, and then laid down to grass with a crop of wheat or oats. From pasturo lands we take *two grain* crops and then lay down to pasture for 5 or 6 years."

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Manures too are much more highly prized than they formerly were, though much of their value is still lost by long and unnecessary exposure to the weather. Very few have, what every farmer ought to have, sheds to protect manure from the deteriorating effects of the sun and rain, or adopt any systematic measures for saving the liquid portions from running to waste. Not ten years ago a wealthy farmer in Sheffield, whose barn yard is near the bank of the river, had actually a drain cut across the road to convey all the liquids to the river; and as I have been told, had his straw thrown over the bank to get it out of his way. I had occasion to allude to this in lecturing on agriculture in that Parish some years ago, shortly after which I observed the drain was closed, nor have I since heard of straw having been thrown over the bank. In place of this wanton waste of fertilizers, many of our farmers now not only carefully preserve all they gather from the farm, but add largely to their stock by hauling black mud into their farm yards to absorb much that might otherwise be lost. Knowledge is increasing, and with it an improved practice in carrying out many of the details of the farm, but the extravagant price of farm labor is a very great impediment to any extensive plans of improvement.

In speaking of the past and present condition of the agriculture of the country, it may not be amiss to say a few words about the influence of Agricultural Societies.

The Sunbury Agricultural Society has had much to contend with from the apathy of its friends and the selfishness which has characterised most of its proceedings; yet notwithstanding these difficulties it has unquestionably been a means of accomplishing much good. Under its fostering care, during the nine years of my connection with it, root crops for feeding cattle, I think I may safely say, have increased tenfold. Ten years ago turnips, mangold wurtzel, and carrots were scarcely grown beyond what would supply the requirements of the table. But it is far otherwise now. The emulation excited by the premium list has induced our farmers to test the productive qualities of the soil, and the result has increased the anticipations of the most sanguine. The judges appointed to examine root crops in the field, after having measured the ground and weighed the roots, reported one year 43 tons of mangold wurtzel to the acre, and 33 tons of white Belgian carrots. Upon another occasion 24 bushels of wheat and 52½ bushels of oats respectively, were reported to have been threshed and measured from a measured half acre of ground. And at the Exhibition of the Sunbury Agricultural Society, this autumn, a Jenny Lind potato was exhibited that weighed three pounds, a long red mangold wurtzel 14½ lbs., and a Swedish turnip 21½ lbs. These are results that never would have been attained without the stimulus of competition, excited by the premium list of the Agricultural Society. Our horses, neat cattle, sheep, and swine have also been much improved within the last few years by an admixture of imported blood, introduced by the Agricultural Society. We have a number of pure short horns now in the county, both males and females, which thrive well on our intervalles, and promise to produce a still greater improvement by judicious crossing with our native breed. There is now a large number of growing grade short horns which have a very promising appearance. The annual exhibition of Agricultural Societies, when properly managed, cannot fail to produce a beneficial influence. Not only are the best samples of stock and produce brought together, that each may see what others have produced, and be thus excited to emulate their success; but what is not less important, farmers themselves are brought together to discuss their various topics of interest. They talk

to each other about their experiments and their results, suggest improvements and receive suggestions from others. Mind is brought into contact with mind, and they return home with increased knowledge, zeal, and energy to carry out their various plans of improvement.

Having given a brief outline of the past history and present condition of the agriculture of Sumbury, I may perhaps be permitted to offer a few suggestions resulting principally from my own personal experience.

During the thirty years that I have dabbled in agricultural pursuits, many books on theoretical and practical agriculture have been read, many of their suggestions tested, and many original experiments tried with decidedly favourable results, in the benefits of which I would wish others, who may have had less leisure and means for experimenting, to participate.

One of the most important conclusions to which my experience has led, is, that the present mode of feeding cattle is far from being the most profitable. Cattle are usually in this County confined to dry food during the whole of our long winter. Hay and straw compose their bill of fare from November till May, and on our intervals till June. Where hay is abundant and of good quality, and the farmer is not tempted by high prices to transfer too much of it to the camp of the lumberman or the barns of the citizens of Fredericton or St. John, his cattle get on pretty comfortably, and come out in the spring in fair condition; but where hay is scarce or of inferior quality, and straw is largely used, stock must, as a necessary consequence, *rapidly deteriorate*. I think it will be found an invariable rule that the *longer cattle are fed on straw the lighter they become*. Instead of young stock increasing, as they should do, largely through the winter, they will be found, when fed upon straw, smaller and lighter in May than they were in November. Even supposing they have good pasture during the summer, they must, under this treatment, rapidly degenerate. If we begin with good stock and expect to keep them up to their present standard, they must be well fed during the whole period of their growth. The young animal, especially the first year of its existence, must have an abundant supply of nourishing food, if we expect it to arrive at anything like excellence. But many of our close fistled money saving farmers may be ready to say, if I give my calves all their mothers milk for three or four months in place of stinting them for six or eight weeks, and then turning them to grass, I shall have very little butter and cheese for market. Be it so; go on nevertheless. Let your calves have plenty of new milk for four months, then give them plenty of good hay and half a bushel of roots each a day through the winter, and you will find each one of them at a year old worth two or three of the starvelings under your old system. After the first winter they will do well on straw and roots. I seldom feed hay at all during the winter to neat cattle, except calves. Even milk cows will do well and yield a fair quantity of milk on good straw with half a bushel of roots daily, which I allow to each animal until toward the end of March, when I commence giving hay and still continue the roots if the stock holds out. In this way a farmer can keep a much larger amount of stock in better condition and at less expense. The straw, in place of being used to *starve* the stock or thrown out into the yard for manure, as is usually done, may be largely employed in bringing forward valuable animals for the dairy or the butcher. The manure heaps, which may well be called the *Farmers Bank*, largely increased in quantity and improved in quality, will respond freely to his drafts when the root crops in the spring demand supplies.

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yield five hundred bushels of turnips, carrots or mangold wortzel. These, with straw, would feed six head of cattle from the 1st November till the middle of April. The manure made from this stock, if properly bedded with the straw that they will leave (for they ought not to be required to eat it all) will manure an acre of ground the next year: and this, with proper cultivation and a favorable season, will yield eight hundred bushels, which would feed nine animals during the same period the next winter. This will afford manure for an acre and a half the next season, and thus the stock and the root crops will act reciprocally upon each other, each increasing the quantity and quality of the other almost *ad libitum*. This system combined with a judicious rotation of crops, will not only keep up any farm that is worth cultivating in its present state of fertility, whatever that may be; but will improve its productiveness *every year*.

The rotation which I think best adapted to this County, *the Blissville farmers opinion to the contrary, notwithstanding*, is one of six years. The sod intended for next years crop should, if possible, be turned down this autumn. This may be sown next spring with oats or buckwheat, the stubble ploughed down after harvest, and should there be any old manure, which *I would not recommend any farmer to have*, unless it be compost made during the summer, let it be spread on the ground before it is ploughed. In the spring lay on a good dressing of manure, plough and mix it well with the soil before putting in your seed, and you may depend, with proper subsequent care in keeping down the weeds and loosening the soil, and God's blessing, upon from eight to ten hundred bushels of roots to the acre. Next in course will follow a good crop of wheat, barley, oats or buckwheat, with which the land is to be seeded down with a peck of timothy seed and 8 lbs. of red or 4 of Alsike clover to the acre. This will afford three good crops of hay and on the intervals four or five, when the same rotation should follow again. Fields which are kept principally for pasture may be grazed three years and cropped one, under which treatment both the pasture and grain crops will improve in quantity and quality. *Two grain crops in succession*, notwithstanding the practice of many of our farmers to the contrary, I consider *utterly inconsistent with profitable farming*.

Under the system here recommended I have renovated two worn out farms, one of which I tilled for twenty years and left it in a very high state of cultivation, yielding 1,000 bushels of turnips, 30 of wheat, and 2½ tons of hay as average crops per acre; the other, on which I now reside, during the eight years that I have tilled it, has, without any extraneous aid, about doubled the value of its products.

I cannot conclude without saying a few words about *lumbering farmers*. At least two-thirds of the male population of Sunbury (Mr. Perley says it is fully three-fourths in Blissville) are engaged more or less during the winter season in lumbering. Their attention is thus taken away from their farms during the early spring, when every energy should be directed to preparation for putting in the crop; and consequently, when they do begin late in the season, everything has to be hastily and slovenly done. And what they do grow is not allowed to remain to fertilize their farms. Their hay and oats, in place of being consumed on the farm, to keep up its fertility, is consumed in the woods and left there to fertilize the denizens of the forest. Their farms are thus starved and must eventually starve them in return. They may, some of them, get a little more ready money at present, but this must be at the expense of their future prospects. The same amount of labor employed in clearing and enriching their farms would in ten years

afford much greater profits, besides putting them in a position of being independent in future. It is an old adage that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and to nothing is this more applicable than to the cultivation of the soil. One thing at a time is as much as any one can properly and profitably attend to. Let the farmer attend to his farm, and the lumberer to his logs, and both will get on much better. Almost any honest employment, if diligently and skilfully followed, will afford a comfortable and respectable living. A lady in England, wishing to put her son to business, asked Rothschild what department of business he would recommend his engaging in. "Oh, anything," said he, "let him sell matches. It is as good as anything, if well followed up; *but let him stick to one thing.*" Do one thing, steadily, diligently, perseveringly, and success is almost inevitable.

## A G R I

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SECOND PRIZE ESSAY,  
ON THE  
AGRICULTURAL HISTORY AND CONDITION  
OF  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

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In no instance is the indomitable energy of the Anglo-Saxon race more marked than in the wrestling with wild nature, and subduing her to subserve their wishes and purposes. No obstacle of a material kind presents now an insurmountable barrier to their progress; victory upon victory has been obtained; the rude forest has given place to the flourishing city; the barren plain, the rocky soil, the inhospitable land, as well as the richest and fairest regions, have been occupied by the sons of Old England, and, in times of extremest emergency, their stout hearts have proved their fitness for the arduous struggles to which they have so often been called. It may be conjectured that there are comparatively few who are at all aware of the trials of the first settlers in this Province, and was this essay not *mainly confined to agricultural objects*, interesting information might be given illustrative of their endurance; and if the compass of this essay would permit, great pleasure would be experienced in making honorable mention of the early settlers in the respective parishes of this County, and what by them has been accomplished; but this I can do but in part and in a cursory manner.

It will be also borne in mind that this essay will not purport to enter into details concerning other branches of industry, apart from agriculture, and if the writer, by this small means, can succeed in attracting a fuller attention to the all important subject of agriculture he will have an ample reward.

The Provincial Board of Agriculture, in acting on the suggestion of their able Secretary, do well in endeavoring to obtain every information, in the capacity of individuals to render, as to the agricultural history of the several counties in this Province, and however imperfect such in cases may be, it yet may tend to rescue from oblivion some incidents which are locked up in the memory of the few and aged pioneers, who, with loyal hearts and brave arms, have done much in giving to the present active generation, as a prepared heritage, one of the fairest and most eligible Provinces, all things considered, upon which the sun has ever shone, and by their conduct teaching the present and future settlers lessons of contentment, patient endurance, and conscientious discharge of duty.

The County of Charlotte is situated on the South-west corner of the Province of New Brunswick. "On the South it is bounded by the Bay of

Fundy; West by the River St. Croix and the Western shore of the Bay of Passamaquoddy; East by the line running true North, thirty miles from Point Lepreau, and surveyed by Deputies Wilkinson and Mahood, A. D. 1845; and North by the line running true West from the termination of the last mentioned line, including all the Islands adjacent thereto, and the Island of Grand Manan and the Islands adjacent to it." The Comty of Charlotte received its designation and limit by letters patent in the year 1785, then being under the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia. In the first session of our Provincial Legislature in 26 George III., A. D. 1786, the Comty was divided into Parishes, viz.—St. Andrews, St. Stephen, St. David, St. Patrick, St. George, Pennfield, and West Isles, the latter consisting of Deer Island, Campobello Island, Grand Manan Island, Moose Island, Frederick Island, and Dudley Island, with the lesser contiguous Islands.

In the year 1803, 43 George III., Campobello Island was constituted a separate Parish, and in the year 1816, 56 George III., Grand Manan Island was erected into a separate Parish. In 1856 St. Patrick Parish was divided and Dunbarton Parish formed from it, and in 1857 the Parish of Lepreau was formed from Pennfield Parish.

The Comty contains 783,360 acres, of which about 466,000 are ungranted. It possesses much beauty of scenery. The various inlets from the lovely Passamaquoddy Bay, studded with islands, add greatly to the picturesque, while in the more inland parts, high hills and fine rivers give variety to the view. From many of the high hills, especially near St. Andrews, the most splendid panoramic views may be obtained. The Comty generally is hilly and undulating. The chief rivers are the Digdegnash and the Magaguadavic, falling into the Passamaquoddy Bay, and the river St. Croix falling into the Bay of Fundy. On these rivers Saw Mills are erected, where vast quantities of lumber are manufactured. There are numerous smaller rivers, which are important as possessing valuable Mill privileges, among which we may mention the Lepreau River, in Lepreau Parish known as Reynold's Mill, which is one of the finest Mill streams in the Province, as also the New River in same Comty, known as Prescott and Lawrence Mill. The value of these respective rivers, coupled with the easy access to lumber for same, has only within the last six years been fully appreciated, and turned to such good account that Reynold's Mill has manufactured some eight million feet of lumber, and the Prescott & Lawrence Mill some six million feet annually. Many settlers have by such means been attracted to Lepreau, and the wilderness is becoming speedily cleared in the Northern end of this Parish, where application for new settlements have been recently made. These rivers possess the immense advantage of being free from the devastating results of high freshets, full space being given for the free expansion of their waters.

The stratified rocks of the Comty, in general, consist of Slate rocks, whilst here and there are immense trap dykes thrown up, which have broken through the regularity of the strata. Granite, of good quality, is found in considerable tracts. The Island of Grand Manan presents specimens of the Columnar Basalt. Limestone is found in considerable quantities on a peninsula in the Parish of St. George, near L'Etang Harbor, where large quantities of Lime are annually manufactured. By the census of 1851 the value of Lime manufactured is put down at £15,100. Indications of Lead have been found on the Island of Campobello, and Gray Sulphuret of Copper on the shores of the Bay of Fundy. The presence of other minerals is in-

dicated by the geological features, yet imperfect examination has shown that Charlotte From the number of settlers, known to the country of the time of settlement, the Little River, the Sorrel Ridge, the valleys of settlement.

The population in 1838, but this is so far as the census is taken. The statistics from 1840, 18,178; and 1834 of 6,1851 of 1,760. It has been in population 1834. The figures from 1840 to the latter may be taken from the census of that

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1851  
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The chief town, which is situated on the coast, is possessed among the most fertile soil forward with the road, which has in order, to an extent again being established. Brewery, St. Stephen, twenty miles from the coast of Maine. A very important as a

dedicated by the qualities of some of the Springs, but the geological and mineralogical features of the County, as indeed of much of the Province, are as yet imperfectly known. We hope attention will be more fully called to their examination. According to the investigations of Dr. Gesner it would appear that Charlotte County possesses its share of valuable minerals and metals. From the undulatory character of the County we find the different localities of settlers, known as Ridges, sometimes distinguished by the names of country of the first settlers, or the character of the soil, or its products, or the time of settlement. Thus we have in St. Stephen Parish the Old Ridge, the Little Ridge, &c.; in St. James Parish the Basswood Ridge, the Pomeroy Ridge, the Scotch Ridge, &c.; in St. Patrick the Whittier's Ridge, the Sorrel Ridge, &c. Along the Digdegnash and Magagnadavic Rivers are the valleys of same name, possessing fine alluvial soil, capable of high cultivation.

The population of the County, by the census of 1851, is set down at 19,938, but this may be considered an under estimate, as it is submitted that, so far as the Parish of St. Stephen is concerned, the census was not sufficiently taken. The progressive population may be learned from the following statistics from census of 1824 to 1851. In 1824, 9,269; in 1834, 15,852; in 1840, 18,178; in 1851, 19,938. Shewing a numerical increase between 1824 and 1834 of 6,583, between 1834 and 1840 of 2,326, and between 1840 and 1851 of 1,760. It will thus be seen that the progressive increase has not been in proportion with the increase of the first ten years, between 1824 and 1834. The following table will show the increase of the respective Parishes from 1840 to 1851, and an actual decrease in the Parish of St. Stephen, which latter may be accounted for from the before mentioned suggestion, that the census of that parish was under estimated.

	St. Andrews.	St. Stephen.	St. George.	St. James.	St. David.	St. Patrick.	Pennfield.	West Isles.	Campobello.	Grand Manan.
1851	3910	2868	2943	1756	1681	2263	1213	1252	865	1187
1840	3682	3405	2422	1155	1609	2013	1043	1128	718	1003
Increase.	228	—	521	601	72	250	170	124	147	184
Decrease.	—	537	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The chief towns and villages in this County are St. Andrews, the Shire Town, which some thirty years ago was a most flourishing place, and possessed among its first settlers many able and enterprising merchants. It is at present in a somewhat depressed state, and the inhabitants are looking forward with anxious and long exercised hope to the completion of the Railroad, which has its starting point there, and is now completed and in running order, to an extent of 65 miles, and notwithstanding its many suspensions is again being energetically proceeded with. There is in this town a Steam Brewery, Steam Saw Mill, and Iron Foundry.

St. Stephen, a beautiful village lying on the banks of the St. Croix, about twenty miles above St. Andrews, and directly opposite to Calais, in the State of Maine. About four miles below St. Stephen is situated the Ledge, important as a place where vessels of the largest burthen can harbour with

safety: from this place most of the lumber is shipped in large vessels to England.

In order to the prosperity of St. Stephen an alteration or exemption from the export duty laws, so far as this port is concerned, is imperatively called for, otherwise the chief shipping, with its accompanying business, will be at Calais: the shipping duties there being so much less.

The Village of Milltown, situated about two miles above St. Stephen, on the River St. Croix. This is a thriving place, and the numerous saw, last, shingle and lath machines afford employment to a large number of men. Further up river, about three miles above Milltown, is situated Baring or Upper mills, where the saw mills afford a like employment to the inhabitants.

There are corresponding villages on the American side of the St. Croix, and the most friendly relations are established between the places: while the one side is thoroughly English in habits, manners, and taste, and the other as completely American.

St. George Town,—This is likewise a lumber manufacturing place, with numerous saw mills situated on the Magagnadavic. A powder mill has also been here erected. Further up is the Upper Mills Village, where considerable business is done in the manufacture of lumber.

The Scotch, Pomeroy, and Basswood Ridges, before named. These are situated in the western part of St. James' Parish, and were about fifty years ago settled by emigrants from the Highlands of Scotland, and who, with their descendants, have ever preserved their national character for industry, loyalty, and religion. Extensive clearings have been made in these localities, and the utmost harmony has ever prevailed among them in all their operations and designs. There is also a considerable settlement in same Parish, called Oak Hill, of like industrious settlers.

The Baillie Settlement—This place is also in Parish of St. James, in the eastern part—so called from the intervention of the late Surveyor General, Thomas Baillie, having obtained for the settlers their grant of land. This place was settled chiefly by emigrants from the North of Ireland, about thirty years ago. It is known also by the name of Irish Settlement. The inhabitants are of a superior class, in comfortable circumstances: and these settlements each afford a most striking example of the benefits of a healthy emigration of associated persons to same locality.

To the Eastward of St. Andrews there are many smaller but flourishing settlements occupied by industrious people, and we may remark that the County of Charlotte is well settled both in regard to the numbers and character of inhabitants; numerous comfortable dwellings are to be seen along the bye-roads that intersect the County.

The first settlement of the County of Charlotte may be said to have commenced in the year 1784, when several individuals from the 71st Regiment, and other loyalists came from Nova Scotia, New York, Massachusetts, and adjoining places, three of whom, viz: William and Tristram Moore, of the respective ages of 80 and 86, settlers in St. David's Parish, and John Dinsmore, of St. Stephen, still survive.

Some of these sturdy loyalists, desirous of maintaining allegiance to the British flag, formed themselves into a body by the name of the *Cape Ann Association*, having hailed from that locality. During their first summer of the year above named, their time was occupied with surveyors in selecting land for settlement, which, when accomplished a grant by the above name was made. As the loyalists came, and either as companies or individuals selected their locations, grants were issued accordingly.

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The Penobscot Association grant embraces a large tract of country on the Diglequash River, settled by loyalists from Penobscot, in 1784.

Among the many worthy individuals who formed the Cape Ann Association the name of William Moore—father of William and Tristram Moore, before named—is peculiarly deserving of notice, he was, perhaps, the most exemplary and successful of the settlers—numbering about twelve families at that time. Mr. Moore selected his farm about four miles back of what is now called Oak Bay, in the Parish of St. David, where he at once with a most praiseworthy determination, commenced his preparations for farming in the spring of 1785. Mr. Moore was accompanied by his sons and several hired men; the usual first operation of cutting down trees and burning, preparatory to the thorough clearing of the land, was at once proceeded with, and so well was the work performed, and so productive was the virgin soil, that in the harvest of the succeeding year a crop was taken of over two hundred bushels of grain of different sorts, the yield of wheat being thirty bushels to the acre, and other grain in like proportion; five hundred bushels of potatoes, together with large quantities of turnips, beans, peas, &c. This was the first crop taken from the soil of the County of Charlotte, by the loyalist settlers, of which I have been able to learn. The succeeding year an abundant crop of hay filled the newly erected barn, and the wilderness gave place to the well stocked farm yard. At this time it was found most profitable to raise spring wheat, then and for many subsequent years a sure crop.

To the settlers who adopted farming as their business, the means for grinding the grain were soon made available. A grist mill was erected on the site now known as Moore's Mills; the whole undertaking however, before its completion devolved upon Mr. Moore, who alone, of all the settlers, had courage and steadfastness to overcome the many obstacles to such a task, in so disadvantageous circumstances. Some idea of the difficulties experienced in the work, may be conceived from the fact, that about £500 had to be expended in preparatory operations before a board was cut for the mill. Mr. Moore had, with wise forethought, brought with him millstones and irons for the purpose, and in due time his mill was erected, and proved an inestimable privilege to the settlers.

The names of those who came with Mr. Moore as settlers, are William Vance, Thomas McLaughlin, Reuben Smith, David Clendinning, Samuel Thomas, Josiah Hitchings, Francis Norwood, Nathaniel Parsons, and Daniel McAllister. About fourteen heads of families from same place, with Mr. Moore, settled about same time as he did, along the shore of the St. Croix and its inlets, many of whom have left in common with the worthy settlers in other portions of the County, the heritage of their good name to their children. The names of these settlers are Edmund Doherty, James Thompson, James Nicholson, Zebediah Luiken, John McMullen, John Lily, Joshua Bobb, William Gallop, John Leeman, Luther Dany, Alexander Paterson, John Jordan, Jacob Young, John Hopps.

One of the great helps to the sustenance of the settlers—and indeed without which it is difficult to conceive how they could have succeeded—was the abundance of fish which swarmed in the river. In the St. Croix River at the Cove, (so called in St. Stephen) frequently two hundred barrels of gaspereaux were taken in a night, likewise abundance of shad and salmon, the export of which became quite a remunerative business, and by the exchange and returns, afforded material benefit to the settlers. It is to be much regretted that due precautionary measures were not maintained to

have preserved from now total destruction, from saw dust and drift, this valuable source of income, and strict attention been given to the providing sufficient fish ways.

Few of the early pioneers attended mainly to the business of farming. Lumbering was the great attraction, and so thriving a business was it, that in the year 1815 two hundred men and sixty teams were employed in the neighbourhood of Moore's Mills in procuring square timber. St. Andrew's harbour was in these days a busy scene, whitened, as it often was, with the sails of thirty vessels waiting for their cargoes to England or the West Indies. The English Navy contract gave great stimulus to the lumber business, masts from the stately pine were procured, measuring 109 feet in length, 4 feet in butt, and so well proportioned that at height of 70 feet they would measure three feet in diameter; whilst some were obtained for yards measuring in length 116 feet. It is an interesting fact that the Hon. President of the Legislative Council was among the number who in those days helped to fell the pine, near where now stands the City of Cahoon. So lucrative was the business of lumbering that it became the all absorbing occupation. Wherever the readiest chance was offered for its purposes, settlements were made, and its pecuniary returns were speedy. All necessaries for consumption were readily supplied by the numerous vessels that awaited their cargoes of lumber; whilst what was needed for wants which the ground could supply, was rendered, without much effort, in cultivating the soil to produce it.

The County of Charlotte, with its forests unsurpassed in richness and variety, presented irresistible attractions. Lumbering was the absorbing business, and from that time to the present, the inhabitants have been slow to learn that it was ever capable of being other than a place for hewers of wood. Agriculture, under such circumstances, made little progress as a skillful and scientific pursuit; much hard labour however, has been bestowed in all the Parishes, by many settlers, in the clearing of the land; and it is with much interest that I have listened to the narrative of the arduous work of laboring the most forbidding soil, by one early and familiar settler in this County, who so long and ably has filled the office of legislator in his adopted Country, and like a second Cincinnatus called thereto from the plough. In all the Parishes of the County there is a fair proportion of good arable land, and farming operations are greatly on the increase; large and well cultivated fields now frequently meet the eye; luxuriant crops of turnips may be seen around the frontier portions of St. Andrews Parish and elsewhere. There are many acres of land in the County, peculiarly adapted to the raising of the grasses; I refer to the various cedar and alder swamps, which, by a very little attention and outlay, in ditching and draining, might be made most remunerative. Attention has been heretofore directed, in most parts, to the clearing of the high lands.

Farming properly, so called, with some exceptions, is far from being rightly practised. The capabilities of the soil, by proper manuring and cultivation, have never been fully tested; draining is scarcely known, although now attention is being directed to its importance. The system of rotation of crops—from imprudence and want of management—it has been inconvenient to practice; ploughing has too often been little better than scratching the soil; the making and saving of manure has been little understood, and strangely neglected; the superiority of pure bred stock has not been appreciated; the necessity of properly housing and caring for cattle, has been, and still is shamefully and cruelly neglected. Nearly all such may be traced to the circumstance, that farming as a means of subsistence has not been

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relied upon. The rich returns from former lumbering operations, still extend their now injurious effects, to its proper and steady pursuit. Necessity heretofore had not compelled the settler to do the best he could with his land; he goes but a divided attention to all matters relating to a profitable husbandry; the pursuit of agriculture has been rather in the nature of a makeshift for the time being, and the farm held on to with so slight a hold, that its possessor in many cases has been ready to abandon it at the suggestion of every roving adventurer. Such having been too much the case, discontent has prevailed; farming would not pay; the fault has been laid on the land; the County and farming cried down.

This leads us to notice the consequent emigration which for the last ten years has been going on to a large and alarming extent, as may be judged from the decrease from the progressive increase in population before alluded to. Many individuals in this County owning therein good farms, capable with proper ordinary attention, of rendering a competency, have sold them far below their value, have gone to sunnier regions, where experience has taught her salutary lessons, and the wanderer has been fortunate, if, from wasted means, he has had enough spared to enable him to return to his country again, happy to teach the lessons of contentment, and exercise his influence in staying others from leaving their farms, as well as bearing his testimony, that farming, when properly conducted, in this County will pay. It was not to be expected that immigration, under such circumstances, would take place. If men of means desired to settle in the County, they would naturally be deterred, if guided by the conduct of those already settled in it. Hence, while men of capital and agricultural skill have poured into Canada and the United States, this County at least has been passed by.

Now is it the fact that Charlotte County is no place for farmers? We concur in the assertion, that there are many countries, where nature with a more lavish hand, will give to the husbandman a more abundant harvest, and with the expenditure of less labour and means; but it is likewise true that there are few places that present a more favorable chance for the poor man succeeding by his farm, *all things considered*, as this County. Some capital in money is needed; but where is not this the case? On the other hand it is also true that land is cheap and payable on easy terms—few taxes imposed, climate healthy and favorable to the growth of almost every crop, and peculiarly so for some; possessing ready markets for barter or cash. All that would seem to be wanting to ensure success, is a spirit of contentment, coupled with well directed energy, providence and economy in management.

On comparing the statistical returns of produce of the various Counties of the Province, it appears that Charlotte County has an equal average, and on some crops, such as potatoes and Indian corn, a greater yield. The market prices compare favorably. Lumbering being carried on so extensively, a large demand is made for produce, especially hay; whilst the same business affords to the small farmer an opportunity of earning some ready cash, from his labour in the woods. But what has been, and still is to a great extent, the agricultural condition of the County? We have said that the land is fitted to raise average crops with most of the other counties; but this in many cases tells of the virgin productiveness of the soil,—not the yield by agricultural skill: where land has been cultivated aright, the annual return has been beyond that obtained from same land after the immediate clearing and burning: the value of manure; the saving and composting of same, has been little understood; imperfect buildings for cattle, with numbers, seem to be of no account; in short, the whole story of the agricultural condition

of the County, so far as the pursuit of farming as a business is concerned, may be summed up by saying that *in general*, as yet, it is *secondary* and *subsidiary* to other business.

Necessity, and the lessons of experience, are now, however, making considerable alteration for the better; the lumbering business is now being found very precarious; those engaged in it finding, that one year with another, they do not gain any headway, but rather are losers; attention is being gradually turned to the more sober engagement of agriculture, and the permanent improvement of the farm, and the occupant learning to be content with the slower but surer returns from the same; careful economy and steadfastness are felt to be requisite to success; whilst from the many who had emigrated to other lands, but now returned, the tale is told in sometimes sad and sobered accents, that they have seen no place in which steady industry can be better rewarded, both in competence and happiness, than in the home they had left; and to which they had been glad to return.

Good is thus being brought out of evil; a fresh energy is being instilled, and contentment settling down upon the inhabitants, and a healthy tone of feeling fast taking the place of complaint and depreciation. The several markets in the chief towns of the County afford an opportunity for the sale of superfluous produce, to which places there are in every direction good communication by means of well built roads, whilst in prospect there is the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad, which, when in active operation, will prove an inestimable privilege in the transit of produce for the settlements along its line; and situated as the County is on the borders of Maine, no small advantage is thus possessed by the ready market which Calais presents.

We turn now to the mention of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions. The benefits of such are marked in *inculcating* and *preserving a spirit of agriculture*. In this County there are at present four Agricultural Societies, all of which are in a flourishing condition. The oldest of these is the "Charlotte County Society," established since 1820; the other societies, of more recent date, are the "St. Croix Agricultural Society," the "St. George and Pennfield Society," and the "St. Patrick Central Society," embracing in their compass the four divisions of the County, and as a large community is comprised in each division, and distant from each other at their nearest central point some twenty miles, it will appear quite necessary that there should exist this number. Comprising, as these societies do, members of all professions and business, the important avocation and respectable character of the farmer is upheld; emulation loosens the purse strings of the more wealthy, desirous of possessing and exhibiting the best breeds of stock, which, when seen, exercise their influence. The higher the standard of comparison is raised, the more has the farmer striven to obtain the knowledge requisite to produce good results, and the very labor in its attainment tends to make him appreciate his calling. It will not be sufficient, however, to rest satisfied with the exhibitions of stock and produce, Model Farms require also to be presented to view. Very much of the success of agriculture, and the instilling a proper agricultural spirit throughout the community, must depend on *individual exertion and enterprise*. Men of means and taste for agriculture are called upon to present in the superior farming, stock, machinery, buildings, &c., a test and stimulus to the farmer; an agricultural education of the most convincing kind is thus afforded. The agricultural spirit, we hope in time, will merge the mercenary one of desiring premiums to be awarded in money.

Attention has not yet been sufficiently turned towards the importance of Labor Saving Machines. The high price of labor is a great drawback to suc-

cessful farming. The incumbent on such machine owners is that they are beyond the limits of the Province. I think that Agriculture is showing the way to the manufacture of the laborer, aside from any other means by all who are determined to secure the premium and bestowal of the Saving Machine. I suggest, that the award, to be used, what price some practical farmer would be far it would be for the exhibition cultivated farm, the greatest improvement.

Now that the culture—a machine suggestions will be the best interest.

The County they are in the bestow the success attend that fortune will be true as regard professional lumbering and the in order to succeed more necessary, a narrative year's having an interest in the work of establishing a patriotism of the well directed Agriculture. through them helping hand where it is desired a wise and liberal that agricultural factories and of Agriculture rolls, a more favorable cultural condition.

cessful farming. It may be worthy of consideration how far it should be incumbent on every Agricultural Society, receiving Provincial aid, to have such machines, to be let out for slight hire. The introduction of such machines is the best way of manifesting their utility. As the price of such are beyond the means of most of our poor farmers, it would seem the peculiar province of societies to assist in this respect. I am much disposed to think that Agricultural Exhibitions have accomplished their main design in shewing the capabilities of the soil and such like. The farmer has now learned that to raise the best produce, to keep the best stock, and to manufacture the best goods, is worthy in a pecuniary view of his utmost exertion, aside from any prospective gain. What now is most wanted is, encouragement by all aids to the farmers who are in straitened circumstances, but who are determined to live by their farms. The large annual expenditure of premium money might be much more profitably applied to the purchase and bestowal of good seeds, artificial manures, and the introduction of labor Saving Machines, made available on easy terms. It may be also worthy of suggestion, that it be made incumbent on those to whom premiums may be awarded, to narrate how the particular produce was raised, what manure used, what preparation of soil, cost of labor, and such like particulars, that some practical good may be gained. It is also worthy of consideration how far it would be expedient, in localities populous enough, to have local Fairs, for the exhibition and sale of stock, produce, &c. Premiums for the best cultivated farms might also have a most beneficial effect, as also for the greatest improvement in stock, or its introduction.

Now that the Legislature have instituted a Provincial Board of Agriculture—a machinery much wanted—it may be looked for that many practical suggestions will from time to time be made, and carried out, conducive to the best interests of agriculture.

The County of Charlotte possesses men of sturdy arm and enduring spirit; they are inured to the hardest toil, and if once they can be induced to bestow the same diligence and labor on the farm as they have in the woods and on the stream, they will not be long in discovering that a more lasting success attends their toil and perseverance. They must learn, however, that fortune will not favor a *divided and distracted attention*; a statement true as regards also the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant, or the professional man. The time is close at hand when, in this County, the lumbering and the farming interest must become distinct, and be preserved so, in order to success in either. The interests of agriculture are daily becoming more necessary to be attended to. Lumbering is more difficult and less remunerative year by year. In order, then, to prevent depopulation, all persons having an interest in the country are imperatively called upon to help on in the work of establishing the basis of a country's prosperity, be it from motives of patriotism or selfishness. Much also will doubtless be accomplished by the well directed labors of the several members of the Provincial Board of Agriculture. The wants and requirements of the several Counties may through them become better known, and we feel assured that a ready and helping hand will be at all times extended by our Government to afford aid where it is deserved, to develop resources now only partially known, and by a wise and liberal patronage and protection prove to the Counties at large that agriculture is the main stay of every country, and the precursor of manufactures and commerce. Such being the hoped for case, the Provincial Board of Agriculture will, ere long, be enabled to prepare, from essays on their rolls, a more favorable tale than in this imperfect one is given, of the agricultural condition of the County of Charlotte.

