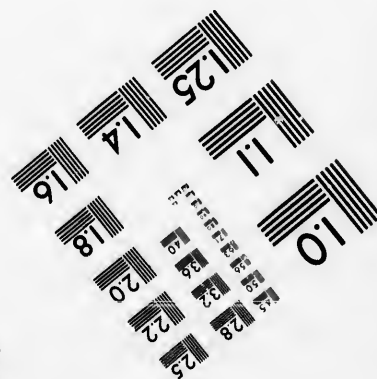
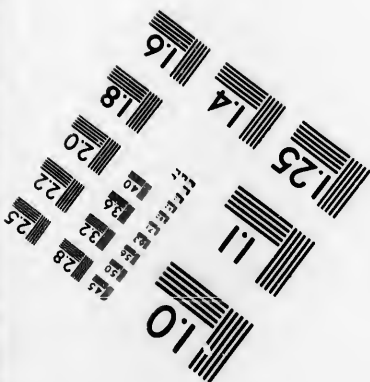
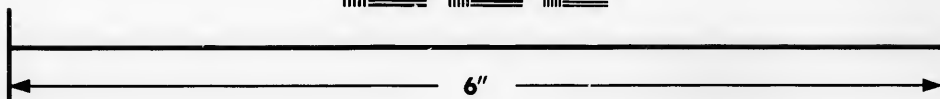
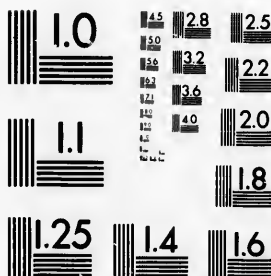


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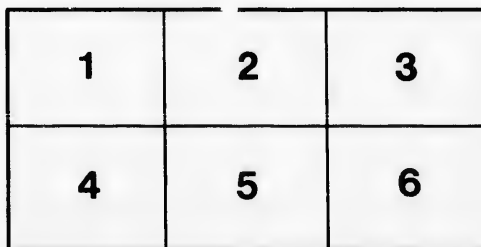
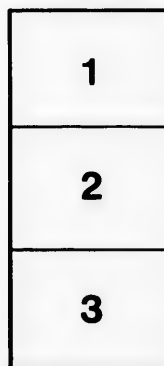
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AN
ADDRESS
DELIVERED
BY THE
HON. P. H. MOORE,
PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
FOR THE
COUNTY OF MISSISQUOI,
AT THE
ANNUAL FAIR,
HELD AT
STANBRIDGE, ^{Que} UPPER MILLS,
(Windsor)
ON THE
THIRTEENTH SEPTEMBER,
1859.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Agricultural Association for the County of Missisquoi, it was—

Resolved, That the President, the Hon. Mr. Moore, be requested to deliver an Address, at the Fair, Sept. 13th, 1859.

At a meeting of the above Directors, on the 14th of September, it was—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board are due to the Hon. P. H. Moore, for his able Address, and that a copy thereof is requested for publication.

Signed,

H. O. MEIGS,
Secretary, Treasurer.

Jones

A D D R E S S .

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—We have met together on this occasion, for the Annual Exhibition of our Agricultural Society, for this County.

The presence of ladies, and their countenance and support, never fails to inspire confidence, stimulate and encourage whatever they patronize. And allow me, to bespeak your kind offices, in aid of our Society. I thank you for your presence, and greet you welcome.

I regret extremely that the time, since I was requested, by the Directors, to write an address for this occasion, has been so short. And I also deeply regret, that my place is not occupied by some one, better qualified with the powers of eloquence, and high attainments, to do justice to the subject, upon which I am about to address this numerous and most respectable assemblage.

power Though humble, and inadequate, as I acknowledge my ~~power~~ to be, I will yield to no one, in a sincere desire to promote and encourage, the development of

the resources of our country. And as I regard Agriculture as the basis, upon which trade, commerce, manufactures, and all industrial pursuits mainly rest; I esteem Agricultural associations, as perhaps *one* of the best means, if maintained and carried on in the right spirit, to advance this important interest, to stimulate farmers, and excite a spirit of emulation among them in the cultivation of their farms, and the rearing of stock, and domestic animals. It also serves to concentrate their powers, and bring the influence of the Agricultural community, to bear upon matters, that are so nearly and intimately connected with their material prosperity. Consequently, by this means, the interests of the whole country, are materially advanced.

When Agriculture as a science (for it is now admitted to rank among the sciences)—and as a profession, shall assume that station and position to which it is entitled, then hundreds, I may say thousands, of young men, who are now crowding the different professions, and seeking their way in all the avenues of trade, in mercantile pursuits: will find employment in the more useful, and equally honorable occupation of Agriculture. The more fully and clearly to illustrate the above sentence, I quote the language of Mr. Hut-
 ton, who says: “that the very nature of the farmer’s occupation, which leads him daily and hourly to contemplate the surpassing beauties of the animal and vegetable kingdom—and their striking adaptation to the wants and requirements of man, lead him more than the townsman, more than the mechanic, more than men of any other occupation, to look through nature up to nature’s God: to admire his works and to

look with grateful dependence to *Him*, for the continual supply of his bounty." The beautiful vicissitudes of the ever going and returning seasons, and the constant variations of climate remind him, above all others, that though Paul may plant and Apollos water, it is God that giveth the increase. And is not this the great advantage of a farmer's life? Do not our Jails and our Law courts attest the fact that above all others, the farmer's life, is the moral, and therefore the happy life? If he is a benefactor of his country who causes two blades of grass to grow, where only one grew before, how useful and materially important must be the life of the intelligent farmer. Agriculture, I may say, is of divine origin; in the beginning of the world the first man Adam, was sent forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground. And a divine decree was made, that he, and his descendants should from thence forth live, by tilling the ground.

Having thus briefly, and I may add imperfectly, sketched the importance of Agriculture—the humanizing and moral influence it exerts upon society—as a calling none more honorable—the basis, as well as key stone of the arch, upon which all other branches of industry and mercantile interests mainly rest; I shall now proceed to direct your attention to such a mode of cultivating our soil, as is, in my humble judgement, best adapted to our soil and climate; in connexion with our markets.

This branch of my subject I approach with great diffidence—when I see before me so many intelligent, practical farmers, who are better qualified to give, than I am to impart, instruction.

My first proposition, principal, and precept, is, industry, well directed. The old couplet by Dr. Johnson, written many years since, is still true and applicable: he said—

“He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive.”

A certain amount of physical exertion is necessary, to a healthful and vigorous state of the mental faculties. It is not only vigor of mind and body that is promoted by labor; but food and sleep are better enjoyed. There are seasons and periods, when the farmer has a respite, from his active labors. Seed time, and harvest, in this climate occupies only about four months of the year. During our winters, and at other seasons of the year, leisure time is afforded for cultivating the mind, and for the enjoyment of innocent amusements, perhaps to a greater extent than is afforded by any other calling, or profession. I here repeat a remark of one, well qualified to judge—“No pursuit has such a variety of interests—nor can any business, or profession vie with it in happiness and independence. The intelligent farmer has every day, some fresh incident, some new progress to observe. The advancement of his crops, the condition of his stock, and the result of his experiments. His life is passed, in the midst of all that should make it agreeable—its attractions are felt by the highest, and it is a calling that never degrades. No profession, or occupation, can compare with it in these respects. Without affording large profits, it begins by giving much that large profits, and years of labor, end with.

How true this remark! How many of our intelligent men engaged in speculations, and large mercantile operations, who toil hard, rise early, take late rest, and eat the bread of carefulness; after years of toil and labor, by some unfortunate speculation or event, lose all. Agriculturists—the farmers, are emphatically the bone and sinew of the country. They give strength and action, physically, to the whole organization.— They are always found in the foremost ranks in defence of the rights of their country, and liberty.

It is an emphatic truth that “knowledge is power;” a good practical education is essentially necessary—combined with reading—to the development, and successful cultivation of the soil. The science of chemistry, has of late years, been of great service in elucidating the mysteries of nature. In the vegetable kingdom; by analyzing the properties they contain and also by an analysis of the different grains and plants it is ascertained and proved to a demonstration what soils are best adapted to the growth and production of the different grains and vegetables. And also what properties are wanting, which must be supplied by the intelligent husbandman.

By a continual growing, year after year, of the same kind of crops, upon the same piece of land, that quality of the soil, necessary for the production of that crop, becomes exhausted. Therefore, to retrieve the soil, and allow nature to regain that exhausted property, the land must be allowed to rest: or a rotation of crops substituted—which of late years has been adopted in England, with much success. To understand these things properly, and effectually, to carry them

out, to practical results; the mind must be disciplined to reading and study. Hence the great necessity of a good practical education; which the young men, (and all classes) in our community, have every facility to obtain, in the educational institutions, within the limits of our *own* County—which does great credit to the founders and supporters of those Institutions.

I am not one of those who rely implicitly upon what is called, Book farming. The great and fundamental principles in the science of Agriculture, are unquestionably correct, and every word written and published in accordance with those unerring principles, is a fact established, a great truth promulgated. But we should receive and adopt, with some caution, much that is published in England, Ireland, Scotland, and even in the United States, with reference to our mode of cultivation. Many of those writers are theorists; what we require is theoretical science, based upon practical knowledge, as best adapted to our soil and climate, the expense of labor, and what productions will pay us *best* in our markets, in proportion to the cost of producing them.

In England, and upon the continent of Europe generally, their system of under draining with tile, costs from twenty to thirty dollars per acre, where labor is cheap. Now it is evident, in this country, where labor is dear, and our lands of less value, we could not generally adopt this system of draining.

I wish to be distinctly understood, that I am an advocate for draining the lands that we cultivate thoroughly; but I leave every intelligent farmer, to adopt his own method—provided he does the draining.

I am led to make these remarks, merely to show that the system adopted in the old countries, and in some parts of the United States, are not adapted in every particular, to this section of country.

Missisquoi, and the eastern townships, generally, are better adapted to grazing; and the production of the coarse grains; although wheat can be, and is, produced in great perfection (save the ravages of the weevil, which I am happy to say, has only slightly effected our crops this year)—still wheat is not a staple with us. Corn, oats, barley and potatoes, we are not surpassed in the production of. But our principal source of wealth consists in the raising of cattle, horses, sheep, pork and beef with the productions of the dairy. Under this system our County, and the Townships generally, for the past ten or twelve years have been highly prosperous—and the history of all grazing countries establish the fact, that grazing is the most advantagous method of farming.

In western New York, Ohio and Upper Canada, where wheat has been, the staple production, they commenced at the early settlement of the country, upon the virgin soil, in the production of from thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre; but by continuously growing wheat, they have exhausted that quality in the soil necessary to the production of it, until the average crop is now reduced below fourteen bushels to the acre. This data is established upon authentic statistical returns. Hence the fact so well defined, that the farmer, who continuously plows and sows.

without manuring, and keeping his land in a good state of cultivation—will, in a few years, farm himself out. In all countries where wheat, or any other single crop is made the principal or staple production, if it fails they have nothing else to fall back upon, or any other reliable source upon which they can safely depend; hence the famine in Ireland a few years ago, caused by the potatoe rot, potatoes being the chief production and food of the peasantry. In Upper Canada (and I bear testimony that it is a beautiful country, the inhabitants intelligent, and enterprising) where wheat is, and has been, the staple, since the early settlement of the country, the partial failure of the crop, and the reduced price of wheat in the market, for the past two years of 1857 and 1858, has reduced the price of land in the country—real estate in the cities, and I may say, to a certain extent bankruptcy among many of the people. This proves the proposition I made, at the commencement of this address—that agriculture is the basis, upon which the country must mainly rely for prosperity and happiness. There has perhaps been other causes and influences in Upper Canada, that have contributed to the present depressed state of the country; extravagance and over trading. But extravagance, and over trading, and speculation, existed in Upper Canada previous to '57 and '58; but previous to those years, the wheat crop was good—and they obtained high prices for a period—occasioned mainly by the war with Russia. The productive industry of the country sustained, over trading and extravagance—but when this state of things changed; the result I have already described.

I do not desire to make invidious distinctions or comparisons, (for it is said, they are odious,) as between Upper and Lower Canada. Upper Canada, when their productive industry is properly directed, and their resources well developed, will be one of the finest countries, I think, upon this continent. I am naturally led to make these remarks to illustrate my argument—that a grazing country is, in the long run, more successful, and attains greater wealth and prosperity, than a grain growing country, where wheat or any other grain, is made the staple.

In Lower Canada, and more particularly in the Townships, where productions are varied, and mainly depending upon the raising of stock and the produce of the dairy, if any one of our productions fail, we have other resources to fall back upon. During the past two years, since (what is called) the monetary crisis, occurred in Upper Canada—that pressure in the money market, and among the farmers, has scarcely been felt, in this section of the country; which I attribute to our varied resources. Another fact, in a grazing country—the farmer by a careful preservation of manures, and a judicious application of them, upon the land he cultivates, produces good crops, increases the nutritive qualities of the soil, and consequently its productiveness. As in contrast to the case before mentioned—he farms himself on, instead of farming himself out. Therefore, be sure to cultivate no more land than you can cultivate well. And be sure to own the land you cultivate.

Permit me here to admonish the farmers to be careful of their forests, and timber lands. In the words of the Poet, I say—

“Woodman, spare that tree.”

In the westerly portions of this county, wood (even for fuel) is getting scarce. I strongly recommend, not only the preservation of timber, but the planting of the maple. It is a tree natural to, and indigenous to our soil; its leaf is in fact, one of the emblems on our coat of arms. Beautiful as an ornamental tree, the best of fuel, and highly to be prized as yielding a sap—when properly manufactured—which produces sugar, exquisite in flavor, and fit for almost all culinary purposes—as the samples here exhibited fully attest.

There is another branch of our native industry, from its importance to our material prosperity, deserves especial notice. I mean the *Mechanics and Manufacturers*, of our country—a fostering care, encouragement and protection, should be extended to them.

I have always been an advocate for this line of policy in our Legislature; and I am happy to say, the principle is now admitted, and carried out to a certain extent in the Tariff and Custom duties, passed during the late session of Parliament. Many politicians, but not statesmen, argue that by imposing high rates of duty, upon domestic manufactures, you increase the price of the article, upon the consumer. This I hold to be a fallacy. It is an old maxim, that “competition is the life of trade” and when we have our native manufactures to meet, and compete, in our markets, with

the imported article ; its tendency is to reduce prices, and prevent monopoly—which proves the maxim “that competition is really the life of business.”

The benefits of encouraging our native domestic manufactures, does not end here. We have an abundance of as fine water power, in Lower Canada, as perhaps can be found in any country in the world. If capitalists, from abroad, can be induced to invest their money in the erection of factories, the employment of our native population, and teaching them skilled labor—and there are no people better calculated to become good artisans—giving to the farmer a home market for his produce—keeping the money in the country. For every cargo of merchandise imported, we have to export its equivalent in cash. Keep the manufacturer's profits with us—save the cost of transportation, insurance, and the wholesale merchant's profits. By which line of policy, (I humbly conceive) all interests will be happily combined and blended. As a precedent for this policy, I refer to the success, and wealth, attained in the New England states, since 1828, when the American Congress adopted their protective tariff. I am gratified that the law of our Agricultural Societies, recognizes the mechanics, as a class, to participate with the farmer, in the encouragement, and benefits of the Institution—and congratulate the mechanics here present, upon their exhibition. May all our industrial operations go on prosperously.

I will close this address by a brief sketch of Missisquoi—its past history, and present position and prospects. This county was first entered and settled

near, and at Missisquoi Bay, by ~~New-England~~ Loyalists, in 1783, about the time of the close of the American Revolution—subsequently followed by emigrants from the New England States, and New York—who formed settlements further east, and finally spreading over the whole country. The pioneers, and early settlers of this section of country, were a class of men that preferred British rule, laws, and institutions—a class of men, for urbanity of manners, moral deportment and gentlemanly bearing—coupled with firmness of purpose, and a spirit of enterprise not surpassed, if equalled, by any of the present day.

We have a just pride, in the history of our Fathers. May ours also be honorable; that when we shall have passed away, our sons may enjoy that goodly heritage bequeathed to us, from our parents.

In the early settlement of the country, and for several years after, there were many obstacles to encounter; many difficulties to overcome. Our courts of justice, both civil and criminal, were in Montreal. That city was also the market, for our products, and it was with great difficulty, we could reach that market, except in winter. We had no protection in our markets upon our Agricultural products, until 1842. Previous to that time, our American neighbors, on the frontier, monopolized our markets—we were precluded from their's, by a twenty per cent. advalorem duty. Now this state of things, has been completely changed. By the late judicature act, establishing new Judicial Districts, the county of Missisquoi is the capital of the

District of Bedford, where the Court House and Jail, are to be erected, at which place superior and circuit courts, are to be held. Also a circuit court at Bedford.

We have now, in Lower Canada, as well as in Upper Canada, municipal, county, township and parish councils, a corporate local Legislature, by which to manage our local affairs.

By the Reciprocity treaty, with the United States, in 1854—all, and every description, of our Agricultural products are admitted into the American markets, free of duty—without our, in any way, contributing to the support of their Government.

We have the benefit of the American Railways upon our borders, to facilitate our transportations to their markets—neither contributing to their construction or maintainance.

England is the principal market for breadstuffs and the Agricultural productions of the northern portions of this continent. Consequently Montreal, Quebec, Boston and New York, are the markets to which our products are sent and sold. From our geographical position, and proximity to those cities, it gives increased value to our productions, over those sent from the interior of Upper Canada, and the Western States of the American Union.

We have the choice of all those markets—facilities to reach them, both by water and railroads, except Boston, which is direct, only by rail.

The noble animals, and other products exhibited here this day, fully attest the enterprise and prosperity of the people of this county.

I believe, from my own observation, that there is no part of United Canada, or upon the American borders, that surpasses old Missisquoi, and its people, in integrity, wealth, and material prosperity.

With the blessing of Heaven, our destiny is onward —if we prove *true* to ourselves, and assign to the care of our own citizens, our civil and political rights.

