

S P E E C H

Delivered by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, at the Annual Meeting of the New-Brunswick Agricultural and Emigrant Society, which was held at Fredericton, on the 1st ultimo :

GENTLEMEN, — I have announced, in another place, that it was my intention to bring under the consideration of the Agricultural Society, the expediency of some appliances, to promote a more general cultivation and conversion, for domestic use, of those species of Bread Stuffs, whose hardy natures and economical qualities, are found to be so well suited to the nature of this climate, and to the present circumstances of this Province.

In much of what I intend to say, in support of this recommendation, I have been anticipated by the very luminous and highly interesting Report which our Secretary has just read; and besides the great gratification which, as Patron of this Society, I feel in this continued report of its success; I feel indebted to that gentleman for the very powerful and able manner in which he has presented this part of our subject to your consideration. It only remains for me to express my opinion, that you cannot make a better use of a part of the funds which may be placed at your disposal by the continued liberality of the Legislature, and those which are derived from other sources, than to make some appropriations to encourage the erection of Oat-Mills and Kilns, in such situations as are suggested in the Secretary's Report. This object being, as I trust, favourably disposed of, I shall proceed to make a few observations, intended to show how deeply all branches of industry are interested in the success of these measures by which we are endeavouring to raise the Agriculture of the Country to a condition of greater productiveness.

Assembled for such an influential purpose as this, we adapt our proceedings and our discourse to the manner in which we desire to make known our sentiments to the County at large. It is, therefore, rather to those who may read or otherwise learn of our objects, than to the intelligent Society now present, that I address those plain and simple statements of which I am now to speak, and with which, I dare say, you are conversant.

To most of you, Gentlemen, it may probably be known, what the average amount is, of the payments which we make for the purchase of our bread; and I have no doubt, that, besides the obvious disadvantages in the abstract transactions by which this deficiency is supplied, you are well aware of the prejudicial manner in which it affects all other branches of industry. But this is not so generally understood as it ought to be, in the Province at large. One of the serious disadvantages of being habitually dependent, as we are, on others, for a portion of our subsistence, is manifest enough in the present reduced state of the circulation in its intrinsically valuable part; but it is not so distinct, in what way a Country that does not raise sufficient produce for the subsistence of its population, is necessarily laid under corresponding difficulties and disabilities in its foreign and other external trade, and in its internal commerce; and to what prodigious extent a community so circumstanced, is making sacrifice of the best of all markets, the Home Market, the ordinary transactions of which, in a Country made sufficiently productive of those articles which form the basis of trade, manufactures, and of all other industry, occasion an intensity of dealing, and a quickness of money circulation, which are well known to make the business of the Home Market the most conducive of all to the solid condition of the country. It is quite clear, that the operations of the home market are entirely dependant upon the amount of the net produce which the Agriculturists of the Country may have to offer for sale, over and above what is used as seed and consumed by the persons and animals employed in the cultivation of the land. It is this net produce which forms the basis of all other branches of industry. If the Farmer raise only what is necessary for the bare subsistence of his family, his labourer, and his stock, his Agricultural transactions can neither act advantageously upon foreign trade, internal commerce, nor manufacturing industry. He takes nothing to market; he can purchase no imported commodity; he cannot extend with any degree of productive effect, his farming operations; he has no means to improve his stock by acquisition of better kinds; and he consequently contributes little or nothing, either towards the transactions of the home market, foreign, or other external trade, or to the improvement of the Country. The clothing of his family is necessarily the work of domestic manufacture, and, therefore, his operations act not upon the manufacturing interests either of the fabricator or importer, for of such productions he consumes nothing. But if, by adopting a better system of management and economy, with the same establishment of persons, and stock of animals, he can extend his productive operations; or if, by an improved and economical system of husbandry, he can cultivate the land which he has already on hand, with reduced means of manual and animal labour, then, in this way, may considerable surpluses be netted, for sale, from farms which previously had yielded no net produce; and the economy and improved management by which the farmer will have effected this, will not only be substantially beneficial to himself, but will operate directly

upon other branches of industry, and contribute by so much, to give increased activity to the dealings of the home market. The economy and skill by which this very beneficial effect has been produced, operate, in fact, as the investment of an additional capital; for practical economy, science, and skill in management, in any profession, are capital; and the practical maxim should ever be kept in mind, that whatever is saved in consumption, is as if added to production. Whatever tends to augment the excess of gross production over consumption, or to reduce the quantity of food consumed in creating a certain amount of gross production, must add to surpluses to be laid out on the subjects of manufacturing and commercial industry.

The farmer who has attended practically to this, and who has, by such economy in management, and husbandry, created a surplus value, where formerly there was none, sends his spare productions to market; with the proceeds he purchases articles, the subjects of foreign trade, internal commerce, manufacturing and mechanic industry; that is, in other words, he exchanges the net produce of his industry, for commodities, produced or brought by the industry of others, which he could not otherwise acquire, and which they could not otherwise sell; and it is therefore in direct proportion with the aggregate amount of these individual surpluses, that those other branches of industry become permanently and substantially prosperous, or more or less depressed; and, consequently, that the business of the home market is made active and intense, or becomes dull and languid. What is here said of acting favourably upon manufactures, must be considered chiefly to mean, creating a demand for imported manufactures; and this operates here not only favourably in supplying the Home Market, but upon the trade and navigation of the Colony with the Mother Country, where these manufactures are fabricated, and where they are procured; and a demand for which, acts also, and in a wholesome degree, to give activity to that branch of industry, the manufacture of timber and ships, by which remittances are made to pay for importations made to satisfy the demands of our Home Market, and which importations, therefore, must correspond with the productions taken to it. The Farmers of this Country seem, in too many instances, to rest satisfied with producing food sufficient only for the subsistence of their own establishments. They do not appear to be conscious that by not exerting themselves to do so, they are throwing away vast advantages, which the mere economy of a better system of management and husbandry would produce to themselves, and insure to the Country. It is, therefore, desirable that pains be taken to circulate among, and make it distinct to our Farmers, that by not supplying something by sale, towards the subsistence of those who are consumers, and not producers of food, great advantages, first to the Farmers themselves, and then to other branches of the Community, are sacrificed. Until the farmer begins to send a net surplus to market, he does not, in fact, enjoy any of that portion of profit which should fall to his share, as proprietor, for the use of the soil. It is from this surplus that money rent is paid, and, consequently, until the Farmer improves his property to this productive extent, he is only working as a laborer or cultivator, for his bare subsistence. Now in place of these advantages to general industry, which a more productive condition of agriculture would insure, we see a foreign trade engaged, for procuring elsewhere, articles of indispensable necessity, — a trade, for which no production of our industry is received in return — by which, on the contrary, indeed, certain branches of industry, essential to the preparation of our subsistence, are severely injured. Flour is imported in preference to grain — our mills are thereby reduced to inactivity,

and thus, a very important branch of mechanical industry, is discouraged. Our bread, ready manufactured, is imported, to the severe injury of another vital branch of industry. The price, too, at which these articles are sold to the consumer, is greatly beyond that at which they might be raised at home, if an improved and extended system of husbandry and management were introduced; and this difference is, in effect, a tax levied upon the consumer, to the severe injury of the Country, and operating as a premium to foreign growers and manufacturers. It is true, that inasmuch as this transaction, and the duty levied upon it, keep up price, it may be considered likewise to operate as a premium upon home production; and so it should; but we must first introduce a more economical and productive system generally into the Country; for, according to the very unproductive modes, and scale of Farming, now too commonly practised, together with other causes, even this enhanced price is not sufficient to remunerate Farmers in raising produce for market. We, however, I trust, view the saving of this tax, as a premium offered to our patriotic exertions, and a call made upon us, to relieve the Country from this serious difficulty. There are many other unfavourable, and highly disadvantageous circumstances, arising out of this defect in the Agricultural condition of the Country, which run throughout all the ramifications of its actual commerce, and lay its enterprise in new branches, under disability. Were the basis upon which these rest, more solid and productive, trade would become more general; and there are other natural resources, abundant in this Province, which invite to cultivation in due season, but which it were inexpedient to engage in now. There are instances enough on record to show the folly of neglecting to cultivate the substantial wealth which is derived from the surface of the earth, to engage, prematurely, in any other that is not directly acted upon or instigated by that which is the basis of all; and such pursuits indeed could not now be followed to any account, without rendering us habitually dependent for our food, in the same manner, and for nearly the same reasons, that Agriculture has already been overpowered and neglected in the indiscreet pursuits of another branch of industry.

"When we reflect upon all this," observes an authority of the highest order, "the absolute and relative importance of Agriculture, as a productive branch of industry, not only to the class more immediately connected with it, but as the source of manufacturing and commercial prosperity, becomes evident, even to the dullest comprehension. Every measure which promotes tillage, and augments the surplus which remains beyond the necessary consumption of the labourers employed in cultivation, has an irresistible tendency to extend manufactures and commerce; and every regulation which tends to discourage this branch of public industry, must unavoidably and directly, affect the interests of the manufacturing and commercial classes. No proposition can, therefore, be more clear, than that in every Country possessing an extensive territory, and aspiring to permanent independence, the cultivation of the soil should form the first object of consideration, as it constitutes the only basis of public wealth which is exposed to no adverse fluctuation. Wherever Agriculture is pursued with spirit, intelligence, and success, the other classes of the community must participate in this prosperity; but wherever tillage is discouraged, neglected, or imperfectly carried on, there, by a law of nature which no human power can neutralize, all the other interests of the commu-

nity must retrograde, decay, and finally perish."

To bring the Agricultural condition of the Country gradually to such a productive state as shall enable the farming establishments generally, to send surpluses of production to market, economy in all the concerns of the farmer, a strict and well regulated economy, is the great capital agent to which we must look; an economy reaching into every branch of our Agricultural usages and operations, domestic, systematic, and mechanical. The economy, for instance, which we are now endeavouring to promote, of cultivating more generally, those species of bread stuffs which yield the greatest quantity of sustenance, upon any given extent of soil, and which, from their hardy natures, are less precarious in yielding returns, from being better calculated to resist the vicissitudes of climate: The economy which certain classes of our Farmers should adopt, of substituting those descriptions of meal stuffs, for domestic consumption, in lieu of the more costly bread stuffs, for which there is so much demand in the market, and which return to the producer so good a price: The economical measure, in a general sense, of our contributing funds to encourage and aid the erection of Mills and Kilns for manufacturing these stuffs: The economy of adopting a better system in the feeding of stock, by a more general introduction of the artificial grasses and other green crops, and the esculent roots, such as turnips, mangel wurtzel, carrots, &c., which are found to yield an increased quantity of fodder and animal food upon any given quantity of land: Then the economy resulting from the introduction of a mixed system of husbandry which is well known to add vastly to the gross production of the soil; and the economical effect of this system again, which, by bringing forward the different crops in regular succession, admits of a more constant and uniform application of labour, and, consequently, of a smaller permanent establishment for manual and animal labour, than the old system of tillage, which makes unsteady demands for labour, and yet admits not of a permanent reduction in the establishment of persons and animals.

Economy, such as this, essential as it is to a productive state of Agricultural condition in any Country, is of paramount importance here, on account of the great duration of that inclement season, during which the producers of food and fodder, subsist upon the gross stock, whilst all operations on the soil are suspended. This is a very serious drawback upon the net profits of the Agriculturist here, and is, in truth, the most formidable difficulty with which they have to contend; and this being laid on us by a constant cause, climate, demands great and constant attention to economy, in all domestic habits and modes of living, and renders it most particularly incumbent upon us to use all our efforts to inculcate and reduce to practice, those economical improvements in husbandry, by which it is proved we may reap from the soil a greater amount of nutriment for men and animals, with a diminution of expense and a reduction in the means of execution, and consequently, in consumption, compared with what are required in the old system. Experience has proved how greatly such economical measures may soon be made to give increased net productions, and so to enable the Farmer to go to market with articles ever in demand, commanding a money purchase; and thus, trafficking on a solid basis, the settler is placed by his economy and industry in a situation the most safe from all ruinous fluctuations.

With this economical arrangement of his