

hope for the Province—remove them in whole or in part, and the farmers of New Brunswick must do better than before.

CHAPTER XII.

The actual condition of the practical Agriculture of the Province.

A. Modes of Culture.

In a preceding Chapter I gave the result of a calculation as to the agricultural capabilities, or rather the population supporting power of the 600,000 acres of land now supposed to be under culture, which has a close relation to the actual condition of agriculture in New Brunswick.

It had been shown by a previous calculation, that to support the entire present population of the Colony, would require 631,875 acres of land of the average productive quality of 1 1-3 tons of oats per acre. From this it might be inferred either that the land actually in cultivation is of superior quality, or that it is farmed in a superior manner, inasmuch as the population, with the exception of certain importations, is supported by the produce of 600,000 acres supposed to be at present under culture.

But anything which might be concluded in favour of the practical agriculture of the Province, from this kind of reasoning, is entirely reversed, when we add to the above, data the additional fact, that the quantity of live stock in the Province, and annually available for food, adds about one third to its capabilities for supporting a human population. So that instead of 210,000, the cultivated land and stock of the Colony ought now to be supporting 280,000 people.

The inference from this is, that if any weight is to be given to our averages regarding the natural productiveness of its soils, the practical farming of New Brunswick is in a very backward condition; and it really is so I have already remarked in introductory observations to this Report. I have at the same time observed that its condition is a natural one, arising out of the circumstances of the Colony, and of the early settlers, and ought not therefore to be a subject of severe reprobation. What these circumstances in the condition of the Colony, and of the settlers are, which have given the practical agriculture of the Province its present character, appears from the following description of the progress of a settler, for which I am indebted to Mr. Brown:—

"The soil of New Brunswick, in its natural state, is covered with a heavy growth of wood; the first process in farming it therefore is—

"To heave the dark old woods away."

"This, to one unacquainted with it, would appear a herculean task. It is however comparatively easy, and in its performance very little either of skill or capital is required.

"A piece of ground is first marked out in the forest, all the bushes and small trees are cut down as close to the ground as possible, the large trees are next cut down, the upper branches cut off, and sometimes the trunks cut up into logs of fifteen or twenty feet long. The 'Chopping,' as it is called, is then left to dry for some time, and at noon in some dry warm day in August or September it is set on fire, the bushes and branches are commonly consumed, and the logs that are left are rolled, carried or hauled together into heaps, and burned up; the ashes are then spread, and the ground is ready to receive the seed. Land thus prepared will commonly produce wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, Indian Corn, potatoes or turnips.

"Wheat is sown among the stumps of trees, and either harrowed with a triangular harrow made for the purpose, or hacked by hand with a common hoe. Barley, oats, rye and buckwheat, are sown and covered in the same way. If the ground be intended for mowing or pasture, and not for a second crop, grass seeds are sown with the grain.

"Indian Corn is planted by merely raising a portion of the soil about two or three inches deep, and throwing in five or six kernels at intervals of three feet.

"Potatoes are planted by laying three or four sets or cuttings in a place, at intervals of two and a half or three feet, and covering them over with a hoe. Turnips are sown broadcast on the ground. Abundant crops are raised in this simple way, the 'new land' in many parts of the Province being very productive. The crop of grass after the grain is often coarse and heavy, the clover frequently flat on the ground. Land planted with Indian Corn, potatoes or turnips the first year, is sown with grain and grass seed the second year. In this way, field is annually added to field, until frequently, the new settler who entered the forest with only his axe on his shoulder, and his pack of provisions on his back, is owner of a productive farm, living with his family in a comfortable house, with comparative plenty all around him.

"This success of the new settler depends a good deal not only on the quality and productiveness of the soil, but also upon the kind of wood with which it is covered. If the land is covered with hard wood, or with a growth where hard wood predominates, it will generally, if properly burnt and cleared, yield good first crops. The annual falling and rotting of the leaves seems to add much to the fertility of the soil. On the contrary, if the growth be pine, spruce, larch, fir, cedar, hemlock, or a mixture of these, the wood is not only more difficult to burn and clear off, but the soil itself is commonly covered with a scurf, being an accumulation of unrotted remains of those trees, which often resists the fire, and hinders the crop from growing. Such lands, although they may prove productive after they are ploughed, are not good for first crops, and by new settlers therefore as far as possible avoided.

"Within ten or twelve years after the trees are cut down the most of the roots are so much decayed that many of the stumps are easily removed. There is however a difference in the liability of the roots to decay. The roots of the pine will last in the ground undecayed for an age. Those of the hemlock and the red birch, will sometimes remain sound for a quarter of a century; but ten years will so far enable the settler to clear them away, as to be able to put in the plough. During the first ten or twelve years therefore no plough is required, no manure needed to enrich the virgin soil. This is a practical agricultural knowledge is

wanted beyond the use of the axe, the hoe, the scythe, and the ox goad. This kind of knowledge, with a great deal more peculiar to their position, the new settlers of the Province abundantly possess, still with all this they are very ill prepared to become skilful and successful farmers."

The consequences of this system of husbandry—thus in some measure imposed upon the new land farmer—upon the state of agriculture in the Province, are thus described by Mr. Brown:—

"Generally speaking, agriculture may therefore be yet considered as only in its infancy. The whole of the process of obtaining crops from new land is well understood; in the art of mowing, curing and securing the hay, they are perhaps not excelled by any people in the world; but beyond this, their practical knowledge does not generally extend. Many of them are very unskilful ploughmen, indeed many of the ploughs are clumsy, ill-constructed, and inefficient. Strong ploughs are required to break up the ground in the first place; but in old districts, where the most improved implements might be introduced and used to great advantage, it is no uncommon sight to see a man following the plough with only one handle, and that standing in an upright position, with a pin stuck through it to hold on by. In the practice of the accumulation, preservation, and application of manures, they are equally unskilful. Many of them have not the least idea of the rotation of crops, or the art of keeping the land in proper condition; on the contrary, it has been and is still the practice to take one crop of grain after another, year after year from the same ground, until the soil is completely worn out, or to mow the same field annually, sometimes for more than twenty years, or until the hay will not pay for mowing. There are exceptions to this exhausting system, but it is extensively practised throughout the Province."

(To be Continued.)

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

The steership NIAGARA arrived at Halifax on Wednesday morning last, bringing Liverpool dates to the 3d inst. We subjoin a summary of the news by this steamer, received at the News Room, St. John.

A forgery to a large amount has been discovered in London upon the Austrian Bank of Vienna. A person named Hill, has been apprehended, and in his possession were found forged notes on the above Bank amounting to about £15,060!!

A man named Jones had been apprehended by the Police in London, having in his possession a letter threatening the death of Lord John Russell. It is supposed the letter was got up with a view to a little unenviable notoriety, which is quite the fashion of late.

A meeting was held in Manchester on Wednesday to consider a plan for encouraging the cultivation of Cotton in the West Indies.

A Company is about being organised in Greenock for the purpose of establishing a line of Screw Steamers, to ply from that port direct to New York, and to be owned altogether in Greenock.

Intelligence had been received at the Admiralty from the British and American squadrons sent in search of Sir John Franklin; the former under Captain Austin left Whale Fish Islands on the 23d June; the latter on the 29th; all well; but no accounts of the missing Ships had been heard.

A dreadful Railway collision occurred at Glasgow on Thursday, by which a number of lives were lost.

PARLIAMENTARY.—In the House of Commons on the 30th ult., Sir Robert Peel took the oath and his seat.—Baron Rothschild also presented himself, and on being sworn omitted the words "on the faith of a Christian," which gave rise to a good deal of discussion, and the matter was postponed until Thursday the 1st inst. On that day, the discussion was renewed, and after a warm debate again postponed until the following Monday. The Attorney General intimated that he would then propose the following resolutions. *First*—That Baron Rothschild is not entitled to sit in this House during any debate, nor to vote on any question until he shall take the oath of abjuration as prescribed by law. *Secondly*—That this House will at the earliest opportunity in the next session of Parliament take into consideration the form of the oath, with a view to relieve Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish religion. The announcement was received very indignantly, and it is generally believed that the Government will be completely defeated on the resolutions.

IRELAND.—The accounts from Ireland regarding the potato blight are very conflicting, but the Irish papers generally speak encouragingly. The weather during the week had been good and the prospect of the coming harvest continues encouraging.

The patriarch Dorner lately died in Kildare, aged 123.

FRANCE.—In the Assembly, the remainder of the Budget had been voted without debate. Two Socialists had been apprehended, and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, for having arms concealed in their dwellings. Paris is said to be full of secret societies, and both the extreme parties hold their secret meetings in spite of the vigilance of the police.

A growing dislike to the sway of Louis Napoleon is very manifest, and it is very generally thought that when his term of service expires in 1852, he will be succeeded by the Prince de Joinville.

Application has been made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to demand compensation from the United States Government on behalf of several Havre and Bordeaux Merchants, in consequence of the seizure of 15 French vessels, in the harbour of San Francisco. He said, their right to compensation was unquestionable, and promised to have the matter satisfactorily arranged.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.—Accounts state that on the 25th, the troops of the Schleswig-Holstein and those of Denmark had an encounter at Jashedt, in which, after eight hours hard fighting, the Danes gained a decided victory. The news of the 27th says that the Schleswig-Hol-

stein army was encamped at Schestadt, 25,000 strong, ready for another engagement.

HAMBURG, July 27.—The killed, missing and wounded in the battle of Jashedt are now stated at 7000, of whom the most are Danes.

The Danish account of the battle fought at Jashedt, states that the Danes had 12 officers killed, and 73 wounded, 104 privates killed, and 2300 wounded. The Schleswig General does not state his loss, but regrets the number of officers among the killed and wounded, and says their army retired for want of ammunition, but would soon be ready again to take the field. The hostile armies remain in much the same position as at the close of the engagement, and it is almost certain hostilities will shortly be renewed.

RUSSIA.—A terrible and destructive fire has reduced the city of Samara, government of Simirk, to ruins; 33 stone houses and 486 houses built of wood, were destroyed, with the church and many public buildings, and 126 corn magazines.

Russia is reported to have addressed a circular to all her agents at Foreign Courts, declaring that the Connexion which the Duchies strive to establish is at variance with the treaty of 1815, and which Russia is determined to uphold. This is the first open step of assistance to the Danes which Russia has taken.

GERMANY.—The news of the battle in the Duchies has roused Northern Germany. A large meeting was held in Hanover to petition the King that the Hanoverian army might be sent to assist Schleswig Holstein. Several other popular meetings had been held for a like purpose.

Prussia has withdrawn her envoy from the Frankfurt Conference. This movement is calculated to perplex Austria and her confederates, and will weaken the growing power of that Nation.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.—The Spanish Government is sending reinforcements of troops to Cuba to the extent of 6000 men. The views of the new Cabinet at Washington in the Cuba affair were anxiously looked for. The funds were depressed.

From Portugal there is nothing new as regards the difference with the United States.

ROME.—An attempted assassination of Col. Nadoni has led to the discovery of a conspiracy of much importance.

The news of the arrangement of the Greek question was received in Greece with unbounded joy.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET, Aug. 3d.—The arrivals from British America during the past month consist of 21 vessels, 14,492 tons, against 62 vessels, 32, 569 tons in the same month last year. Spruce Deals being reduced in stock, have experienced an advance in price, which has been sustained throughout the month. Pine Timber—One cargo of St. John of 19 inch sold at 17 1-2d. per foot. Birch—A St. John cargo sold at 15d. to 16d., and by auction some old at 13 3-4d to 14 3-4d per foot. Fir Planks and Boards—A St. John cargo sold at £6 10s per standard, and apart from cargo at an advance; say three cargoes, at £8; one at £7 12s 6d; one at £7 15s, and one at £7 17s 6d per standard. Railway Sleepers—St. John Hackmatac sold at 2s each. The general tone of the market is better, but the demand is only of a moderate character.

LOSS OF AN INDIAMAN AND A FRENCH GUN BRIG.—ONE HUNDRED PERSONS DROWNED.—On Saturday letters were received at Lloyd's from Madras and Martinique, communicating the melancholy intelligence of the loss of an Indiaman, the Sulimary, from Bombay, bound to England, and of the wreck of the French Republican war brig L'Aigle, 14 guns, both of which were attended with frightful loss of human life. The Sulimary Indiaman was riding at anchor off the coast, and encountered on the 25th of May a dreadful gale of wind, in the height of which she parted from her anchors, and was driven ashore, when the splendid ship speedily became a complete wreck. An attempt was made to save the passengers, of whom there were several, by means of the boats. They were, however, quickly destroyed by the fury of the sea, and upwards of forty, including the captain, his wife, and thirty-three seamen, perished. Another Indiaman named the Guna, was driven on shore on the same coast about the same time, and became a wreck. The crew of the vessel were more fortunate; they all escaped. The loss of both vessels is said to exceed £50,000. The sad calamity to the L'Aigle happened on the 10th of June. She was suddenly overtaken in a heavy squall, and almost instantly capsized, and went down. Her crew and officers amounted to sixty men. With the exception of two, every soul met with a watery grave.

SERIOUS COAL PIT ACCIDENT NEAR AIRDRIE.—NINETEEN LIVES LOST.—On Wednesday morning, about seven o'clock, the town of Airdrie and vicinity were thrown into a state of the most intense excitement, by the report of a serious explosion of fire damp, having occurred in the Commonhead Coal pit, near that town, in the possession of Mr. James Snedden, and the apprehended loss of life. The fears entertained were but too soon realized. A considerable concourse of people immediately collected on the pit head, including the wives, children, and relatives of the unfortunate men employed in it, and for whose fate the utmost alarm prevailed. Entrance to the pit was obtained in the forenoon, and only one person was found alive out of twenty, understood to have been in it at the time of the explosion. Seven bodies were got out in the forenoon, and other seven in the afternoon.—Yesterday, other two or three were recovered, making in all sixteen or seventeen brought out until the latest accounts were received in the afternoon. The person who escaped, by being near the foot of the shaft, can give no account of how the accident occurred, and this may probably never be ascertained.—Glasgow Courier.

Miss Peel, of Larigan, near Penzance; sister of Sir Lawrence Peel, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, and first cousin of the late Sir Robert Peel, has succeeded to the church of Rome.