

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, July 23, 1892.

PAPERS READ AT THE FARMERS' CONVENTION HELD AT GLASSVILLE, JUNE 22nd AND 23rd, 1892

Opening Address by John McLaughlan.

Those of you who are close readers of the St. John papers are aware that in March last a number of successful farmers' meetings were held in Fredericton, at which farmers and delegates from the different agricultural societies were present. On returning from that meeting the suggestion was made to me that we hold a farmers' meeting in Glassville, and the present meeting is the outcome of that. I am pleased to have present with us on this occasion, the author, in the person of Mr. Raymond, who I trust will aid us in our work at this time. The object of this meeting is to bring together the farmers of this county, to talk over matters concerning their welfare and occupation, and the best methods of carrying on their work, and to enable us to compare notes, and find out what others are doing and how we may get better returns for our labor. We have been going on in a haphazard way; our farming a matter of guess work and hard labor. No organized system on correct principles; each following his own devices, or doing something that some one else had done, whether right or wrong. There is much to learn about our work, and I feel confident that this meeting will help us in that line.

I feel pleased that so many have so cheerfully come forward at the call of the committee to aid in this enterprise, and that they, as well as we will be benefitted on this occasion; that the meeting will be a pleasant and useful one. Before opening this meeting I would ask a few favors:

1st. That all the speakers will as far as possible avoid party politics.

2nd. That the discussions and criticisms will be of a friendly character.

3rd. I ask for the speakers an attentive hearing, and for the chair the assistance and co-operation of all present.

I am pleased to see so many of the ladies present; there is no good cause can prosper without them, and their presence with us at these meetings will aid us in our work.

Perhaps there are some present who imagine that they know all that is worth knowing; Dr. Talmage told his hearers the other day, that he knew more when he was fifteen years of age than he ever did since. To those like him here I would say please, be charitable, and let us have the benefit of your superior knowledge.

It has been suggested that the promoters of this meeting had an axe to grind. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, we have. The Aberdeen agricultural society is made of the very best of steel, but it has been in use for over a quarter of a century, and has become a little wood dull, and we would like you to help us to edge it up a little. The common weal, the good of all mankind, is what we are after. We hoped to have the presence here of the grand old man, the Secretary to Agriculture for the Province, which would add much pleasure to the occasion; his experience and knowledge on agricultural matters leaves that gentleman second to none in this province; those of us who have been with him through provincial exhibitions can bear testimony to his executive ability, and his universal kindness under trying circumstances, will long be remembered by many of those with whom he had to do. I have a communication from that gentleman regretting his forced absence, but stating that he had requested Mr. Robertson, and Mr. S. L. Peters to be present.

The managing committee is much indebted to our Secretary for his labors in working up this meeting, and now, on behalf of those whom I have the honor to represent, allow me to extend a cordial welcome to the strangers who visit us on this occasion, and also our own people, who assist us by their presence.

Let us not forget to thank the Giver of all good for the splendid seed time, and pray that he will bless our labors and grant a bountiful harvest.

B. J. CRAWFORD.

The Education the Farmer of New Brunswick Needs, and How to Obtain It.

In the first place the farmer of our province needs to learn how to produce his own living and that of his family with as little labor as possible. In the second he requires to know how to produce that which will compete in the home and foreign markets. In order to do so, it is necessary for him to know a great many things. He needs to have a thorough knowledge of the different kinds of soil of which his farm is composed; the plant food best suited to the various grains, vegetables, fruits and grasses; what fertilizers may be used with the greatest advantage on the different soils, and such a rotation of crops as will leave the land in better condition after having produced a profitable crop. He will find it necessary to know just how much it costs to produce one pound of grain, wool, milk, meat, vegetables, fruit or wood, and from which he will derive the most profit, and whether it will be of greater advantage to dispose of the raw material or the manufactured article. How to breed, feed and rear animals are subjects which he requires to understand; and which will be best for him to raise—the large, medium or small; whether horses, cows, sheep or swine alone will yield the most profit, or if all may be alike successfully reared on the one farm. Another important thing is to know how to make his family comfortable and happy. He needs to know how, when and where to market his produce

to the greatest advantage. Of all these he is comparatively ignorant.

Now for this, of course, we want a remedy. And in order to be able to apply the remedy intelligently we must first understand the cause. It is his poverty and his ignorance, or his ignorance and poverty; for at the present day either one will cause the other. Is the farmer responsible for his ignorance and poverty? I say, yes, for in a free country all should be equal intelligently and financially, for the educated and wealthy rule, and the ignorant must sooner or later go to the wall. Now let us look at the agricultural class and compare it with the other classes. Doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, merchants and mechanics are all educated for their several callings. If a boy prefers any of these callings and his father approves, he is stimulated to excel in it. Not so with those who are left at home on the farm. Their position is an isolated one. They have no especial education for this business; there is but little rivalry in it, nor is it usually considered a profitable one.

Now how are the Agricultural classes to obtain an education suited to their needs? They may do so by combination and co-operation—by combining their ignorance and poverty? Yes. I fancy I hear some one say a very poor way to educate the people; but wait a moment. Even these may be utilized. Until a few years ago, the tendency of education was away from physical labour. This was wrong, inasmuch as the great Architect, when he built man, placed the brain at the top of the head to guide his hands and assist them, and enable him to govern all the lower animals, and himself as well. When one class undertakes to do all the mental work, and leaves all the manual labour for the other to perform, both will suffer, and eventually both will become useless.

We must use every means within our power to get such an education as is suited to our needs, and we have the means, if we but use them aright. We must learn for ourselves. One of the ways is to form Farmer's Clubs in the several districts, where farmers and their families can meet and discuss agricultural matters. The young people, especially, should be encouraged to display their productions. The ornamental as well as the useful should have a place. These district clubs could send delegates to County Clubs, and these could be represented again at the Provincial, and by this means each could be informed of what the others were doing, and a greater interest would be created in the welfare of others. It would be well for each club to have a small library, composed of standard works on Agriculture and its various branches, Reports and Bulletins from Experimental stations; those from neighboring countries as well as our own; for although there are great differences in climate, and consequently in the productions of other countries, there are many things in these reports which are useful for us to know. Criticise all in a friendly manner, take nothing on trust, prove everything. If a man tells you that six pounds of vitriol, four pounds of lime, and thirty-two gallons of water mixed together and sprinkled on one acre of potatoes will prevent blight and so keep them from rotting, try it; and if it does not do so, you only lose your vitriol and labour; while if it does you save your potatoes. If he tells you the best way to stable milch cows is in single stalls which are just large enough for them to be comfortable in, the floor raised ten inches higher than the gutter behind them, the plank on which their hind feet stand two inches higher than the rest of the floor, why just try it, and see if it is not much better than tying them.

Exchange ideas with other farmers. Keep correct accounts with yourself, animals and farm. Charge yourself with three hundred and thirteen days each year, and see what you have as an offset. Charge each animal with the cost of its food and care. Charge your farm with all labour and fertilizers put on it; and credit it with the value of its products. Co-operate in buying, selling and in looking up the best market. For

Not enjoyment and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

C. L. S. RAYMOND.
Thoroughness.

An old maxim says: "What is worth doing, is worth doing well," and it is just as true now as ever. In fact when applied to the pursuits of agriculture there appears to be more need for its observance at the present than at any former time.

Looking back less than a century in our country's history we find our Loyalist forefathers tilling the virgin soil with the rough and clumsy implements then in use and reaping more bountiful harvests than we with all our modern machinery and commercial fertilizers are able to secure.

In those days questions of export and import played but a small part. The products of the farm furnished not only food but clothing, for the family, by the aid of the spinning wheel and the loom. It did not then require the agitations of a Millmore or a bonus from the County Council to get up a woollen mill.

But now, when it is "every man to his trade," when our products are obliged to compete with those from all quarters of the world (as where Canadian and New Zealand butter met last year in direct competition in the British market); when the labor employed on the farm costs at least fifty per cent. more than it did fifty years ago; when, too, owing to our changed environments in

this progressive age, our necessities (real or fancied) have so greatly increased, it becomes necessary in farming, as in other callings, to follow the best methods possible; to profit not only by our own past experience, but by the results attained through the labor and experiments of others; in short to make the best use of the best thought and work of the best men.

A writer has given us one of the chief conditions of success, "an almost ignominious attention to details." And there is much truth in the idea.

Apply it to our own business as farmers. How about the trifling (?) matters of feeding the stock and milking the cows at regular hours; seeing that salt is frequently given or is kept where animals can get it every day; taking care that the stables are made tight and warm before winter sets in; getting seed into the ground at the right time; early and frequent cultivation of the "hoe-crop," etc., etc.? Is it not true that upon giving due attention to such matters as these depends very largely the profits of the year's work?

Leaving the questions of the breeding and care of stock for those better able to deal with them, you will allow me to submit a few thoughts relating directly to agriculture itself—the cultivation of the field.

In planning a season's work let us be careful not to undertake too much; not to go over more ground than we can till properly and profitably. It is just as true here as elsewhere that "a little well done is vastly better than more done superficially." It pays much better to raise fifty bushels of grain or one hundred barrels of potatoes on an acre of ground than it does to raise the same quantity on two acres; and it certainly is a more satisfactory piece of business.

Who but admires the thriftiness and luxuriance of crops growing upon well-enriched and thoroughly cultivated fields! and it is but natural if the man whose care and toil have accomplished these results should appreciate them quite as much as does any one else.

On the other hand he who has been so unfortunate as to plant about twice as much ground as he is able to do justice to; who is not ready to begin his hoeing till the weeds have gotten the upper hand; and who keeps about ten days behind his work all summer, has a discouraging time indeed.

The words: "He who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before is a benefactor to his country," contain a thought which we may expand a little.

If it is in our power to produce, say, three bushels of grain where two grew before, or so to increase the products of a certain number of farms that their annual value should be \$40,000, instead of \$30,000, then surely it is worth while to strive after greater thoroughness in our manner of farming. Would there not be at least three good results: first, an increase in the wealth and productiveness of our country as a whole; secondly, the employment of more labor (also a benefit to the country), and last, if not least, greater profit to the farmer.

The late Abner Bull, Esq., one of Woodstock's most successful farmers, and, as well, a public spirited citizen and a faithful supporter of the Carleton County Agricultural Society, was induced to give the society, at one of its meetings, for discussion, a paper upon the subject of onion raising. If I remember rightly he treated it under these important heads: Early Sowing, Good Seed, and Thorough Cultivation. And these three things will give us the key to success in the growing of very many of our crops.

Let us take the question of seed first, as we should begin to provide this six months or more before planting time. Are we always as particular as we should be in gathering such crops as corn, potatoes and peas to save the best for next year's planting? In grains, too, I question whether there is any necessity of such frequent changes of seed if we select from a part of the field which is free from weeds, and after threshing pass the grain through the "Queen of the Harvest" or some other improved fanning mill, saving only the largest kernels for seed. The importance of the early sowing of the ordinary varieties of grain—buckwheat excepted—has often been proved. To be prepared for this when seed time comes we have to begin the previous autumn, or perhaps I should say the summer before—as it is becoming more and more the custom to commence breaking the sod for next year before the hay crop has all been gathered in. But I will not dare to say a word about plowing, before an audience containing so many Scotchmen. Early planting has several advantages to recommend it. Even in the case of turnips, which are often planted about the first of July, there would probably be a yield of one hundred bushels more per acre if sown a month or six weeks earlier.

Next and perhaps most important of all comes the question of thorough cultivation. While early sowing is good it is not wise to be in such haste to get seed into the ground that you cannot wait for the soil to become dry, or cannot take time to prepare it thoroughly, using either a disc, or a spring tooth, harrow. There is economy in providing yourself with good farming implements; and it also pays to give them reasonably good care. Did you ever see a pair of plow handles sticking up out of the snow in the depths of winter? I have seen something suspiciously like it and it reminds one of an article in "Fruit, Flowers & Farming," by Henry Ward Beecher. Of course no farmer in Aberdeen would do such a shiftless thing as to winter his plow or harrow out of doors, still I cannot refrain from giving an extract

from the piece referred to which is headed—"Acclimating a Plow."

"The other day we were riding past a large farm and were much gratified at a device of the owner for the preservation of his tools. A good plow, apparently new in the spring had been left in one corner of the field standing in the furrow just where, four months before, the boy had finished his stint. Probably the timber needed seasoning—it was certainly getting it. Perhaps it was left out for acclimation. May-be the farmer left it there to save time in the hurry of the spring work, in dragging it from the shed. Perhaps he covered the share to keep it from the elements and save it from rusting. Or again perhaps he is troubled with neighbors that borrow and had left it where it would be convenient for these. He might at least have built a little shed over it. Can any one tell what a farmer leaves a plow out a whole season for?"

But to return to our subject—"Culture is earliness, culture is manure." Frequent stirring of the soil not only prevents the growth of weeds which are ready to choke the young plant or retard its growth by robbing it of its rightful nourishment, but the pulverizing of the soil and lightening it up all aids in making the plant food available to the growing crop. Do not be afraid to put your hoe or your fingers well into the ground around the young plants so as to give the warm air and the rainfall a chance, to do their part in producing a rapid growth. Even in a drought it has been found that where a planted crop is frequently hoed it suffers less than where the ground is not stirred. In some seasons where vegetation is rapid the fight with the weeds is a hard one. While as a rule the farmer can choose his own holidays, and while the ten hour system is very nice in theory, it sometimes happens that all the time we can get between 5 o'clock in the morning and eight at night is not enough to bring us up to where we would like to be.

This is the time of year when one feels the force of what Dr. Twitchell has said in his excellent lecture upon "The Necessities of To-day." The labors are exacting but either the farm or the man must be "aster of the situation. If the farm, then the man is lost and we find a slave. If the man directs we have in the farm a willing servant yielding of her bounty."

Yes, gentlemen, while mindful that all is in the hands of Him who "sendeth rain from heaven and fruitful seasons" let us endeavor so to carry on our work as to be "master of the situation." Let our farms and homesteads present an appearance of thrift and neatness and even of beauty. Then as the young men who have been seized with a desire to visit the golden west to which "distance lends enchantment" return to the old homes they may realize as many of us have already done, that our own country possesses advantages that are scarcely excelled anywhere.

Why is it that those outside her borders are pleased to speak of Carleton as the garden County? No doubt it is partly because of the natural fertility of our soil; but in part also because of the well directed efforts, the good work done by our fathers before us. And is there not much to incite us to continue that work with enthusiastic diligence?

In advocating greater care and neatness I am aware that there is a possibility of going too far. The man (or woman either) who in aiming at thoroughness has degenerated into fussiness is more to be pitied than he who in a careless happy-go-lucky sort of way works hard from January till December, and if perchance by a persistent exercise of "main strength and stupidity" he has almost made both ends meet, appears to enjoy life about as well as anybody. He hopes he will do a little better next year and his creditors hope so too. No, it is neither his manner of farming nor that of the man who is content to "work round all day in a half-bushel" that is likely to make the successful farmer of to-day.

One of the most interesting departments of farm work is fruit raising. Give the orchard a fair share of attention and don't fail to cultivate a few small fruits.

Keep fences in good repair. To have them in a tumble down condition is both unsightly and unprofitable. "Bad fences make bad neighbours."

Don't mar the landscape by making the queen's highway a dumping ground for all manner of trash. If you find thistles by the roadside mow them when in blossom, just as you would anywhere on the farm. This will soon kill them. (Perhaps you have heard of the farm that contained only one thistle-patch—for the simple reason that there wasn't room for any more. It covered the whole ground). Keep a sharp look out for burdocks, wild mustard etc., and—don't be discouraged because you cannot entirely exterminate the noxious weeds, the destructive grubs, the potato bugs and the caterpillars and make the farm a paradise all in one year.

Rather, in following one of the most useful, most healthful and most independent of all vocations, let us try to do our part earnestly and perseveringly, remembering that a thorough farmer is generally a thorough man. Is it not so? Is he not a useful and loyal citizen, ready to aid in all good enterprises, social, educational and religious.

If then we take thoroughness as our motto it will surely help us to achieve success and (whether consciously or not) we shall be fulfilling that grand old precept "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."