

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES.] *Nec araneorum sane tixtus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VIII.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12, 1848.

[NUMBER 7.]

Agricultural Journal.

From the St John Morning News.
THE FARMING INTEREST.

(Read before the Reform Club.)

WHAT MEASURES OUGHT TO BE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND REVIVE TRADE?

Sir—This is a broad and comprehensive question, and has been so ably and amply discussed, that there is but little left for me to say upon the subject. It would be folly, Sir, in one so little versed as I am in the politics of this province, to attempt to add a single line to that clearly defined chart, which has been drawn by the gentlemen who have treated upon this question;—a chart, Sir, that points out in the most lucid manner, the quicksands and shoals upon which our commercial and political prosperity have been wrecked,—a chart, that shows by the most cogent reasoning and unanswerable arguments, the proper course to be pursued to restore us to a better and more prosperous state. Seeing that the rocks upon which we have split, have been fairly marked, and the road to prosperity clearly defined, it only remains for me to show in what manner prosperity may, on its return, be established on a more firm and durable basis. The pursuit of agriculture in its most extended sense, should form the basis of national wealth and independence: believing this to be true, and knowing how little value has been attached to that very important subject in this province, and being desirous of obtaining for it, at least, a share of that attention which it so richly deserves, I have devoted more of the present article to that than to any other matter.

The pecuniary difficulties under which we now labour and the dreadful state of stagnation in which almost every branch of business it at present involved, have been in some measure, I humbly conceive, brought about by our almost total neglect of this indispensable foundation, upon which all other pursuits either directly or indirectly rest. We must therefore, to prevent a repetition of such ruinous times as the present, enlarge this basis and make it sufficiently strong; we may then begin to build our social system anew, and with every prospect of its durability and success. Agricultural pursuits, must become more popular and attractive; more elevated in the estimation of this community, and in that of the inhabitants generally; must command the respect, the regard, and the cordial participation of our most active and enterprising citizens, and of every legislator, who has any claim to be considered a well wisher of his country. Let no man discourage the cultivator of the soil by saying this is not an agricultural country; he that says so has in my opinion assumed a position which is not tenable; has made an assertion which he cannot prove. No man can judge of the capabilities of the soil of this country, until he has seen it fairly tested; or of what our farmers can do until fairly tried. When the light of science is spread abroad on their fields, when energy, skill and perseverance, and industry, have exerted their influence upon their lands; when they have skillfully blended theory and practice, in developing the resources of our soil, when they have called to their assistance the powerful aids which science has placed at their disposal, and adopted such mechanical improvements, as are adapted to their wants; when they begin to view their calling in its proper light, and not as the lowest steps in the social ladder; when they have become farmers—and ceased to be what they are now every thing else but farmers—then they have bent all their energies, in this the proper direction, then tell me whether this is an agricultural country or not. Then Sir, will this barren reproach be removed from us; then will we be known and considered by the world as something better than mere hewers of wood and sawers of lumber. Then, Sir, may we look forward with hope to a bet-

ter, and more continuous state of prosperity, and to an approximate of that grand desideratum, national happiness.

Let us look at home for a cure for our present evils, and not be watching with such anxiety for the English mails as if we expected a package of some magical panacea, which possessed the power of restoring us to a state of convalescence: no, we must look to ourselves, if we have loaded the lumber waggon so heavily that it is stuck fast, leave off calling to Britannia for help, and set to work to unload it, and carry lighter loads in future. Leave the watching of the mails to those gentlemen who have turned the reported failure of the potato crop to such good accounts lately.

Let us see if there are not other things to expend our energies upon besides timber, although this branch of industry if properly managed, will be a great source of employment and wealth to our people, especially if reciprocal trade is established between us and the United States; we spent a large sum upon a Geological survey of the Province, what benefit have we derived from it? It is high time to turn it to account, for it behoves us to develop our resources, and produce as much at home as can be produced to advantage.

Have we not Iron? let us push the manufacture of it. Have we not coal? let us make it available. Have we not gypsum? let us grind it, and lime? let us burn it, and induce the farmer to enrich his land. Have we not salt springs? let us trace them to their source and find a store of hidden wealth. Let us catch fish and cure them with our own salt, for our own use, and for exportation. Look what Nova Scotia has done in the fishery way this season. Let us turn our eyes to the Legislature and see what they can do for the farmer, and then we will perceive what the farmer can do for us!

Let them distribute good Agricultural books—I mean from small Agricultural Libraries—in each settlement or township worthy of note; let them be given in charge to the schoolmaster, or the settler who may be considered to take the most interest in farming affairs; he must lend them out to his neighbors on the same principle as our Circulating Libraries; thus they will place a fund of information at the command of the farmer, both theoretical and practical, upon subjects of the greatest importance to him—such as rotation of crops, breeding and feeding stock, manures, soils; cure of disease in cattle, sheep, &c.

Let them encourage the formation of Farmers' Clubs throughout the country, to bring them together for mutual instruction upon Agricultural matters: let them meet once a week in winter, and once a fortnight in summer, and distribute to each other such information as they obtain from their Agricultural books. I would have them meet at each others houses—first at one and then at another, and by this means their wives, their sons, and their daughters will imperceptibly gain a proper knowledge of, and imbibe a taste for Agricultural pursuits.

Appoint an Agricultural Commissioner—a man of general information—one capable of judging and of giving instruction in the manufacture of implements, the construction of houses, barns and machinery for agricultural operations, a man who has the interest of agriculture and the country generally at heart—capable of making himself at home in the poor settler's log cabin and the rich farmer's house. Let it be his office to pay an annual visit to each settlement where a Library had been established, to see that the books were properly used—to give advice where needed—to give short lectures on such agricultural subjects as he may think most beneficial to the locality.

Let him take the best managed farm under his patronage, as it were, suggest such improvements as will tend to make it more profitable, that it may become a model farm for the district, for other farmers to copy after.

On his return, let him publish such serviceable information as he may acquire in his tour, such as the number of cattle,

sheep, &c., crops raised, and other matter, for the benefit of the farmers throughout the Province, and the people generally.

Again, let the Legislature assist by loan or otherwise, in establishing an Agricultural Implement Manufactory in St John, that the farmer can have an implement suited to his wants; one that he can get repaired at little cost or trouble, and one that he can obtain, if he has not the money to spare, in exchange for his produce.

Let them also assist in the erection of suitable mills, that the farmer may be encouraged to grow grain, corn, &c., that he will be enabled to use it when grown without having to carry it farther than it is worth to get it ground. These establishments the Commissioner can also visit and report upon; to prevent as is the case in some instances at present, their going to decay.

Do this and we shall have farmers worthy of the name, men who will view the science of Agriculture in that important light, in which it should be at all times recognized, and who will follow this honorable avocation with contentment, as the true road to individual and national wealth and happiness.

Then we shall be able to victual our own ships instead of importing supplies for that purpose. Then we shall have plenty of wool, and by erecting woolen factories to convert it into cloth, &c., we shall be able to clothe ourselves, and thus effect another great saving to the country. Then if the wearing of one's own cloth is, as some people say it is, a sign of patriotism, we can do so without endangering our health and without unnecessarily taxing the pocket as is the case at present.

Sir the people of this Province are lamentably deficient of information. I would wish to see some other means than the present adopted to dispel the darkness of ignorance and prejudice that now hang over them, necessity has now compelled them to think, they now feel the pressure consequent upon their ignorance, and are beginning to look about them for the cause; the scales are falling from their eyes, and the conviction that they have been blind, is fast forcing itself upon them. Therefore now is the time to let the rays of the torch of political truth shine among them; touch their minds with a spark from the promethian fire of reform, that they may see clearly what is their best interests, and that their better judgment may be awakened, to choose at the next election, such men as will have their welfare more at heart, and who will act more in accordance with it, than any they have chosen hitherto. Let the people of St John set the Province an example, let us have as they have in England (whose customs we profess to follow in these things) a nomination day, and there draw from each candidate a profession of political faith, there let him declare his principles, and pledge himself to certain measures, and to carry out certain reforms. Then if he fails to redeem his pledge you have some tangible ground of complaint, and some reasonable charge to try him upon, which is not I believe the case at present. It is useless to complain of our present members, because they have not done that which the times and the state of the country required, but let us take warning by our experience, and prepare to replace at the next election, those who have been weighed in the scale and found wanting, with men of better weight and metal. In conclusion I would say to the members of this Club, make use of every means to collect and distribute information. To this I would suggest, that occasional meetings be held in a large room to which the public may be admitted; that Branch Clubs be formed in different parts of the country, who will correspond with this on any important matters that all may act in concert. That they continue to prepare the public mind, by publishing as at present such articles as may be deemed beneficial. That when any important measure is to be brought before the House, such as the *reciprocal trade bill*, they will by preparing and getting up petitions to

strengthen the hands of their representatives as to enable them to act with due efficiency. That they through the means of friendly shopkeepers, distribute small statements, as wrapping paper, showing for instance, the amount of indirect taxes paid by a family of six persons, and such statements as that in the *Morning News* of MONDAY, regarding the expense of the Legislation, &c., &c. When they would cast their eyes upon the round sums at the bottom of each, it would waken them up, and they would begin to think feelingly on the matter, and to enquire whether the syren song (which has so long lulled them into listless apathy, and which has been so industriously sung in their ears by interested parties,) is really true that they are the most lightly taxed people on the face of broad nature. The highway to some of their brains lies thro' their pockets; convince them that their purses are in danger, and they will immediately join in the defence. Thus you will bring their bumps of acquisitiveness combined with combativeness into action against the exceedingly well developed, secretive, covetous, self esteeming bumps of some of our officials and public men. There is, gentlemen, a glorious task before you; persevere in the path you have so nobly chosen, and your efforts will be ultimately crowned with success; you have already taught selfishness and monopoly a useful lesson; you have been watched since the commencement of your career of reform, with all the vigilance of prejudiced narrow minded suspicion, and interested jealousy, you have come out of the assaying furnace unscathed, and all the brighter for the rigor of the ordeal. The mass of the people must ere long begin to view you through a less distorted medium than they have done; they must see that they interests of this club and their own use is one and inseparable. Is not the legislator, the merchant, the professional man, the manufacturer, the trader, the shopkeeper, the mechanic represented here, all but the farmer and his interest I have made a feeble attempt to represent. To-night, I would much rather see him here in person to represent himself, and I believe you all participate with me in that wish. We are humble seekers after truth, and after the secret causes of the misfortunes that have befallen this province at large; we invite all to join us, and to assist us in spreading and disseminating the information that we may find in the search. Gentlemen, let our motto be *forward, forward* in spite of all the obstacles that can be thrown in our way by selfishness, ignorance, corruption and prejudice. Then when we are floating buoyantly upon the full tide of confident prosperity, supported by our own energies and resources, and not barely sustained upon the dark waters of uncertainty, held up by the air inflated bubbles of protection, which are sure to burst and leave us to sink at the first blast of the gale of adversity; then it will be said you have done well, you have given new life to trade, commerce, and manufactures, restored confidence and cheerfulness, revived the drooping spirits of our people, given employment to the industrious and bread to the needy, that you have checked the wholesale desertion of our country by those who contribute most to its support, and rescued it from the iron grasp of mercenary, single eyed selfishness, dishonest misrule, and corrupt extravagance.

COMPOSITION FOR SHOES.—Two parts of tar, two of beef tallow, and one of bees-wax, make a good composition for boots and shoes. Apply it quite warm, and warm the leather that it may penetrate. As farmers are frequently exposed to wet, they should be careful to keep their feet dry and warm, for on this their health and comfort in a great measure depend. There are various compositions that are good to resist water and preserve leather, and the proportion of the above may be varied. Tar and tallow will answer alone; so will tallow and bees-wax.

A cubic foot of water weighs 62.5 lbs., there are 230 cubic inches in a gallon of water.