

THE GLEANER:

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

OLD SERIES]

Nec arancorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

COMMUNICATION.

TO THE FARMERS OF THE COUNTY OF KENT.

As one of you, and a well-wisher to the land of my adoption, and particularly to that interest with which I am connected as a practical farmer, I would call your attention to some late acts of our Legislature, by which you will see that at last, when everything else is failing, they have come forward with what, I suppose, they call some very liberal measures, but what I must designate only as the dawn of that liberality which shall be extended to us when they have really discovered the whereabouts of the true and permanent interests of this country; when we, by our industry and enterprise, shall have driven from their noddles the idea that this is not a farming country (an idea which they do not attempt to conceal), and when we shall have exacted from them a little more of that consideration and respect which the importance of our avocation deserves.

I would now beg to call your attention to a Bill passed by our Legislature granting to Agricultural Societies a sum of money annually, treble in amount to that which may be subscribed by its members, not exceeding £150. Thus—upon a Society being formed, and subscribing £50, it will be in funds to the amount of £200. I need scarcely say that such an amount judiciously spent, would do a vast deal of good; but if injudiciously spent, as was the case when such a Society was before in existence in this County, it can only do, as it did then, a vast deal of evil. And here I would say, that if any of the officers of that defunct Society should wonder how the distribution or the mere division of the funds by lottery, should be attended with evil, I am quite ready to tell them, and to show them that therein consisted the cause of the apathy of the farmers, and consequent decline and death of that monstrous abortion.

Another Bill has passed our Legislature, granting to Agricultural Teachers £125 per annum, upon the inhabitants paying £25, and furnishing 20 pupils. This is decidedly a good measure; the only difficulty I see will be in procuring efficient Teachers; certainly none in raising the £25, and furnishing the 20 pupils. It would be a disgrace to the farming community to allow this opportunity to pass.

Now, I would call upon the Farmers to consider these things, and ask themselves why we have no Agricultural Society? and why we should not immediately set about forming one? I think I need not enumerate the benefits which would flow from such a measure. I will merely mention one which I am told the St. John Society have taken in hand; that is, the importation of Seed Wheat of different kinds. Every Farmer in this County I think will acknowledge the benefit which would be derived from such an importation here at this time; and I would ask where would be the difficulty of sending to St. John by next Wednesday's mail, and having a hundred bushels of Wheat at the Bend by next Monday morning, and all know when at the Bend how to get it here.

But there are benefits of still greater importance to be derived from Agricultural Societies, viz: the diffusion of knowledge; the incitements offered to try experiments, and report the results, and to renewed exertions in farming, and the improvement of agricultural implements. Let not our Farmers suppose that they know all that is necessary. Let the bettermost in the community look at his less fortunate neighbors, and consider how much superior is one system to the other; and let those bettermost Farmers remember that they are as much inferior to what would in most countries be considered a good farmer, as he is superior to his neighbors.

If this letter should have the effect of arousing the spirit of our Farmers, and lead them to the formation of an Agri-

cultural Society (which I need scarcely say is my object in writing it, and by which result I should be very much gratified), I would caution them to mind who they elect officers; to elect men whose business is agriculture; whose life time is devoted to the study of agriculture; not to consider their capability to fill the offices of an Agricultural Society by the standard of their political eminence; nor to elect men who have retired from farming disgusted, blaming the soil, the climate, and every thing else but the right thing. Again I call upon the Farmers of this County to arouse and embrace these opportunities—to call a meeting and form a Society. Why should we not, as well as other Counties? We all pay alike to the Provincial Chest, and why not take our share in this way, and receive the like benefits?

I remain, your obedient servant,
A YEOMAN OF KENT.
County of Kent, April 17, 1849.

From the Fredericton Reporter.
LEGISLATION AND AGRICULTURE.

The Session of 1849, celebrated for its extraordinary scheme of retrenchment and its Railway mania, is now over, and the members of the Legislature have returned to their homes and families, some doubtless well satisfied with what they have done, or left undone, and others as much displeased with the acts of their fellow Legislators.

Every successive meeting of our Representatives brings its own great hobby, upon which the members take a long and hearty ride, for the healthy exercise of their faculties, and the extraordinary benefit and edification of the people. Four years ago we had the grand Address to Sir Charles Metcalfe, upon which the loyalty of this Province hung pendant, like a hamper of bottled beer on a straddle.—Had the pin given way, the explosion would have been terrible. Next came that no less celebrated READE debate, which may with great propriety be termed the "beginning of sorrows" to the old party, inasmuch as it was a clumsy blow aimed by themselves at the glorious system of "Prerogative," which rendered them so loyally attached to the Government, and comfortable in the enjoyment of the good things of the Province. Last year we had the great "Seat of Government" debate, which measure if carried to St. John, was to enrich that city with the spoils of her neighbor: while it would at the same time, place the Legislature under the controul of a community so famous for their great moderation and patriotism. In every case which we have mentioned, the climax has been rising by easy steps in its progress; but it remained for the Session just ended, to furnish an apex to the whole, which in point of absurdity and folly, will we hope, never admit of another effort to give it a finish.

Enough and more than enough has been said upon this extraordinary subject to tire and disgust our readers. The whole point is narrowed down to the acknowledged fact, that a province which is now in debt to the amount of £200,000, was to have a Railroad, to cost £500,000 more; and to the concealed fact, that this Railroad was to be constructed by the Province, for the exclusive benefit of St. John! Thank Heaven, there was enough of virtue and independence in the second Branch, to throw out even the modified or new and improved edition of this Bill, after its predecessor had been lost below! The people of the Country—aye, and the people of St. John too, will have some time for cool reflection; and the latter may come to the natural conclusion, that if they wish to build up their own interests, they cannot effect their design by the destruction of the Province.

In congratulating the people at large at their escape from this horrible infliction, we must however tell them, that their general prosperity depends a thousand times more upon their own exertions, than on the action of the Legislature. Except so far as retrenchment is

concerned, our rulers can do nothing; and our only wonder is, that amidst the accumulated misfortunes, moral and natural, with which the Province has had to contend, the public credit has been so well sustained.

The people we say, must act for themselves; and this action is not to result from the hope of public bounty, or to be consummated by political agitation. No! the people—and we say it emphatically, the AGRICULTURISTS, must work themselves into a system by which they will connect the judgment to plan, with good strong hands to execute. They must give up the miserable practice of spreading a small quantity of ill-made manure over a large surface of ill-prepared land. They must procure new seeds—should the exchange be effected by districts not even twenty miles apart. They must endeavor to improve their stock by those easy transitions which may be made in every Agricultural district in the world; and last, though not least, they must learn economical habits, and eat their own bread, rather than get their flour from the stores, at the expense of their farms. We feel perfectly surprised to learn that Oat and Corn Meal are not deemed good enough food by some families in the country, whose active habits and general good health, would assure us that they need no pampering of the appetite; and the lessons which we thus inculcate upon our neighbors, we are quite willing to practice ourselves—a long experience having convinced us that the most simple system of diet, is the most conducive to the health of the body, as well as the vigor of the mind.

Why should our farmers be discouraged? Let those who are so contrast their situation with that of thousands in the British Islands and on the Continent of Europe, where the hard-wrought laborer works not for himself, but too often for his unfeeling landlord. Our comforts as well as our troubles are often—very often—fixed by comparison, and the misfortune is, that in estimating either, we are more apt to apply ourselves to the easy state of the wealthy, than to that of hundreds who in their turn would change places with us, and rejoice in the bargain. Here, the farmer is lord of his own soul; and every stroke of labor which he performs, tends to his own comfort. We have too many indolent, thriftless farmers—if such they may be called—who just lay out to live in good seasons; but who are always in distress whenever there occurs a year of scarcity. Such persons always get to a certain point with their farms. You will always find them with a wide range of pasture land, grown over with bushes, and several acres under pretended cultivation; but without one rood, capable of returning a remuneration for their labor. You may know such by their cold cheerless aspect at home; and in the towns by a torn cloth jacket, and tattered trowsers of the same material. The money which they earn on the Bye-Roads if not spent in dissipation, is expended upon articles of food and clothing which ought to be produced at home; and you can never see them in the market with any thing better than a quarter of ill-fed veal. For the honor of our farmers, this is not a general picture; but it applies in more cases than a casual observer would suppose; and wherever such a slave to his own thriftless habits may be found, he is incessantly grumbling, and like a rotten vegetable infecting all round him.

Let no one accuse us of undue severity. We hate to be severe; and least of all would we wound the feelings of a class of men among whom there are some of our greatest friends.

There are thousands of Farmers in New Brunswick, who would do credit to any country in the world, and to them the province is principally indebted for its improvements. It is to these men that we look, under Divine Providence, for the future prosperity of the country; and under their wise industrious and economical management, and the expected return of our former plentiful harvests we trust that New Brunswick will shortly be herself again.

Canada Farmer and Mechanic. CULTIVATION OF OATS.

There are few crops so easily cultivated as oats, yet, to get a large yield, it requires that the land should be in the highest state of fertility. This crop is usually grown for the purposes of provender, for which it is peculiarly adapted for horses. Of late years an increased demand and value have been imparted to this grain, through the establishment of a great number of oat mills. A small proportion of the product of those establishments is exported to England, but the great bulk is consumed by the home population, thus taking the place of wheat flour. In many points of view, oatmeal is a more nutritious article of diet than wheat flour, and as the crop is much more easily cultivated than wheat, its consumption, as an article of food for man is a matter of much importance to the country. The oat crop may be very considerably increased without materially lessening the amount of wheat grown in the Province; and, therefore, whether it be consumed at home, or is exported is so much real gain to the country. If 100,000 barrels of oatmeal-flour be manufactured and consumed in the country, it is obvious that it would be a means of increasing the exports of wheat flour 100,000 barrels, and would thus enrich the country, by providing a means for paying for the imports at the rate of £100,000 per annum. If a saving of this kind can be made, and, besides, an equal quantity of oatmeal exported, both of which are quite practicable, this crop would then become one of the exports, of third rate importance. Much of the low interval lands of the country, that is quite too rich and wet for winter wheat, would grow most abundant crops of oats; and if lands like these were much more extensively brought into cultivation, and seeded down with the cultivated grasses, and occasionally broken up and sown with two or more successive crops, and the oats converted into oatmeal, a much greater quantity might be produced than what was supposed might be done in the foregoing calculation.

From the Baltimore Farmer.

SIGNS OF A POOR FARMER.

He Grazes his mowing land late in the spring. Some of his cows are much past their prime. He neglects to keep the dung and ground from the sills of his building. He sows and plants his land till it is exhausted, before he thinks of manuring. He keeps too much stock, and many of them are unruly. He has a place for nothing, and nothing in its place. If he wants a chisel or a hammer, he cannot find it. He seldom does any thing in stormy weather, or in an evening. You will often, perhaps hear of his being in the bar-room, talking of hard times. Although he has been on a piece of land twenty years, ask him for grafted apples, and he will tell you he could not raise them, for he never had any luck. His indolence and carelessness subject him to many accidents. He loses cider for want of a hoop. His plow breaks in his hurry to get in his seed in season, because it was not housed; and in harvest, when he is at work in a distant part of his farm, the hogs break into his garden, for want of a small repair in his fence. He always feels in a hurry, yet in his busiest day he will stop and talk till he has wearied your patience. He is seldom neat in his person, and generally late at public worship. His children are late at school, and their books are torn and dirty. He has no enterprise, and is sure to have no money; or, if he must have it, makes great sacrifices to get it; and as he is slack in his payments, and buys altogether on credit, he purchases every thing at a dear rate. You will see the smoke come out of his chimney long after daylight in winter. His horse stable is not daily cleansed, nor his horse boards are to be seen off his building, month after month, without being replaced, and his windows are full of rags. He feeds his hogs and horses with whole grain. If the lambs die, or the woo-