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Nec aranearum sane textus id eo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster melior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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ADDRESS

OF JUDGE WILMOT, AT THE RECENT PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION HELD AT FREDERICTON.

The large Hall of the new market House was densely crowded on Thursday evening, with a highly respectable and attentive audience of ladies and gentlemen from every section of the Province. We rejoiced to observe in addition to very many of the political and professional notabilities of the city and province, a very large representation of the agricultural and manufacturing classes present on this interesting occasion.

At the request of Judge Wilmot, Mr S. K. Foster of St. John sang with great effect "the Exhibition Song," to the spirited and beautiful music composed by himself, and accompanied by Mr. T. Gardiner, Professor of music St. John, on the piano forte, manufactured and exhibited by Mr Richards of Fredericton. The song was received with all the cordiality of repeated cheers, and at its conclusion Judge Wilmot addressed his audience as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen—

I fear the transition from music and song, to the plain prose which I am to furnish as my portion this evening, will seem to you abrupt and unsatisfactory. You must expect no formal lecture from me: I never lectured in all my life, and cannot now attempt it, for two sufficient reasons: first, I cannot write, and if I could, because next, I cannot read; and indeed who could read and give his eyes to paper, when they may enjoy the privilege of resting upon the more attractive faces of such an audience as I have now before me. You must be content then to receive from me an humble speech on the subject of our own good country.

Now to understand how our good country is—how fortunate its present position, I must invite you to a retrospect, not to the ancient trials and adversities of '83 but the later difficulties which have been surmounted within the last ten years.

In the lapse of ten short years, our trade has been prostrated by the operation of a great commercial panic, which for a time so seriously affected the value of our staple exports, reduced the demand for labor within the province, weighed down the hearts of our merchants, paralysed the energies of our agriculturists, filled our courts and prisons, and compelled us to seek refuge in a system of general, not to say almost universal bankruptcy. Our merchants and manufacturers were driven to the forests—the laborer called in vain for employment—many a strong heart fainted, many a strong arm hung down—and to make the darkness more profound, the potatoes were blighted and the protective policy of Britain, which had assisted to sustain us, was withdrawn—the navigation laws were repealed—and our province in town and country was disheartened. Yet after all, and in spite of all, we have lived through these disasters and difficulties, and God has blessed us with an abundant harvest, which is best of all; for we must ever bear in mind that while agriculture lies at the very foundation of national prosperity, the sunshine and shower which give success to agricultural labor come alone from God.

Agriculture is entitled to the foremost place among all the industrial employments in New Brunswick. Ancient and modern writers have acknowledged it first in character and value; in every age it has been regarded as an honorable employment by the best and wisest of our race.

"In ancient times the sacred plough employed

The Kings and awful fathers of mankind;
And some, with whom compared your insect tribes

Are but the beings of a summer's day,
Have held the scales of empire, ruled the storm

Of mighty war; then with unwearied hand,
Disdaining little delicacies seized

The plough, and greatly independent lived.
Ye generous Britons venerate the plough!
And o'er your hills and long withdrawing vales

Let autumn spread his treasures to the Sun
Luxuriant and unbounded."

But there are those who tell us ours is

not an agricultural country; who refuse to believe in its agricultural capabilities, and who will not believe me even when I produce statistics which are here before me, and to which I invite examination, and challenge contradiction, to establish that the value of agricultural labor in the year 1851, in this province, equalled the enormous sum of £1,672,000, which at six per cent is the interest of 28,000,000. Yet astonishing and demonstrative as these facts are there will still be unbelievers, men who will shut their eyes against the great array of witnesses gathered together in the Hall of the Exhibition, and showing a collection of agricultural productions which cannot be surpassed in any section of the world.

And is it any marvel that the world is ignorant of the resources of our country, when there are so many who are ignorant at home. One good result of the New Brunswick Society will be to make us know and appreciate ourselves, and to make us known abroad. And it is high time this ignorance of our character and the character of our country was dispelled. Not long since a person who arrived in this Province visited his friends in Britain, and when the subject of his colonial connection was referred to, it was with great regret that "he had not waited till his return, so that he could marry a *white woman*." As another illustration of this ignorance, I may mention that an English gentleman who fancied himself by no means deficient in intelligence, asked a provincial who happened to be in England, "how far it was from Halifax to Nova Scotia?" Again, a more painful, a more humiliating evidence of this prevailing ignorance is to be found in the Book of Geography, published by the National Society of Education, in the year 1849, in which it is coolly stated that the principal rivers of New Brunswick are the St. John, the Shubenacadie and the Annapolis; and that the chief employment of the people is in rolling logs down the bank through the winter, and taking them to Halifax in the spring. Out upon such ignorance and misrepresentation. Why we have lakes three hundred miles in the interior which would swallow three Nova Scotia rivers.

But the worst is we disparage our own resources. We did so at the World's Exhibition, when New Brunswick was represented by a lump of Asphaltum, the figure of an Indian, and a bark canoe. This disparagement is as unjust as it is unpatriotic, for we may safely put New Brunswick against any State in the Union for weight of wheat—bushel per bushel—and some of you will be surprised to learn that with all the boasted fertility of the grain growing States, they only produce 15 bushels per head in the United States, while we, unknown and dejected as we have been, are growing 11; and that while they give but 5 1-8 bushels of potatoes per head, we grow 14 3-8. We are ready to enter the lists with them for fair competition, and leave it to them to name both time and place.

Then we can beat them easily in raising beef; for in grass, potatoes and oats, we entirely outdo them in quality and quantity. With a free admission for provincial beef in the United States markets, our country of Westmoreland could send them more beef before many years, than would equal in value all our present exports.

Now if New Brunswick is not an agricultural country where is one to be found? Some samples of our Gloucester wheat were sent a few years since to Britain, and so surprised the corn traders by their weight, that a sheaf had to be forwarded to satisfy them that the grain had not been picked. True it is that our farmers have their difficulties, and other farmers in other countries have theirs; they attach to every employment and to every country; flies and rust injure wheat elsewhere as of ten as in New Brunswick, and the blight has destroyed other people's wheat as well as ours. The immense importance of agricultural success to national prosperity is shown in England, by the anxiety with which every indication of fair or unfavourable weather is noticed, not only by the agriculturist but by the merchant and statesman. One week of bad or good weather at a critical season for the crops will affect the markets of the world

There is no ground for discouragement or dissatisfaction with our country; there is no necessity for emigration. New Brunswick possesses a wealth in her potato fields superior to the gold fields of Australia, and our winters are infinitely better than their drought. Much has been said about and against our winters—much that is exaggerated and untrue. Why, cold as they are, they are healthy; they fertilise our soil; make us good and easy roads and bridges, and do us much good service. Who that knows New Brunswick would have a New Brunswick without snow?

But some have called our farmers lazy, and even Professor Johnson, who did something for us, for which he was well paid, has lent the authority of his sanction to this charge, and ungallantly extended it to our farmers' wives. It may be that the Professor, on some occasion when he rose with the birds to take one of his bird's eye views, managed to get up before his host, and then charge the whole class with laziness. But if our farmers and their wives are really lazy, how did they manage in one short season, to harvest 2 1-2 millions of bushels of grain, 3 millions roots and potatoes, and 25,000 tons of hay? and with lazy wives how did they make 3,000,000 lbs butter, and 1,000,000 lbs cheese?—There are drones in all pursuits—lazy everythings; there are some lazy non-producers—almost so lazy as to be non-consumers; and it may be we have some lazy farmers who would like to find a wheat that would sow itself, do its own reaping, and then walk into the barn. But as a class, our farmers will compare favorably in intelligence and industry with any other class.

Perfectibility is not yet attained in any profession. Lawyers have not attained perfection in the law, for its glorious uncertainties remain as uncertain as ever; and the doctors are still improvable, for we have a new and better kind of sarsaparilla every few weeks.

Our farmers are improving and they will improve; they will cultivate a smaller surface of land and work it better and more advantageously; they are advancing with the intelligence and improved facilities of the age. We hail their improvement and prosperity with satisfaction, because it is identical with the improvement and prosperity of our country. Agriculture feeds us, and infact clothes us; it is the central pillar which is the chief support of all provincial enterprise and success.

When we turn from agriculture to manufacturers we find that but one fifth of the value expended in manufacturing labor that is given to agriculture, or in figures a sum of £391,351. The gross value of provincial labor in agriculture, manufactures, and fisheries in the year 1851, amounts to £2,692,920, equivalent at six per cent to a capita of £44,000,000.

The New Brunswick Society, whose representative and organ I have the honour to be to-night, has made the improvement of our domestic manufactures an object only secondary to the paramount interest of agriculture. Believing with Lord Bacon that the essentials of national prosperity are to be found 1st in fertile fields, 2dly in busy workshops, and in the third essential, to which I shall presently allude, the Society have spared no effort or encouragement to draw out the ingenuity of our home mechanics, and seduce it into new and valuable channels. And nobly have the manufacturers of New Brunswick answered these exertions: their industry and ingenuity are attested on the tables and shelves of the exhibition, which demonstrate to every fair and intelligent observer, that there is nothing deficient in the skill of our mechanics. But they are exposed to a severe and prejudicial competition with those who supply the markets of the world—receive the orders of millions and enjoy all the vast facilities of machinery. What we want is neither industry nor skill: we want increased demand and larger markets for the products of our mechanical labor. Many of the articles exhibited by our mechanics would have been received with favor at the World's Show. But I will not, as I ought not, attempt to discriminate at this time.

Lord Bacon's third essential is, "easy means of conveying men and commodities from one place to another." And here I

must remind our friends from a distance, th honorable and satisfactory as the prese exhibition is on all hands acknowledged be, it is by no means a just illustration of the capabilities of New Brunswick: for i we enjoyed the rapid and cheap modes inter-communication familiar to our Western visitors this show would by vastly larger, more varied, and more creditable. In this very matter there is land ahead: the glorious vision of the Portland Convention is about to receive its realization; the pathway of the world is to pass through our country; men and commodities are to have easy way assigned them; the day of railways, of rapid progress and development, opening before us. Is it objected that these remarks I am venturing too near the party grounds of politics, which as a judge it is my duty to avoid? If so, I answer is a sort of politics which touches the welfare of my country, from which I will never be deterred. I would, indeed I might enact the Judge to-night, in this question of Railways. I am sure the intelligence and patriotism of such a jury as is now before me would never cavil or hesitate with the doctrine of my charge, and that by common consent we should find in favor of a Railway. (cheers.)

We have some old fashioned folks among us who have kept themselves out of reach of the light of the age, and don't know the good of railways. Pity they would not go elsewhere and see, and save themselves from the contempt which belongs to an ignorance alike unfortunate and irrational. Why, I venture to prophesy that the very day which witnesses the completion of the railway contract, will see the real estate in the Province increase in value at least fifty per cent.; yet there are those who have opposed and will oppose all railroads that do not pass beside their doorways. Some of these people would remove the St. John River elsewhere, if they had their way, and many of them certainly, if they had been consulted, would have opposed it running where it does.

Now in the development of railway enterprises, engineers will be required; where are they to be found? The schools of the Province do not supply them; and even these as defective as they are, are not attended as they should be. It is a lamentable a degrading fact, that there are 34,000 children between the ages of six and sixteen in New Brunswick, who attend no school, and only 18,000 who do. It is unpardonable that any child should grow up in our country without the benefits of at least a common school education. It is the right of the child; it is the duty not only of the parent, but of the people, see that he is not deprived of that right.

The property of the country should educate the country. All are interested in the diffusion of that intelligence which conserves the peace and promotes the well-being of society. The rich man is interested in proportion to his riches, and should contribute most to the maintenance of school. Though God has given me no child to educate, I feel concerned for the education of those who do possess them, I feel concerned for the education of those who do possess them. I feel concerned in what so intimately touches the best interests of our common country. I want to have the tax collector for schools calling at my door. I want the children of the poor in our remote and back settlements to receive the advantages now almost confined to their more fortunate brethren and sisters of the towns. I know full well that God has practiced no partiality in the distribution of that noblest gift of intellect—I know that in many a retired hamlet of our Province, amid many a scene of poverty and trial, there may be found young minds ardent and eager and worthy of cultivation, as the pampered children of our cities. It is greatly important to the advancement of the country, that these should be instructed.

What constitutes a state?
Not high raised battlement and labored mound;
Thick wall and massive gate—
Not cities proud, with spire and turret crowned;
Not bays and broad armed ports—
But men! high-minded men;
These constitute a State!"