

In collecting the returns from various districts in the County, and comparing them with reports from other parts of the Province, we cannot fail to discover much cause for gratitude to the bountiful Giver of all Good. The last summer's prolonged drought, which injuriously affected the crops, more particularly in the article of fodder, toward the south, bore comparatively light on this district.

In this County the Hay on heavy, rich and well cultivated land, yielded an average crop. On very light soils, and especially where negligently cultivated, it was not half a crop. Taking, however, into consideration, the increased quantity of land under grass, and the breadth of rich land under careful cultivation, we are warranted in safely estimating the deficiency at not exceeding one quarter, and although at the close of the season considerable alarm was felt, there now appears to be Hay enough and to spare.—The hasty killing of beef cattle in the fall was caused more by the lightness of straw than hay.

The progress in the cultivation of TURNIPS continues to be steady, and this root has at length become, what it ought to have been years ago, a necessary article of produce, enabling the farmer to sustain and fatten a larger stock of Cattle, Sheep and Hogs, and to open up and prepare a greater breadth of land for grain and grass. This crop, although principally grown in drills on well laid off fields, is also sown to a considerable extent and with much success broadcast on new burnt land. The increase of Pork feeding, partly ascribed to the turnip culture, is remarkable. Two years ago your Society's Report embraced a return of the Pork brought to market, and sold for business purposes alone from the three upper parishes of the County, a similar return this season enables us to draw a comparison greatly to the advantage of the present year.

In 1851 the quantity of Pork received from the parishes of Beresford, Bathurst, and New Bandon, was 28½ tons. This year from the same parishes there are received 48½ tons, making an increase of 20 tons. A portion of this was brought from the parish of Durham, Restigouche, but a quantity at least as large, will be taken to Northumberland and Kent this year.

Of the POTATOES in quantity or in quality there is scarcely a complaint worth recording; the yield was good, the tubers dry, and the disease less virulent than it has been any year since its first appearance.

WHEAT continues to be cultivated with success in the upper part of the parish of Beresford, along the Capes of New Bandon, and in the district of Youghal, where in quality it is equal to any previous year; but in the settlements in the interior, and generally throughout the parish of Bathurst, the result is not such as to warrant us recommending its cultivation being persevered in. In all cases the straw is short, as indeed it is also in Barley and Oats in every district.

BARLEY still maintains its character as a sure crop, we iterate a previous recommendation to Farmers to persevere in the cultivation of this cereal on good soils, and especially in those districts where wheat is uncertain nothing can be safer or more profitable and better adapted for sowing down in grass.

It is a source of mortification to observe that a sufficient quantity of OATS is not grown in this country to supply its annual consumption. Notwithstanding that several cargoes are periodically imported from Prince Edward Island, it is difficult to obtain a few bushels of Oats in Bathurst at the close of the season at any price. This should not be. Our Farmers ought to be able at least to raise sufficient for the wants of the place, and to compete successfully with the producers of Prince Edward Island, burdened as the latter are with freight and other charges of transit.*

Innumerable fields are laying around us, yielding from year to year miserable crops of stunted wild grass and weeds, which by judicious management would give abundance of Oats. Would the occupiers of such lands turn over one third of it in the fall of the year with the plough, and use the Iron Cultivator at intervals throughout the ensuing summer, they would at little expense of time and labour, and small loss of hay—so called—make a piece of clean land, free of that most destructive of all weeds—couch grass,—on which they could raise a good crop of White Oats, and have it in good condition for a green crop the succeeding year.

In connection with this subject, the Committee desire to invite public attention to the necessity of more and more making use of Iron Cultivators or Grubbers, such as those that have been imported by this Society. Old Country Farmers who have lived in this country for the last ten years and upwards, and who have not had the opportunity of marking the changes and improvements in farm labour at home during that period, would be surprised if they saw how extensively this article of husbandry is now used. In the preparation of land for the finer crops it has to a certain extent superseded the plough.

In Ireland—a country which under the fostering influence of Agricultural Institutions promises to become what its fine climate and fertile soil entitles it to be, the most productive portion of Great Britain—intelligent enquiries are being made as to the best method of bringing into profitable use its neglected land, and queries made to some of the most eminent practical Agriculturists have resulted in a decided opinion in favour of the use of the Grubber. Mr Tennant, Ayreshire, well known as the patentee of the two-horse Grubber which goes by his name, and equally well known as the introducer into Scotland of the practice of Autumn culture by means of the Grubber, states that his system is, so soon as he can get at his stubble land, to give it a thorough grubbing, a good deal of his land is clay soil, upon which the Autumn-grubbing works well. The grubbing heaves up the ground and drags the couch unbroken to the surface. This work can be done whether the land be dry or wet. Mr Tennant further states "that by such culture he saves 30 per cent of his former expense of green crop tillage which, on his farm is equal to £100 per annum, and that he has pursued this culture for a number of years."

Mr Wilson, of Edington Mains, Berwickshire, who grows upwards of 200 acres of Swedes and Turnip, states that "in March 1850 he commenced working his fallow land with the two-horse Grubber, and has done so ever since, both on light and clay soil, in spring and autumn with complete suc-

*The total quantity of Oats imported into Bathurst in 1853 is 7035 Bushels.

cess. In 1851 he worked 130 out of 210 acres of green crop land, with this Grubber without any spring ploughing, and put his turnip in in good order. In 1852 he had 230 acres cleaned with the two-horse Grubber." "The best way is to grub sufficiently in autumn as Mr Tennant does, and clean in spring what cannot be overtaken in autumn." Mr Wilson in a subsequent communication, says "my fields have recently been examined by several experienced persons, who have expressed to me their gratitude at the results of my experiments in grubbing. You are quite aware that I am not the introducer of this mode of tillage, I have no end to serve beyond the economical conducting of my business, and I have only to add, that I am about to pursue the same course with my fallow this Autumn."

And finally Mr Wilson an experienced Scottish Farmer, and Land Stewart on the Home Farm of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, at Windsor, states that "he uses the Grubber in the Autumn freely until the weeds and roots can all be carried off, after this is done a dressing of farm yard manure is given and ploughed in by Howard's plough (the same description as that imported by this Society) it will lie in this state through the winter, and before sowing turnips it will be again stirred by the Grubber."

It will not be out of place here to give an extract from the trade of the Port of Bathurst

The total Flour imported in 1853 was 5755 barrels against 3780 barrels in 1852.

General Imports in 1853 £25,527 against 17,437 in 1852. Exports in 1853 £23,615 against £21,227 in 1852.

Besides 1800 tons of Shipping.

In conclusion, one or two considerations may be submitted to the attention of the Members of the Society, which, while animating to the community at large, ought, we think to be especially to them. Till recently it was supposed that the Free States were progressing in population and general improvement much more rapidly than any of the British Provinces were. Correct enquiry and investigation have proved that this is not the case. Western Canada shews a much larger increase in the number of its people than Canada East, and the Western States, with the tide of immigration flowing into them, are in a similar position with respect to the other States.

It has been well observed respecting the States in the West: "Their most rapid increase, takes place during the earlier periods. To no inconsiderable extent, it springs from the wish to obtain possession of the lands at the original Government prices. As soon as the prospect presents itself of an early sale of these, often before they are surveyed, a rush is made upon them. By-and-by, the best portion of the lands being taken up, while numbers, large numbers it may be, still come in. The crowd moves in another direction, or waits in anticipation of the early opening of some newer territory. At this moment parties are passing on from the older to the newer portions even of Iowa, while others are looking with desire mingled with hope to the vast regions on the Missouri River, still in the hands of the Indians."

If our anticipations with regard to the opening up of the northern part of the Province by means of Railway communication, are likely to be speedily realised, then, we apprehend, the suggestions of this quotation might be applicable to our own district of country. We certainly expect that the facilities of transit will open to us many new markets for our productions, of which we have at present but very imperfect ideas. There never was a time in the experience of any Member of our Society, when the produce of the field was becoming so valuable. If then the agriculturist has the prospect of a ready sale for his articles, and at an enhanced price, should not this conviction stimulate him to earnest exertion? How rapidly may land soon rise in value? How productive of wealth, standing and comfortable independence, the well-tilled farm?

It is an authenticated fact that, while in the neighbouring states the improvements and increase of manufactures, have been great within the last twenty years, they have been at a stand still as regards the amount of the product of the land. In Canada on the other hand, the production of the staple article of wealth and export—winter wheat, has during that period, multiplied amazingly. Hence large quantities of it, as also of other Canadian agricultural products, are imported into the States. To such an extent is this the case, and so sensibly is the tax of twenty per cent on Colonial produce felt by the American consumer, that it is generally believed Congress will soon be required to apply to Canada for Reciprocal Free-Trade. Were such a measure of sound policy in operation, we too would largely participate in the benefit. Though unable to raise Fall Wheat we have a soil and climate admirably adapted for green crops or the growth of Oats and Barley. And if even as things now stand, articles of our raising, might probably be exported into the Markets of the United States, how much more would this be the case, if the heavy impost with which the trade is now burdened were removed, and the natural order of things were suffered to prevail?

There is no necessity, however, for inaction even in our present circumstances. Nor should despondency or discontent be allowed to possess the mind of any, from a comparison with the position or advantages of others. During our delightful though brief summer, we have many inducements to take avail of the opportunities of trade which our favourable situation opens up to us. And though not favored with the climate and luxuries of the West and the South it is well that we should bear in mind that we are free of their fevers and agues, while many of the comforts of life may be secured at a cheaper price than in those more prolific latitudes.

An intelligent acquaintance with the experience of others and especially a little correct observation, would go far with our Farmers, to prove to them that they are, or may be partakers of equal comforts with any Agriculturists on the American Continent, and greater than many. Their nearness to the sea-board and intercourse with the mother country, bring its manufactures easily to their doors. Their maritime facilities also cause them to enjoy the benefits of the growth of many a distant colony and country. The position of the Provincial Territory is also favourable as enabling the inhabitants generally, even the remote, to participate largely of the blessings of civilization and christian communion, while a great amount of tallow feeding, courting, and kindli-

* Canada, its growth and prospects; Lecture by the Rev. Adam Lillie.

ness prevail among us than in those wide ranges of country, or even centres of commerce where the selfishness of man has isolated him from conscious brotherhood with those around him, and one result of the go-ahead principle, is a total indifference to the weal or the woe of any individual not obviously promotive of self aggrandizement,

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM NAPIER, Secretary.

On the motion of Mr Robert Brown, seconded by Mr Malloy, the Report was approved of and ordered to be published in pamphlet form; the list of Prizes awarded at the different Exhibitions to be included.

The following Office Bearers were then appointed for the ensuing year:

President—Samuel L. Bishop, Esq.

Vice Presidents—John Chalmers, William Malloy, John Ferguson, and Hugh A. Caie, Esqrs.

Committee—Messrs. John T. Carter, William Waterson, Robert Barbour, Robert Brown, James Hendry, Robert Ferguson, Thomas Matheson, Anthony Rainy, Robert Moody, Thomas Seaton, James Chalmers, and John Waterson.

On motion—it was ordered that the Committee publish a list of the Prizes to be competed for during the year, early in the season.

SAMUEL L. BISHOP, Chairman.

News of the Week.

CANADA.

FEDERAL UNION OF THE BRITISH PROVINCES.—It is positively asserted that the Union of all the British North American Provinces will shortly be brought about, with Quebec as the seat of the Federal Government, and each Province having its separate legislature. Although it was currently rumoured that such a change was contemplated, it was only said within the last few days that it would positively take place. A Quebec correspondent writes that it is also generally believed here, that Lord Elgin and Mr Lafontaine have proceeded to England for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to bring it about. I have merely to state the facts, without offering any remarks on the probable effects of this Government. I take it as a move in the right direction, for "Union is strength," and it is not difficult to foresee that it is only another struggle for self-government. The friends of the confederation say that the Provinces, containing three millions of people, will be able to establish a government almost independent of England, and that they hail it as the dawn of better days.—*Toronto Examiner.*

Speaking of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, Herapath's Railway Journal says:

The report to be found in another column, of Mr W. Chapman, the secretary, and of Sir Cusack Roney, the managing director, will be read with peculiar interest. After so much discussion as has recently taken place on the merits of the undertaking, and the conduct of the directors in reference to the Great Western of Canada, the official reports will be very acceptable. The works are reported to be proceeding well, the prospects of a remunerative dividend are shown to be good.

P. E. ISLAND.

The storm on the 23rd ult. was felt very severely on P. E. Island. Hazard's Gazette of 24th ult. says:

We were visited last night by one of the most terrific storms of wind and rain, from the S. E., that has ever been experienced in this town. We fear that we shall hear of much damage being done throughout the country. The roof on the north side of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul, in Charlottetown, was completely torn off and thrown to the ground; the wind having got under the eaves, and from thence along the roof. The interior of the church has suffered no great injury and a large body of workmen are engaged in repairing the damage to the roof and in preparing the church for the services of the morrow. Several chimneys have been blown down, and fences prostrated.

The following extracts from a letter dated "Searltown, Bedeque, Dec. 27th," show that the gale was equally severe in other parts of the Island.

* * * * * The storm commenced about dark the wind blowing from S. E. It continued to increase during the whole of the night, until a little before daybreak the gale gathered the most terrific violence. * * * * * Corresponding with the tumultuous uproar of the elements was the destruction of property. At the distance of seven or eight miles from where I reside, a house belonging to a Mr. Richard Clark caught fire when the gale was at its worst, and was reduced to ashes in one hour after the fire originated, together with all the clothing, provisions, and furniture it contained, giving Clark and his family barely time to escape from the flames to a neighbor's house, naked and barefooted. The fire originated by the kitchen door being forced open by the violence of the wind, and blowing the burning cinders through the house. So rapidly, and almost instantaneous was the fire blown into one living flame, that not a single article in the house was saved; not even the wearing apparel of the family. A large new two-story house, rough boarded and nearly all shingled which was built a few months ago by a young man named Clay, was levelled to the ground, and the timbers and other materials were so broken and shattered, that the whole is rendered a complete wreck—About a hundred and fifty yards from this house, another of the same description, but not so large, was blown down. At a similar distance in an opposite direction, the whole side of a substantially built barn, owned by a Mr. Thomas Wright, was carried to the distance of several hundred feet, and lodged in an orchard. At a little further distance still, a new building intended for an Episcopalian Church was also demolished. About a mile or better in a northerly direction, the barn of a Mrs. Murray was blown down, killing her whole flock of sheep but four. At a settlement called Free-town, several houses and barns were destroyed, killing and injuring several horses and cattle. In the falling of one house a young woman was seriously bruised.

* * * * * The destruction is general throughout the country and it will require some time before all is known. Such an amount of destruction by wind alone, was never known, I believe, to take place here before. A. A. MCKENZIE.