

THE FARMER'S PIC-NIC.

East Florenceville has been quite *en fete* during the week, and has had altogether a lively and bustling appearance. The Farmer's Pic-nic which has been one of the events of the season, took place here on Thursday the 27th inst, and was very largely attended by the agricultural part of the community; and indeed, by many not directly engaged in tilling the soil.

We think that some kind of exhibition in connection with such an event would have proved a greater attraction to visitors than to simply walk about and exchange the 'time o' day' with friends, from far and near. The exhibit of farm-implements would be an attraction to visitors and tend to popularise the articles so exhibited. Have none of our manufacturers the spirit to show their goods at a time like this? Our carriage builders too, might exhibit at such gatherings, in this way they could bring their manufactures prominently before the public, and probably secure the trade that is being taken out of the province by travelling agents. We were asked a question some short time ago, bearing on this point i.e. Why can't our carriage builders make as good a carriage, or as good a wagon, as they build in Ontario? We don't know, and leave the question to be answered by the carriage builders of the province.

If they can, why don't they? And at future gatherings of this kind, exhibit them, ticket them and the people will be able to institute comparisons between the solid home-made article, and the jerry-built production of distant places. We think that these suggestions because everything connected with farming carried out in the most attractive manner possible. But we are digressing *revenons a nos moutons*, the pic-nic.

In the afternoon a series of addresses were delivered from an improvised platform under the presidency of John R. Ronald, Esq. and the speeches were listened to with marked attention. Mr. G. E. Baxter of Perth, opened the ball with a telling speech directed principally to the importance of education to the farmer, not simply a good commercial education but a scientific training, directed to the acquirement of a practical and theoretical knowledge of all those sciences that are so intimately connected with the all important subject, remunerative farming. A point was made by this speaker as to the expediency of having a practical farmer at the head of The Agricultural Department, instead of putting into such a position, men learned only in the law, or some equally unsuitable profession.

The next speaker was Colonel Blair, Superintendent of Experimental Farm at Nanaimo, whose address was of a practical scientific character, intended to illustrate to the assembled farmers how it is absolutely necessary to restore to the soil, those constituents that are absorbed from it by certain crops. The importance of studying the nature and requirements of the soil, and it's adaptability for the different crops grown by the farmer. The importance of deep plowing, to bring to the surface the great store of plant food that is locked up beneath the superficial layer of soil; and which becomes rapidly exhausted unless newer soil, or manure is constantly added, to restore those substances that are removed by continuous cropping.

The colonel also expatiated at some length on the value and importance of the work carried on at the Experimental Farms, in acclimating fruits, vegetables, and grains to the various conditions of different parts of the Dominion; and he showed how these farms, supported by the government, carried on experiments for the public benefit, that would be utterly impossible for private individuals, on account of the great expense.

Other speakers followed, but nothing particularly new, or particularly interesting could be evolved from them and the day's proceedings were brought to a close.

The Engineers Camp.

On an elevated plateau, was the encampment of the Brighton Engineers; and a really pretty sight it was. The snowy white bell tents, to the number of twenty-four showed up well, and the picturesque uniforms of the men added much to the *tout ensemble* of the scene. The site was very well chosen for the purpose, a steep glacis in front, with another steep bank at the rear, and between these two a fine level terrace that formed a charming spot for the encampment and parade and drill ground.

The encampment formed a powerful rival to the pic-nic, and many visitors preferred watching the drilling of our volunteer defenders to strolling about on the farmer's meeting ground. For our own part we had good reason to prefer it, for we were most hospitably entertained at dinner by the commanding officer and his confreres; and afterwards enjoyed the genial society and good cigars of our *bon camarade* Dr. Rankin, in his own comfortable quarters.

Good News for the Faithful.

During the past month we received a pleasant visit from the Rev. J. E. Flewelling, of Centreville, and were gratified to learn that he intends to hold services of the Church of England in our neighbourhood at convenient intervals. In fulfillment of this promise he attended at Esdras on the 20th inst., and held a preliminary service. The day being the 58th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the special service for that day; as well as the ordinary service, was rendered. A numerous congregation attended and the service, and sermon were received with the utmost attention. Mr. Flewelling informs us that he purposes holding service there again on August 29th. (D. V.)

FORESTON.

Mr. M. Welch's mill at this place is 'undergoing a thorough overhauling.' An additional structure is to be built, some thirty feet long, which will be equipped with a shingle mill and a lath machine. A new turbine wheel of great power is being put in by the maker, Mr. Dunnean Buchanan of Apohaqui. A Slayton wheel is also being placed in position; and these two will replace the old wooden affairs that have done duty so long. The improved mill will be a great boon to the surrounding country as hitherto, lumber for building purposes has had to be hauled over long distances, and bad roads; and this has proved a barrier to a substantial growth of our back settlements. It is to be hoped that by the facilities the new mill will afford, one obstacle to the progress of the locality will be removed.

We want to see all our unoccupied farms tilled, and our wild lands filled up with good settlers.

Why cannot our government bid for some of the tenant farmers of the mother country, instead of filling it with Danes, Scandinavians, Icelanders, Mennonites, and other outlandish foreigners when there are plenty of English farmers, who would be glad to come, if decent inducements were offered?

Want of space compels us to withhold interesting communications, and other matter.

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