

**FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE.**

**The Advantages of Scientific Farming.**

**LECTION OF FARM LIFE IN ENGLAND.**

**Interesting Speech by Goldwin Smith**

In the course of an address to the students of the Ontario Agricultural College, a few days ago, Goldwin Smith said:

I am not going to attempt to talk to you on farming, because I would expose my own ignorance in less than half a sentence. But I lived in the country in England and never shall forget the charms of its farm life. Nothing in the world could be more delightful, combining, as it does, sylvan beauty and the finish caused by the outlay of so many years. My memories of farm life are now quite obsolete. When I carry my mind back to the farming of that time I see the reapers working in a row with their sickles, with the women following, and in the autumn time I hear the flail. Dr. Smith then sketched in outline the history of agriculture in England from the manorial system through the troublesome times following the black death, with labor strikes, compared with which the strikes of the present time are mere trifles, until it gradually settled down to its present condition, the division of the agricultural world between the landlord, the tenant farmer and the laborer. When the landlord was kind this was not an unhappy state of things, and he pointed out that some landlords, such as Lord Townshend and Mr. Cook, of Norfolk, were great improvers of agriculture. This showed what a necessary part the holder played in agriculture. A small holder could not start such improvements. That he believed to be the cause of China's stagnation. Mr. Gerald Wilson in his book on China said that no one man in 10,000 was wealthy. They were not able to start improvements. "We have not the great land lord here," Mr. Smith said, "to start improvements and made experiments, but we have the Guelph Agricultural College to take the part of these men English agriculture and country life, he continued had come to another crisis. The value of wheat has declined, and he thought permanently. He could not imagine that it could ever again be based there in competition with Canada, the Argentine Republic, Russia and Hindostan, with its cheap labor. The consequence would be a great change in English agriculture, and the farmers must take to producing those things which they could sell in the great cities. The land could no longer support the three classes, and one must go; it would probably be the landholder, the one who did not produce.

**SMALL HOLDINGS.**

Some desired to cut up England into small holdings, and there was something very attractive in a small holding, but what was to be done with the great mansions and farm buildings of England? They would have to change the whole agricultural structure of the country. It would be an evil day for England in which the agricultural interest sank into a permanent depression. It was the foundation of a well-balanced industry, for it was after all the farms and farmers on which national prosperity rested. Dr. Smith said that he had been talking to President Mills about what some people thought, and he was inclined himself to think, the excessive resorting of young men to the Universities and the professions, that were supposed to be higher callings, although in the disposition of human lot no honest calling was high and none low. The professions were becoming overstocked, and there was no doubt that that involved a social as well as an economic danger. What was to be done to obviate that? There was no one single cure, but he could not help thinking, especially after what he had seen that day, that more scientific agriculture might form an equally congenial field for young

men whose ambition now carried them to the University. No doubt it was a dull life, but it was not so dull as that of a clerk in a store or a bank, or of a mechanic. He had change of the seasons and the pleasure of seeing and rejoicing in the work of his own hands, whereas the mechanic was merely a human handle or spindle. Therefore, even in its lowest grade, agriculture had an advantage over other callings, but if it became scientific he did not know why it should not be just as interesting to an intelligent man as law or medicine or any other profession. It seemed to him from what he had seen that day that agriculture was apt to undergo a change, that much larger methods of farming were likely to take the place of the small farming, although in the north-west it was found that the larger farms did not as a rule pay, probably on account of the long winters and the difficulty of keeping the stock through them. He could not help thinking that some change must take place. At all events the ground which in the past had been scratched would be tilled; and the produce would be doubled. In this connection he referred to the example of England, where with a comparatively unfertile soil they raised the best crops in the world. He referred to his first visit to the college 25 years ago when it was young and struggling; but now it was securely established in the confidence of the Province, and likely to return to the Province tenfold or one hundred fold for the money spent upon it.

**NOTES AND COMMENTS.**

—London advices state that at the sale of the library of the late Earl of Ashburham Caxton's translation of "A Booke of the Hoole Life of Jason," from the French of Roul Lefevre, one of the earliest productions of Caxton's press, having been published at Westminster about 1477, was bought by Mr. Pickering, the publisher, for £2,100. The copy is perfect and unique. Other Caxton publications sold for £600 and £950.

—According to the Engineering News locomotive engineers of the Central Railway of New Jersey must not, after January 1st, 1898, be over 50 years of age to retain their places. The reason advanced is that there is too great public risk in retaining men over that age at such an important post. Those who have passed that age and are otherwise useful will be employed in some other capacity by the company.

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**THE DAILY EXAMINER.**  
DECEMBER 15, 1897.

**THE SENATE APPOINTMENT.**

RUMOR has lately connected the name of the Honorable David Laird with the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories. If Mr. Laird should again be appointed to that office, he will, without doubt, be warmly, if not enthusiastically received by the men of the prairies. No Governor of the Northwest has commended himself to men of all shades—Indians, half-breeds and white men, Protestants and Catholics, Liberal and Tories, as has "The Tall Chief." But we think the chances of his nomination to that office are slim. The present Minister of the Interior doesn't know much about our David; and it is probable that he has friends of his own to promote. If Mr. Mills was at the head of the Interior Department the likelihood of Mr. Laird's return to the Northwest would be much stronger than it is. As Mr. Mills is now in the Senate and will be leader in the Senate; and as Liberal ability is sadly needed in the Senate, we think it much more probable that Mr. Laird will be called to fill the vacancy created by the death of the Hon. Senator Arsenault. Of all the Liberals available for the Senate vacancy Mr. Laird is foremost in respect to experience in Parliament, knowledge of the politics and the conditions of the country, and in debating ability. There are other gentlemen who would probably like very well to be appointed to the Senate. But speaking generally the man with whose appointment all parties in this Province would be satisfied is the Hon. David Laird; and, taken for all in all, he is ablest to serve the country in Parliament.

**A FEW POINTS TO BE NOTED**

FAULT is often found with THE EXAMINER because we do not criticize strongly enough the numerous faults and blunders of the present administrations, Dominion and Provincial. We rather like this because it shows that the people are alive to what is going on and that they will be ready at the right time to vote the incompetent extravagants out of office. But it is not, in our opinion, advisable at this juncture to rouse party feeling. This is a time at which our people ought, if possible, to pull together for the promotion of the interests of the Province and to give the Liberals no excuse to evade the fulfillment of their promises in respect to important matters. With the Liberals in power in this Province and in the Dominion at large, there can be no excuse for the fulfillment of these Liberal promises, unless we give it to them. They have held out the hope that a million or more dollars will be added to the capital of this province, the interest of which may be drawn upon for the relief of its taxpayers. On the strength of this hope, deliberately held out, the Liberals were returned to power. They have promised that a branch railway shall be extended across the Hillsborough to Murray Harbor. They have promised extensive harbor works at Summerside. They have promised other substantial and needed improvements in other parts of this province. They have promised material aid towards direct communication between this Province and Great Britain, with cold storage. We want to see them fulfil all their promises and shall not be too critical of Liberal faults and blunders until we see that the opportunity to fulfill them has passed.

We need not add that the opportunity is fast passing away. The Liberals in office have need to beat themselves in order that they may redeem their bonds to the people.