

THE DAILY EXAMINER

SEPTEMBER 29, 1898.

OUR IMPROVED LIVE STOCK.

THAT OUR Liberal Government have brought the finances of this Province to such a pass that they cannot now afford to grant a sum of money for a local exhibition is, of course, a matter of regret. But the commendable enterprise of our farmers has been shown in the large and creditable exhibits of live stock they have lately made at St. John and Halifax. It has again been demonstrated to the world that, in respect to cattle and sheep, at least, Prince Edward Island holds the preeminence in the Maritime Provinces. The fact must be gratifying to all who are interested in the welfare and prosperity of the province; for our sources of wealth are largely in our herds and flocks. It is apparent that P. E. Island stock raisers are not being overtaken by their competitors; and we have reasons for believing that the cattle of farmers, generally, throughout the country, has improved, as a whole, in recent years. A drive from Charlottetown to St. Eleanor's through the thriving settlements of West River, Crapaud, Tryon and Bedque; thence home by way of New Aonan, Margate, New London, New Glasgow, Rustico and Milton will show many really fine, healthy and well-conditioned herds of cattle grazing on the pastures and meadows. This is one of the first results of co-operative dairying. The additional manure obtained from larger herds has enriched the farms, which produce larger crops of hay, corn, and roots, and these fed freely to the cattle during the winter, together with additional care in breeding, have gone to make the improvement that has been noted. Judging by the cattle we see in the fields our farmers are building up their dairy herds upon an Ayrshire foundation. Besides being good milkers and making good beeves at the last, the Ayrshires withstand the cold of our winters better than breeds of cattle which have their birthplace in a warmer climate than that of Scotland. Crosses with pure-bred Guernseys, Jerseys, Holsteins, and other first-class breeds of milk cattle, judiciously made, are certainly beneficial; and it is pleasing to see that these are being effected, as well as to note that the predominant strain of blood is that of the hardy and thrifty Ayrshire. While giving increased attention to the improvement of dairy cattle, our farmers have, perhaps, neglected somewhat the breeds which make for beef. But we hope that the recent successes of our stock-raisers, together with the continued strength of the beef cattle-market, will induce our farmers to renew their efforts in this regard. Let us have better classes of beef as well as dairy cattle, and all of the finer quality.

ONTARIO'S BIRTHRATE.

THE cry has gone up that the birthrate of Ontario is dwindling unwholesomely. Statistics quoted recently, go to show that it is one-third lower than that of England and Wales, and lower even than that of France, about which there has lately been many expressions of national regret and alarm. From the national point of view, the failure to bring forth healthy and vigorous, moral and religious children is certainly one of the greatest of misfortunes. "Ill faves the land, to hastening ills a prey, When wealth increases and when men decay." The low birth rate in the New England States is likely to result in the displacement of the sturdy stock governing in the early days of the great Republic by a foreign element, which, it is feared by some persons, may not, in the time of trial, prove to be so staunch and true to free institutions.

ons. However this may be, the report from Ontario is not pleasing to those who care for the future prosperity of the country. According to private reports there are at least some parts of P. E. Island not open to the reproach that has been cast upon Ontario. When the new Roman Catholic Church at Fifteen Point was designed, some of those who are interested in it feared that the congregation there would never be large enough to fill it. But these fears have been dissipated by the numerous applications for baptism recently made. It is stated that there have been, since the corner-stone was laid, two or three months ago, thirty-seven baptisms to five deaths. If this rate of increase is maintained, the new church of Mount Carmel—large as it is—will soon be well filled. It is apparent, at all events, that the mothers of that part of the country are doing their duty, and we may hope that the falling birth-rate lamented in Ontario may be counterbalanced by an increase of young Canadians born elsewhere.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—In the course of his opening remarks as chairman of the Prohibition meeting held in the Market Hall last evening Dr. Taylor declared that if the drinking of liquor as a beverage were stopped the chronic diseases of men would be reduced one-third in ten years. Whether we obtain prohibition or not, this deliberate statement of an experienced physician is noteworthy.

—In Albany's new theatre, the Empire, a few nights ago the first presentation of Hall Caine's adaptation of "The Christian" was given. A representative audience attended the performance, among those present being many state officials. Hall Caine was in a box. One of the noteworthy features of the evening's entertainment was the debut, as a star, of Miss Viola Allen, for the last five years leading woman of the Empire Theatre Stock Company, New York.

—The truth of noblesse oblige is well shown by the incident related by John F. Bass in his Manila letter in Harper's Weekly for September 10. He was at General Anderson's headquarters when a man, who but a short time ago had been the captain of one of the Spanish men-of-war which lies with projecting spars at the bottom of Cavite harbor, but who was now rather shabbily dressed, came in and said:

"Senor, I borrowed, some time ago, two hundred dollars from Admiral Dewey to pay off my men. I have come to repay the debt."

He turned his profile, and they noticed how thin he looked. He must have starved himself to collect the money. With a very straight back, he counted out the Spanish bills, and turned to go.

"Will you not take a receipt?" asked the aide of General Anderson.

"Never from an officer," answered the grey-haired old gentleman, with a courtly, old-fashioned bow.

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