

for the great meagreness that characterizes these reports. If the societies had been expected or required to give something more than a bald statement of income and expenditure, they would doubtless have inserted a few words, at least, that would have enabled a stranger, after perusing their reports, to form some definite idea of the state and prospects of agriculture and its allied mechanical arts, in the several localities which these societies represent. As it is, scarcely anything can be learned beyond what is stated by figures. It is most earnestly to be hoped, for the credit of the societies themselves, and the good of the cause which it is their duty to foster and promote, that this most serious defect will be corrected in future. There are few townships even, we should suppose, but what have something that transpires in relation to agriculture and the mechanical arts during the year that would not be worth recording. Any remarks, however general, would be an agreeable relief to the monotony of dry figures. We understand that the Commissioner has requested of the societies information of this character, so that this deficiency will, it is to be hoped, be supplied in future returns.

APPENDIX D. contains an analysis of crop returns from the various Electoral Division Societies, for the year 1868. This is a move in the right direction; and as a first effort, and considering the short time allowed for completing the returns, a good deal of interesting and useful information was obtained. The crops over so extensive an area as the Province of Ontario, and comprising considerable differences both in soil and climate would necessarily be variable; but considering the intense drought which generally prevailed, the results on the whole must be regarded as satisfactory. We are pleased to learn that the Commissioner intends to secure more correct and extended returns of this nature during this current year.

APPENDIX E. contains a tabulated abstract of the returns of Mechanics' Institutes, which was referred to in our February number, with a catalogue of technical books on various branches of science and art, with the prices and the names of the publishers, which will be found exceedingly useful to the managers of mechanical and agricultural libraries. A notice of the horticultural reports we must leave for our next issue.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO EXPERIMENTERS.

At a meeting of the Council of the Provincial Association, held in Toronto, March 19th, a communication was read from Mr. Charles Arnold, of Paris, Ont., in which that gentleman stated that he has been for some years past experimenting upon the production of new varieties of wheat, with a view to obtaining a grain or grains that shall be at once of high quality and proof against insect attacks. To accomplish this, he has crossed the White Soule and Red Midge-proof, and has succeeded in producing fifteen varieties, selected from upwards of one hundred, that seem to combine the good qualities of both parents. One of these yielded in a single season upwards of 4800 grains from one kernel, and last year, under ordinary cultivation, some of these varieties yielded at the rate of from 60 to 80 bushels to the acre, while other varieties in rows within 7 inches of them, under the same treatment, only yielded at the rate of from 20 to 30 bushels to the acre. At the present time, Mr. Arnold has about an acre of land planted with these new wheats.

The object of Mr. Arnold's communication was to induce the Agricultural Association to investigate these wheats, and if they are found to be valuable, aid in multiplying and disseminating them.

Mr. Christie and other members of the Council spoke in high terms of the efforts Mr. Arnold had made in this direction, and the remarkable success that had attended his experiments. It was agreed, on all hands, that it would be well in some tangible way to recognize the services of men like Mr. Arnold, who have spent much time and money in improving the produce of the country. And it was stated that, in all probability, unless the Association seized the opportunity of securing Mr. Arnold's varieties of grain at once, they would not get them at all, as several Americans had an eye on his experiments, and were prepared to purchase the results at any price.

Well, what did the Council do? Why, they just resolved that the members of the Executive Committee be instructed to supervise the operations of growth and mode of improvement, so far as opportunity allows, and that a special