

HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Through the want of an official report, we have neglected up to this period to give the particulars of what transpired at the annual meeting of the Home District Agricultural Society, which took place at the Court House on the 14th day of February last. The scheme for re-organizing Agricultural Societies, as contained in the *Cultivator* of December last, was read by the Chairman, Edward Thompson, Esq., and was so far approved of as the organization of Branch Societies in the Townships is concerned; but that clause which has reference to the organization of a Provincial Society was very properly postponed for further consideration.

A considerable discussion arose relative to the manner and amount of assistance that should be given to the Branch Societies; and the only feasible plan that was suggested, was that of giving a liberal amount to the Township Societies respectively, in proportion to the amount that each have in fund on the 15th day of May next, and that the members of the Township Societies shall have all the advantages that the District Society's exhibitions may afford. This suggestion was highly approved of, and accordingly adopted. It was also resolved that the Presidents of the Township Societies should be *ex officio* Directors to the District Society, and that the District Society should elect another Director from its members in each Township where a Branch Society is established; which was also agreed should be carried into effect to an extent as far as the infant state of the movement would allow.

The officers for the present year consist of—

President—W. B. Jarvis, Esq.

Vice Presidents—Wm. E. Thompson, Esq., and Captain Harris.

Secretary—George D. Wel's, Esq.

Treasurer—Wm. Atkinson,

Directors—Franklin Jackes, Esq., York; John Torrance, Scarborough; Dr Allison, Markham; J Scarlett, Esq., York; James Brown, Esq., Vaughan; Wm. Thompson, Esq., Toronto; Asa Baker, E. obicoke; John Cade, Whitby; David Smith, Toronto; Abram Furwell, Esq., Whitby; Peter P. Pearson, Whitchurch, and George Miller, Markham.

The noble stand which the officers of the Home District Agricultural Society have taken in the business of organizing Branch Societies will tend, in a very powerful manner, to cause the farmers in the townships to exert their influence in sustaining the character of the district exhibitions. The prospects of the District Society were never so favourable as at present. We have heard several farmers, who have never troubled themselves with these matters before, say that, if the scheme be adopted of having a general annual exhibition, on the grand scale contemplated by the projectors of the plan, they would become members of the District Society, and pay their ten shillings annual subscription ungrudgingly. Although the whole matter may almost be considered as yet in embryo, still so great an interest was never evinced before in Canada in regard to the success of an agricultural movement.

We confidently expect that the next autumn's show will be by far the largest and most splendid of the kind that ever took place in British America.

PROSPECTS OF THE WHEAT CROP, &c

It may be safely said that the wheat plants never looked better at this season of the year than they do at present. An unusual breadth of ground was sown with wheat last autumn, and a great proportion of the fallows were in a proper state of culture for the crops. But few summers, within our recollection, were more propitious than the past for the preparation of land for wheat—the plants also had time to get a healthy growth during autumn, and the past winter has been neither too cold nor too warm for the plants; so, on the whole, the husbandman should rejoice at his prospects, and take courage. There never was a period in the history of our country when such strong inducements for emulation were held forth for effecting improvements in the Agricultural and Mechanical branches, as at present; nor do we recollect of ever seeing such a determination displayed on the part of the producing classes, of purchasing less and producing more, than is evinced at present in every part of the country that we have lately visited. A degree of caution is now observed in almost every section of the country, in the purchase of even the common necessaries of life; very different from what has heretofore characterized our countrymen. They find it to be an uncertain business to purchase more than for which they are able to pay. Virtually, mortgaging their crops before they are sown. It is an undeniable fact, that there never was a period, since the first settlement of this country, in which so much industry, caution, and general knowledge of causes and effects were displayed in the various branches of business as at present. The opinion is now pretty general, that in order that the country should flourish and every branch of trade have a healthy appearance, that the exports of the country must be increased, and the imports lessened by every possible means, until the period arrives when the balance of trade will be in favour of the Colony. The moment that this point is gained, an entire revolution in our monetary condition will be effected. The real and fictitious capital of the country will then be employed in developing its resources; and instead of the farmer who may be unable to borrow one hundred pounds upon the security of freehold property to the value of five hundred, as now is the case, he will then be enabled to borrow upon the most easy terms. Without professing to have a knowledge of future events, we venture the opinion, that within three years the exports of this country will be equal to its imports. The producing powers of the country have only yet been partially tested. There are very many articles which might be grown, with great profits, to a considerable extent, that are now unknown in the country. And besides, our great staple, the wheat crop, may be quadrupled within a very short space of time, providing the proper methods be adopted in its culture. As a proof of the advance which Agriculture is making in Canada, we would mention that double the usual number of acres of fall wheat will be harvested this year; and, if the harvest be at all favorable, that the produce in spring wheat alone will be sufficient for a supply of bread stuffs for a twelve month.

Manufactures were never carried on with more spirit and certainty of profits than at present, and mercantile and general commercial operations have a very sound and healthy appearance. Our cities, towns, and villages are rapidly improving in appearance; and the growth and improvements of the towns can scarcely be said to equal the improvements which are taking place in the rural districts. There, the dwelling-houses and out-offices, fences, live and dead stock, and the routine of farm operations, are all being improved by the intelligent cultivators who are lords of the soil they cultivate. In fact we see no obstacle in the way to hinder this colony from being a most important and prosperous country, and one in which every advantage could be realized and enjoyed, that is possessed in the Mother Country. It is scarcely saying too much, that the people of this country are now nearly enjoying the same privileges as though they were living in England. From the circumstance that the produce of Canada, is now admitted at a mere nominal duty, into the English markets, the

Canadian farmer should exert all his powers in producing a large surplus of every description of produce, that can be successfully and profitably exported thither. It will be our constant and earnest desire to assist the producing classes of the country in every possible way, and we hope that all will be found willing to receive counsel upon matters of such great importance to general welfare of the country.

BRANCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Since the period that the scheme for organizing Branch Agricultural Societies in the several townships in the Home District was proposed, there appears to have been a very laudable spirit of rivalry at work among the most intelligent and wealthy farmers of the townships of Whitby, Markham, Vaughan, Toronto, York, and Scarborough, to ascertain which could add the greater number of subscribers to their subscription list. It was generally supposed that the township of Markham Society would outnumber any two Societies in the District; this opinion was confidently entertained by ourselves, owing to the circumstance, that it contained the largest population, the most wealth, and the greatest amount of practical Agricultural skill of any township in the Province of United Canada. Another circumstance which strengthened this opinion, and which had more influence than any other, was that the farmers in the south of Whitchurch, and corner of Uxbridge and Pickering, evinced a desire to become members of the Markham Society, rather than those which might probably be organized in the opposite extreme sections of their own townships. The Agricultural district, comprising the three sections of the above townships contains upwards of 300 farmers, most of whom, if not independent, are in very comfortable circumstances. The race of emulation has only fairly commenced, and in our opinion the chance for victory rests between the townships of Markham, Whitby, and Toronto. At the close of the year we purpose to publish a report of the actual number of Societies in the District, with the number of members to each, and those who have the greatest number of members on their list will unquestionably receive the greatest amount of credit by the readers of this journal who reside in other sections of the Province. So far as our humble ability and influence can possibly be exerted, in advancing the cause of Agricultural skill in every township in the Home District, as well as throughout every section of the Provinces, the yeomanry of all classes, without regard to party or sectional interest, may confidently rely upon our hearty co-operation, in furthering this great work. A commencement has now been made, and the results up to this period are most satisfactory. In many Districts of the Province, the plan of organizing township Branch Societies in unison with the scheme adopted in the Home District, is already extremely popular, and will, no doubt, be adopted in a number of Districts in the course of the present year. This laudable spirit, which is so fast gaining ground in the country, is a strong indication of the improvement, and friendly feeling which is taking place, in the minds of our mixed and heretofore divided population. To strengthen the bonds of union among all classes of our respected countrymen, and to develop the resources of the country, are the sole objects of our ambition in the management of this journal; and now, since those whose welfare we so ardently desire to advance, appear ready and willing to sustain our enterprise by their purse and their influence, we have an increased amount of confidence, in assiduously applying ourselves to the work.