

TRANSACTIONS OF THE
RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS.

Grants from Government.....	\$462,333	52
Grants from Municipalities, &c.....	61,928	50
Members' Subscriptions, &c.....	122,568	94
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	\$646	830 96

EXPENDITURE.

Paid Agricultural Societies.....	\$352,098	61
Paid in Premiums.....	103,454	62
Incidental Expenses, &c.....	187,259	43
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	\$642,812	66
Balance end of 1862.....	4,018	30
Grants from Government, 1863.....	56,721	58

Amount paid Societies (1863).....\$43,490 62

THE CROPS OF 1863.

The Board has not the means at its disposal for giving any reliable estimate of the results of the harvest of 1863. Systems of collecting annual agricultural statistics have at various times been suggested, and even partially acted upon, but nothing very effective in this direction has yet been done. The Board would be glad to give any aid in its power towards carrying out so important an object.

It may be stated however, in general terms, as ascertained by public report, in regard to the harvest of the past year, that the fall wheat was damaged by winter killing and the fly, and much below an average crop in the Townships bordering on Lakes Erie and Ontario, but of fair average quantity in the rear Townships; that spring wheat was also more or less damaged by the fly, and below an average as to quantity and quality; but that other spring crops, with the exception of barley being more or less injured by the fly in some sections, were good and abundant in the central and western portion of Upper Canada, but somewhat affected by drought in the eastern portion. The cultivation of root crops is increasing considerably in extent. Farmers find them a valuable auxiliary in wintering and fattening their stock, as well as an important feature in the rotation as a preparation for grain crops, and adding largely to the supply of manure.

Heavy crops of wheat of the best quality are not now grown with that ease and certainty with which they once were in the front Townships of Upper Canada. The causes for this comparative falling off, in regard to

fall wheat, are to be found both in the liability to winter-kill in the spring, in consequence of the winter covering of snow disappearing more rapidly since the original woods have been almost entirely cleared away from the farms than formerly, and also in the depredations of the wheat fly. The remedies for these evils consist in the thorough draining of the land, together with a judicious system of cultivation, such artificial protection as can be furnished by trees, fences, and disposition of the surface, and the sowing of early ripening varieties. In regard to spring wheat the remedy sought has been to obtain a variety which would bear sowing late enough to escape the fly. The Fife spring wheat has answered this purpose excellently for many years, but is now beginning to fail more or less. Could a new variety of spring wheat be procured which would bear sowing late in the month of May, so as to come into ear after the danger from the fly had passed, and still ripen without injury from rust; or, a variety of sufficiently rapid growth to escape the fly by *early* sowing, it would be of immense benefit to the farmers of Upper Canada. Any well directed attempts to introduce new varieties, either of spring or fall wheat, possessing the desired qualities, are deserving of the most earnest support and encouragement, on the part of the Agricultural Societies and of the farmers generally, throughout the Province.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HUGH C. THOMSON,

Sec. of the Board of Agriculture

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