

ditch, nor will there be any hardship in making an outlet in case of underdraining. But will it pay to bring such land under cultivation? What is the value of blue clay as a soil as compared with clays of other colors? Can this land be made to yield wheat or hay profitably? If so, what previous treatment should it receive?

If you will be so good as to answer these queries in the next issue of your valuable journal, you will very much oblige

AN AMATEUR.

Nov. 17th, 1868.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We cannot determine from the above description what is the value of the land in question; but would recommend that it be well drained by ditching in the first place, and sown in grass. It would then, probably, yield good hay. The yield of hay would give evidence of the richness or poverty of the soil, and show whether it would be worth while to incur the expense of underdraining. It would scarcely, however, be adapted for wheat.

Second Agricultural Society of the County of Rimouski, Quebec.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As this communication relates to an effort that has been made for the improvement of Agriculture in a part of the Dominion, you may deem it not unworthy of a place in the CANADA FARMER.

Owing to the very large size of this county—the farthest east but one of the Province of Quebec—it was found that only one Agricultural Society was not sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants. Accordingly, a second was formed last March, the bounds of which extend from Métis to Cape Chat, a distance of about sixty miles. The following gentlemen are the present office-bearers:—President, Rev. J. O. Perron, Ste. Felicité; Vice-President, Mr. L. N. Blais, Matane; Sec.-Treas., Mr. A. Fournier, Matane; Directors, Messrs. Alex. Grant, F. Dionne, D. F. de St. Aubin, J. A. Genereux, Ant. Poirier, P. F. Leggat, N. Richard.

Of course, as the Society is of such a tender age, much cannot reasonably be expected from it. Something, however, has been done to accomplish the end for which it is formed. Last summer, prizes were offered for the best farms and best fields of wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. Messrs. Alex. Fraser and X. Imbeau were appointed judges. In the month of August, these gentlemen discharged their duties, and the following is the result:

For cultivated farm, of not less than eighty acres—1st, L. N. Blais, \$6; 2nd, F. Dionne, \$4.

For land first sowed in 1868—1st, Chas. Truchon, twenty-four acres, \$4; 2nd, Rev. J. O. Perron, twenty acres, \$2; 3rd, Moïse Côté, twelve acres, \$1.

For wheat—1st, Oliv. Harrison, four acres, \$4; 2nd, Oct. Lepage, six acres, \$2; 3rd, Fr. Dionne, three acres, \$1.

Barley—L. N. Blais, nine acres, \$4.

Oats—1st, L. N. Blais, ten acres, \$4; 2nd, Fr. Dionne, do, \$2.

Potatoes—Fr. Dionne, — acres, \$4.

Of course the above is not much, but as the Scotch say, "bairns maun creep afore they gang." Arrangements were made for a ploughing match at Matane, in the fall, but for many reasons, into which I need not enter, it did not take place. Next year, the ploughing match is to be at Métis, thirty miles distant. It is to be hoped that the office-bearers will not be again disappointed. An exhibition is appointed to be held at Matane next year. There is to be one every year, alternately, at Matane and Métis.

It is to be hoped that the formation of this Society will prove in the highest degree beneficial to this part of Her Majesty's dominions. To use a very mild phrase, there is in it great room for improvement in agriculture. The views and practices of many of the inhabitants are far behind the age. However, by degrees they will come to see that improvements can be made in agriculture like every other art, and understand the value of agricultural societies. According as they do so the Society will be patronized, and will in turn do the more good.

Métis, Q.

Italian Rye Grass.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Can you or any of your numerous subscribers give me full information regarding the above grass, if profitable, for this country? What time should it be sown? How much would be an average crop per acre, on sandy land, of a fair tilth? How much should be sown per acre? What is the weight of the seed per bushel? Where can the seed be got, and at what price? How much better is it than Hungarian grass?

J. S. T.

Paris Road, Co. Brant.

ANS.—Italian Rye Grass, which has for some years been extensively used in England, has not hitherto, so far as we are aware, been introduced into this country, and until it has been fairly tested its suitability for Canadian agriculture can only be a matter of conjecture. We understand it is one of the seeds that Professor Buckland contemplated importing in small quantity, for the purpose of experiment. The best time for sowing would probably be the beginning of May, using from one to two bushels of seed to the acre. The crops in England, on suitable soils, are often very heavy, yielding sometimes as much as three tons to the acre; and two crops are frequently taken in one year. But it requires a naturally rich soil to make any good return, and usually demands, for profitable culture, a large amount of manure. We do not know the standard weight of the seed. It would have to be imported from England, and could most likely be procured through any regular seedsmen. It hardly admits of comparison with Hungarian grass, which is an annual. As already stated, actual experiment alone can determine its value in this country.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER 1, 1868.

Emigration.

MR. W. FRANK LYNN, a gentleman who takes great interest in the colonies, and has done much to diffuse information about them, and especially about Canada, among the various classes in England likely to emigrate, is at present in this country, endeavouring to obtain from our Government, press, and public men, some practical co-operation in the promotion of his views. His plan is, that the Government authorities here, through the municipal institutions of the country or otherwise, should organize a system, and employ agents in Canada in collecting returns at fortnightly or monthly intervals, respecting the number and class of workmen required, the wages usually paid, and the cost of provisions and living in each principal town and district, together with any other particulars that might be useful; and that this information should be forwarded, as soon as collected, to England, when he would undertake, by means of the press and the connection he possesses amongst the working classes, to have it regularly and properly published in a way that would reach every class of agricultural or artisan workmen.

He is of opinion that the publication of actual statistics, prices current, and tables of wages, would have more effect on working men and middle-class people than any other description of information. The cost of diffusing this kind of intelligence need not be much. Mr. Lynn thinks £500 or £600 a year would suffice; and if the effect of it should be, as he believes, to induce a better and more substantial class of emigrants, the country would soon more than get its outlay back again. He argues that the great

hindrance to emigration hitherto is ignorance of the country, and states that there is not only great ignorance respecting Canada in England, but a large amount of strange and absurd misconception. One intelligent person remarked to him that he supposed tigers and serpents abounded about Toronto, and not a few with whom he has met objected to coming to Canada because they understood the people led a semi-savage life. It is not long since an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, addressing a Toronto audience, expressed his astonishment at finding the people so decently dressed; and if an educated man knew no better than to expect to find Canadians only half clad, we need not wonder if persons less well-informed should fall into similarly ludicrous mistakes. Mr. Lynn says it is exceedingly difficult to get people to believe statements respecting the colonies, and that they need to be in some way certified and backed up to gain credence. He tells us that the "Supplement to the CANADA FARMER," of which 20,000 copies were issued some four years since, for circulation in England, and which contained a vast amount of information about life in this country, was extensively regarded as an advertising puff in the interest of the Canada Company, and its testimony to a considerable extent discredited. Hence he urges the publication in English papers—not only in the leading organs of public opinion, but in respectable local journals—of facts and figures duly certified and accredited, so that they may be past dispute. If, however, there be, as it would seem, distrust and suspicion in regard to such information, and a prejudice against Canada in the minds of the people at home, it will be a matter of some difficulty to gain credence for statements in favour of this country, no matter through what channels they may be made. In this state of affairs we see the fruit of that depreciation of the colonies in general, and of Canada in particular, in which a certain class of British politicians have been prone to indulge, and perhaps, too, the influence of that want of patriotic enthusiasm with which we are ourselves to some extent chargeable. Americans at home and abroad always represent the United States as an earthly paradise, and its government as the best under the heavens. Modesty is all very well, but there are times and circumstances when it is needful to blow one's own trumpet a little. Judicious and energetic advertising helps a country as well as a business. If there are means of giving wide publicity to information about Canada in such form as would inspire confidence, by all means let it be done. An outlay of £500 or £600 a year, in doing this, would surely be money well invested, and could hardly fail to bring a profitable return in the transference of capital and population from Britain to our shores.

Our Dominion and Local Governments have this subject before them just now as one of the matters requiring attention. It is pretty manifest that our emigration agency system needs to be remodelled and made of more practical use. If we are to have agents in the old country at all, they should be practical, pushing men, acquainted with Canada, and in love with it, so as to plead its cause and advance its interests with a will. There is great danger of these foreign emigration agencies becoming mere sinecures. We have greater faith in measures of a more indirect character. Let our Government make Canada a good country to live in; let us establish a liberal free grant land system; let us pass a good homestead law; let us develop manufactures, and push on public improvements; let us be economical, thrifty, and prudent in our public expenditure, so as to keep taxation low; and no fear but population will flow to us. In these days of cheap postage, railroads, and electric telegraphs, people will soon get the news of such attractions. Only create an elysium, and multitudes will want to occupy it. "Where the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together."