

The June frosts were more severe in 1859 than any former year since the settlement of West Middlesex.

CATTLE.—A marked improvement has taken place in the breeding of cattle, sheep and pigs, being the result of the policy pursued by most of the Township Branch Agricultural Societies; which has been—to import full blood male animals of the best breeds, such as Durhams, Devons, and Ayrshire bulls and Leicester, South Down and Merino Rams,—Berkshire, Yorkshire, and Field Boars. Many of the grade animals are now equal, if not superior, to the thorough breeds from which they were produced.

There are no extensive sheep or dairy farms in West Middlesex, nevertheless every farmer pays some attention to these branches of husbandry. A large quantity of Butter has been exported from this county the past season, which was of good quality, and sold at from twelve to sixteen cents per pound; the samples of Butter exhibited at the society's show were numerous, and of superior quality; there has been but little cheese made in this district.

The number of sheep in West Middlesex is limited by the large amount of uncleared land, but the quality is good and the clip an average of four pounds per head. The price of sheep is now double what it was a few years ago; the greater part of the clip of 1859 was sold to dealers at twenty-four to twenty-eight cents per pound. The manufacturers can work up the wool cheaper and better than the farmer, who now sells the greater portion of wool or exchanges it for cloth or blankets.

AND DRAINING.—The prevailing system is by means of open drains. A system of sub-draining has been practised by the President of this society and a farmer in the same township which has proved cheap and effectual; this is by placing logs or poles parallel to each other about four inches apart, with another log on top, the whole covered with a layer of straw and placed from ten to three feet below the surface. Several farms have been thoroughly drained in this manner at an expense of ten to twelve dollars per acre; this will last from ten to twenty years, while proper tile drains would cost twenty dollars per acre. The Member for West Middlesex, A. P. McDonald, Esq., is draining extensively at Glencoe.

ROOT CROPS.—Have been extensively cultivated in West Middlesex in 1859, and several farmers, who have grown from 6,600 to 12,000 bushels of Turnips, are now feeding horned cattle and sheep for market; this system of farming is not only very profitable but it leaves the land in good order for any kind of grain crop. The turnip crop of the past year has averaged fully five hundred bushels per acre. Before dismissing the subject of Root crops your Board would urge the importance of this branch of farm tillage, because besides the profit to be derived from the cultivation of Roots, it is less exhausting to the soil than grain crops. The turnip during its growth is constantly shedding its leaves, and the usual mode of gathering this crop is to cut off the top and tap root and leave the same on the field, thereby enriching the soil. Sheep farming and cattle feeding (which should accompany Root culture) are deemed by your Board wise and profitable additions to our present system of farming, and will obviate the evils of an entire dependence upon grain crops.

FARM IMPLEMENTS.—Good tools are necessary in order to perform good work, and always economise time. Implements for farming have been much improved since the settlement of this part of Canada. The township ploughing matches have a tendency to develop the quality of the various ploughs now in use and a preference is given to the Bingham, Morley, and Canadian Clipper ploughs, which cost about fourteen dollars, and do as good work, with as light a draught, as the more expensive iron ploughs. In land free from stumps the double harrow, with thirty teeth, is in general use, and in new and stumpy land the heavy triangular drag is the most effective and safe. Reapers and Mowers are gradually coming into use where the state of the farms will permit. Threshing is done by machines which clean as well as thresh the grain. Seed drills are not in general use, but are required, and drills that would drill in manure as well as seed would prove advantageous.

There are several nurseries within the riding, and from these as good fruit trees can be procured as those imported from other counties or from the United States, and at a less cost.

There is as yet no horticultural society or Mechanics' Institute in West Middlesex. Those farmers who support agricultural So-