

here make an honorable mention of the readiness with which these gentlemen were kind enough to make known the amount of their sale. The following, is the information obtained of the amount of sale of clover, both indigenous and imported : Messrs. Carter & Cohane sold, at least, 200 barrels, weighing each 2 cwt., Mr. Workman 50 barrels, Messrs. W. Lyman & Co., 300 barrels, making in all 550 barrels, which, at 224 lbs. each, will give ... .. 123,200 lbs.

Messrs. B. Lyman & Co. have sold 7,000

Mr. Shepherd ... .. 7,000

Mr. Urquhart about ... .. 1,500

Mr. Trudeau, about as much 1,500

Forming a total of 140,200

To this may be added say 12,000

Sold by grocers, many of whom

sell largely of this article, and

we arrive at the enormous

amount of 152,200 lbs.

of clover seed purchased by farmers of Lower Canada since the beginning of the present year. This calculation, far from being exaggerated, falls short of the actual amount sold, if we are to trust to the experience of Messrs. Workman & Urquhart, who with their knowledge of the demand on market, consider that no less than 800 barrels have been sold this year, equal to 179,200 lbs. granting that these gentlemen are right in their calculation, there will have been sown this year, in Lower Canada, no less than 89,600 acres with clover seed, at the rate of 2 lbs. per acre, the usual allowance. From the greater degree of care required in preparing the soil for that seed, every practical man knows that it acts as a powerful agent in restoring to worn-out land its former productiveness.

Farmers have not only bought this year clover seed, the gentlemen above mentioned have also sold them turnip, carrot, and mangel-wurzel seed in no small quantity, all of which roots contribute largely to the improvement of the soil; all this evidently proves that the farming population is earnestly engaged in improving the worn-out lands of Lower Canada. This enormous sale of clover seed is certainly the more astonishing, when it is borne in mind that almost the whole of the "Habitans" hardly knew, four years ago, the use of that plant as a fertilizer of the soil. The question comes, what

is the cause of the remarkable improvements in the manner in which the Habitans are preparing their land? I do not hesitate to say that it is mostly owing to their reading of the Journal published under the auspices of our Society; this Journal, which has now been circulating throughout the parishes for about four years, has, by degrees, prepared the minds of farmers to adopt wholly, or in part, the improvements suggested. If the reading of this Journal produces such results, should we not consider it of the highest importance to make every effort for the continuance of its publication, and to render it increasingly interesting. The Directors of this Society, convinced of the good produced by this Journal among farmers, have, this year, taken measures for securing its existence. The expense of printing and publishing being greater than their means would allow, they considered that they consulted the interest of the Society in accepting the offer of Mr. R. W. Lay, who undertakes to print and publish this Journal at his sole expense. But in parting with the publication, the Directors continue to exercise an entire control in the choice of matter to be inserted in the Journal. The consequence of this arrangement is, that the Society has the use of and control over the Journal, without incurring the heavy expense of printing and publishing, which has, up to this day, absorbed the grants of money made by the province. The Society will of course derive the full benefit of this arrangement, if Mr. Lay abide by his contract. If it should happen, however, that he does not fulfil the conditions of his agreement, it will then be the bounden duty of the Directors to adopt such measures as will secure the publication of the Journal, either by making arrangements with some other party, or by publishing it themselves, as heretofore, in the name of the Society. In the latter case, great caution will be required to steer clear of debts, which have always crippled the means of the Society, and prevented it from doing all the good it had in view.

I will now proceed to lay before you the statement of our liabilities and assets. The Society, as I have just mentioned, has, ever since its existence, been straitened in its pecuniary circumstances, owing mostly to the publication of the Journal. If the arrange-