

### TOWNSHIP OF YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Sixth Monthly Meeting of this Association took place on the 31st of May instant. The subject for discussion was, "The best Rotation of Crops for increasing the produce, as well as the fertilising qualities of the soil." The subject, although tolerably well discussed, was considered to be of such great importance, that it was resolved that it should be further discussed at the next meeting, which takes place on the first Friday in June.

A committee was appointed to prepare and submit a report, at the next meeting, on Calcareous Manures, an abundance of which, in the shape of carbonate of lime, abounds in several parts of the township; and we have no doubt but the subject will receive that justice which it so richly merits. Another committee, composed of three practical farmers, was appointed, to draw up a report upon the best methods of making hay, which is also to be submitted at the next meeting, for the approval of the Society.

If we may form an opinion upon the value of the information that will be submitted, at the period alluded to, by the fitness of the parties who have been selected to execute the task, we should judge that it would comprise most interesting and useful matter for the columns of this journal. We may almost safely promise it to our readers, as well as similar future proceedings of this local institution.

It was also resolved, that, at every subsequent meeting, there should be committees appointed, to report upon the crops, to furnish statistical information, and generally to examine into and state their opinions upon every branch of farming, the choicest and best-written specimens of which to be published in the Cultivator, for the benefit of its readers in general.

We shall watch the proceedings of this local Agricultural Institution with much interest, and, at the same time, shall endeavour to prevail upon the officers of similar Associations to adopt the same patriotic course, in discoursing, and in collecting, and publishing information upon the science and practice of Agriculture. When the District Agricultural Societies throughout the extent of the Province have adopted the plan of forming Branch Societies in the Townships, upon the plan acted upon in the Home District, and those Township Societies

adopt the plan of meeting monthly or quarterly, to discuss Agricultural topics, and appoint talented practical farmers on committees, to report upon any and every topic that has a bearing upon Agriculture, then, and not till then, will a mighty revolution take place in the Agricultural, as well as in the social, condition of the people of this country. When that period arrives, there will then be but little necessity of our selecting information from foreign papers—our columns will be much enlarged, and stored to overflowing with well-written articles upon Agriculture, penned by those who cultivate the Canadian soil.

We anticipate, that, before the close of the present year, an Agricultural Society will not only be formed in all the most populous townships in the Home District, but that periodical discussions on Agricultural topics will take place, and interesting and valuable reports upon every branch of Agriculture will be published by those local institutions. We not only anticipate all this, but we expect to see at least six District Societies adopt the plan of organizing Branch Societies in their several townships, before the close of the present year.

To assist our friends in other Districts, in this matter, and to stimulate, in some measure, our countrymen to act in the great Agricultural movement now in progress, we propose to publish a series of articles, upon the manner in which, in our opinion, Agricultural Associations should be managed. In these communications, we shall enter into every minutia of detail, so that the most unskilful in such matters may engage with credit in the work.

#### The Eggs of Land-Birds.

According to a correspondent of the Gardeners' Chronicle, are, generally speaking, much more numerous than those of sea-birds; while the sea-birds themselves are much more numerous than land-birds. Sea-birds, though they have considerable labour in finding their food, have nevertheless, plenty of it at all seasons; and beside, they are exempted from many of the casualties which land birds have to suffer; not the least of which are the attacks of beasts and birds of prey. From both of these the sea birds are comparatively free, and perhaps they owe some part of their safety to the unpalatableness of their flesh. Hence it is, we presume, inferred that Providence has given a less fecundity to the sea-birds. Exposed to fewer casualties, the smaller family serves sufficiently well to keep up the breed.

#### Fire-Flies of Jamaica.

The fire flies of Jamaica emit so brilliant a light, that a dozen of them, inclosed within an inverted glass tumbler, will enable a person to read or write in the night-time without the least difficulty. Indeed, it is an expedient to which many resort. These flies are in size as large as a com-

mon live bee, and perfectly innocuous. Their appearance in unusual numbers acts as a thermometer to the natives; and it is an unquestionable indication of approaching rain. To travellers they afford, even on the darkest nights, sufficient light to guide their footsteps with the greatest safety. The light which they send forth is in every respect equal to that of the purest diamond, and hence the Creole coquettes frequently insert a few of them, confined in pods of gauze, in their hair and behind parts of their dress, in the same manner as actresses avail themselves of the paste-jeweller's art.—{Phillip's Jamaica.

### AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

#### SCARBORO PLOUGHING MATCH.

We lately attended a ploughing match, in the township of Scarborough, and, although the day was rather unpropitious, it came off with a considerable degree of spirit. Most of the ploughing was admirably well executed; and, when the circumstance is considered that only those who came to the country under the age of fourteen were allowed to compete for the prizes, we may with much safety say, that we seldom witness a more creditable performance. The officers of the Scarborough Society, who were on the ground, informed us, that their number of members were gradually increasing, and that they hoped a still greater increase would take place in the course of the present summer.

#### VAUGHAN PLOUGHING MATCH AND SHOW OF HORSES.

On the 30th ultimo, we were present at the above performance, and were highly gratified with the arrangement and manner in which the whole affair was conducted. This was the first exhibition of the kind that took place in the township, and every person on the ground appeared well satisfied that an increased interest in future would be felt in the success of their infant institution, by all who had any claim to intelligence or patriotism. The treasurer, Mr. Thomas Cook, informed us that he had added between twenty and thirty new members to his list on that day alone. This Society, although in its infancy, has adopted the plan of holding monthly meetings in alternate sections of the township, most of which we hope to attend, and shall be most happy in reporting to our numerous readers any matter-of-fact information upon Agricultural topics that may be communicated on those occasions.

We should have remarked, that, although the number of ploughs on the ground was not so numerous as we usually see at those exhibitions in other townships, still the work was performed, without an exception, in a most masterly style.

The show of horses would have done credit to much older Societies than the one under notice.