

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR LOWER CANADA.

Montreal, 21st December 1861.

To the Secretary of the County of
Agricultural Society.

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture for Lower Canada to acquaint you that your Society have to appoint four persons, to be Members of this Board, in place of those who retire by rotation, namely: O. E. Casgrain, J. C. Taché, B. Pomroy and J. O. A. Turgeon, Esqs. These gentlemen

are nevertheless eligible to be re-elected. The Report of Election of these four members of this Board is to be sent before the first of February next to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, Quebec.

I am also directed to remind you that your Society must be re-organized in the third week of January next.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

OUR RAMBLES.

We have this month resumed our promised report of our visits to some of the more remarkable and systematic farmers. We in a former number rendered a short history of our visit to the farms of Mr. Boa and Mr. Lecourt, of St. Laurent near Montreal, and of the system adopted by them. We shall in the present number render an account of our visit to the farm of Mr. Fortier, a French Canadian, near Quebec, who without any aid but that of his intelligence and industry, has transformed a sterile tract of land into a luxuriant farm, yielding a net revenue of \$1500. From the system adopted it is increasing in fertility, and it is after 17 years of hard work, industry, and persevering economy, that it has now arrived at comparative perfection. 17 years ago as before stated, the farm was cultivated according to the system then generally adopted—two years of grain crop followed two years of pasture without any green or hay crops for fodder.

A few and a poor race of animals formed the stock, and constituted the whole source from which manure was procured, and they furnished scarcely sufficient produce for his scanty use, according to the system then followed. The low lands near the *Priest's House*, gave annually 8,000 bundles of hay of poor quality, owing to the length of time they had remained untouched, and were partly covered over with moss and cow hay.

Mr. Olivier Fortier was the son of a farmer of the olden times, but endowed with intelligence and a mind full of vigour, he soon perceived that the system of agriculture then followed was not that which was required, for the neighborhood of Quebec especially, where the requirements were hay and green crops. The example of some old country farmers who lived in the

vicinity, was not lost sight of by Mr. Fortier, who although not aspiring to a higher method of cultivation than theirs, at least followed what he deemed best for his particular locality. He was soon convinced that it was ruinous for farmers near large cities to grow wheat, barley, &c., and dispose of it at the market price in competition with farmers from a distance, where the price of land was lower, and the price also of labour less. This with the ease with which hay could be sent to market in Quebec, at seasons when farmers at a distance could not get there, owing to the bad state of the roads. This soon led Mr. Fortier to adopt the *meadow* as the best and surest means of an aggregate return. But the meadow required cultivation in an improved manner, it was necessary to get rid of the mosses or other weeds that prevented its growth. For this purpose he ploughed up the meadow, sowed it in oats, followed by a green crop of 4 or 5 acres which required much hoeing and tilling.

In the autumn, after the oats had been housed, the land was deeply ploughed so as to expose the soil to the influence of the frost and atmosphere, and in the spring as soon as the grain crops were sown, Mr. F. directed his attention to that part of the farm prepared to receive the green crops; this he cross ploughed, and harrowed, and rolled carefully until the sod was completely pulverized and broken down. It was then prepared for the drills, which were made with the common plough; 50 loads of manure was spread over each acre, in the drills, and then covered over. Upon the land thus prepared were sown mangold wurtzel, carrots, and turnips, in the proportion of one-third to the whole surface; the other two-thirds were at the end of June planted with cabbages. The mangold wurtzel, turnips, and carrots were sowed the 1st week in June. After so complete a preparation of the soil it may