

Official Rep't.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR LOWER CANADA.

Re-organization of Agricultural Societies.

IR.—In conformity with the Agricultural Act, the annual meeting of Agricultural Societies must be held in December instead of January, the judicial districts of Beauharnois, Bedford, Arthabaska, and St. Francis, being excepted. At the said meeting, four persons will have to be elected members of the Board, in place of those who retire by rotation, namely: Major Campbell, Hon. L. V. Sicotte, Hon. U. Tessier, and M. Ross, M.P.P. These gentlemen are eligible to be re-elected, the Hon. L. V. Sicotte de-

clining re-election on account of his pressing judicial duties. The report of election of the four members to this Board is to be sent at once to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture.

Each Society must be reorganized at the same time, and a copy of the proceedings of the reorganization, with the name of every office-bearer, must be sent early to this Board to ensure publication in the official journal.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGES LECLERE.

Montreal, December, 1866.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

REORGANIZATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

THOSE who follow with close observation the onward march of Agricultural improvements in Lower Canada, must report considerable progress within the last ten years. No doubt, every county has not been blessed with an equal share of the general improvement. But if so, the responsibility must be attached to the Societies themselves, which have not availed themselves of the means of promoting the best interests of their members. How is it that in several counties improved stock have been largely imported from the best herds in Europe? How is it that means have been found to do so? How is it that in those counties farming has improved in every field operation? It is through the intelligence and energy of the Directors that these wonders have been accomplished. If they had kept on the old system of costly, oftentimes worthless, Annual Exhibitions, and been happy over it, no stock would have been imported, no awards would have been given for the best crops on the field, but every cent would have been squandered year after year in prizes at the Annual Exhibition, much to the immediate contentment of those sharing in the plunder; but much also to the detriment of the best interests of the society.

Now, it is useless to keep on the Annual Exhibitions as they are generally, for no organized practical results can follow. We

believe that they might be disposed of altogether for a certain time, so as to allow the importation of stock to be made on a large scale. But supposing this to be impossible with some counties, why not dispense with the Exhibition every other year? But if that is still found impossible, then cut down your Prize List to the lowest expenditure, and save the balance for other purposes. This must be done, or no hope can be entertained of improving the present state of apathy of several of our Agricultural Societies. Stock alone must be awarded prizes at the Annual Exhibition. Agricultural productions should be judged in the field, not on the Exhibition grounds. Every Society which has paid some attention to the proper expenditure of its revenue has adopted that course at the first step. Why give prizes for butter? Is not that article already well made, and would not the same amount of money now paid in prizes be much better employed in the importation of Stock? Never should the Exhibition, admitting Stock alone, entail an expenditure higher than one-third of the annual revenue. The balance should be applied partly in prizes for the best crops in the field, and mainly in importing stock for the general improvement of the different breeds in the county.

The Agricultural Society of Hochelaga has set the example of this policy, and we know with what splendid results, not only in its limits, but in the whole Province. The Quebec Society followed with the importation of a superior Hunter. Beauhar-