

majority of them shall see cause, or at any time twenty members of the Society shall, in writing, addressed to the President, request a meeting to be convened. Of all such meetings due notice shall be given by the Secretary.

VIII. The Secretary of this Society shall record in a book to be by him kept for that purpose, the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and of the Committee, draft the annual report, and carry on the correspondence of the Society.

IX. The Treasurer shall have the custody of the Society's funds, and he shall make payment from them only on orders signed by the President and Secretary. He shall keep regular accounts of his receipts and expenditure in suitable books, and shall at each annual meeting, or at any other time he may be requested by the Committee to do so, present an abstract of his accounts.

X. At any annual or other meeting of the Society (which has been duly called and advertised,) and which shall be attended by not less than twelve members, it shall be lawful for three-fourths of the members present to make such alterations in or amendments to this Constitution as they may consider expedient.

W. BROUGH, *Secretary.*

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## The Canadian Agricultural Journal.

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MONTREAL, MARCH, 1845.

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There are so many treatises on Agriculture now published, that it is almost impossible to write any thing on the subject, without copying something that has already been written. There is, however, a possibility of making a part of what has been written more practically useful in Canada than it would be by reading an English treatise on Agriculture, as written for the English farmer. We have in our possession, certainly the best treatises on Agriculture in the English language, and many of them. From them, we are not ashamed to avow, we often copy largely, or rather we should say, they remind us of what we should write, and we hope our subscribers will not value our Journal the less that this is the case. In reading Jackson's Treatise on Agriculture, we have found some very judicious remarks under the head—"Practice of Agriculture," and they so entirely coincide with our own ideas, that in copying a part of them, we give our own opinion on the same subject. The practice of Agriculture requires very considerable professional skill, and also an acquaintance with some of the principles of natural science, that is essential to the judicious cultivation of the soil. Farming cannot be properly conducted by random rules, or

by any but persons who make it a regular profession. To carry on Agriculture with a reasonable hope of success, great forethought and persevering industry is necessarily required; and to those qualifications, it would be well there were added the possession of a mind that is ever open to conviction of what really constitutes sound and available improvements. The whole scheme and practical details of the professional Agriculturist, to be of public or private advantage, must rest upon the plain and obvious principle of making the largest possible return on the capital employed in the concern within a given period, but without exhausting the soil. By the term capital, is meant the savings of labour, in the form of money, implements, or any other articles, or objects which constitute stock, and unless a farmer possess a liberal share of this preliminary requisite, he is not able to till the soil on the best principles, or to manage any part of his business in the best manner, nor is he placed above the necessity of selling his produce at a disadvantage. What the precise amount of capital should be, will depend upon the extent, nature, and situation of the farm, and may vary from two pounds to five pounds the acre. In Scotland, a farmer who has £2000 capital, has generally a cash credit at a Bank for £1000 more, and often over this. Whatever be the capital employed, the farmer has a right to expect a fair return from it, provided he expends it with prudence, and adopts the best modes of culture. The farmer may be considered, in the employment of his capital, to be the administrator of a fund for the public interest, and therefore the more produce he can raise at the smallest cost to himself, the more will he be rendering a service to the whole community. There can not exist a doubt that the system of Agriculture that will give the greatest quantity of produce, at the lowest cost to the community, will invariably be the best. The whole population of a country are interested in the soil, and hence the general benefit to the people of a country, of producing the greatest quantity of good at the least possible cost. A very principle object with a farmer should be to understand perfectly the quality of the soil. By ascertaining the character of the soil, and if necessary remedying its defects, the profits of a farmer may be vastly increased. In many cases, a small amount of expenditure judiciously applied, will produce a great general improvement in a farm, but of course, a farmer must regulate his expenditure by the amount of capital he has at his disposal. A perfect acquaintance with the quality of the soil, will