

tion, why should we encourage by the importance of the premiums offered the importation of improved breeds much less adapted to the wants of our agriculture? We will not speak of the sums given so in premiums, sums which have the merit of indemnifying a little the farmers for the losses reserved to him by the adoption of those breeds. But what we consider as being much more serious, is the sanction thus given to a speculation whose useful effects are null. Impressed by the bad results which follow the importation of those breeds, the farmers lose all confidence in the management of shows. Their decisions, on the choice of prized breeds, have no value for them, for very often the encouragement becomes a snare laid to the ignorance of the farmer who cannot perceive the relative defects of the breed he chooses. That nullifies all the advantages of the provincial agricultural shows. Farmers see in the imported breeds nothing but a prize for a luxury which is not within their reach. Will it not be more useful to determine the choice of a breed more specially adapted to our wants and to indicate it in some way to our farmers by encouraging its breeding by all possible means.

What we have stated of the vague in which the farmer is with regard to the choice of an improved breed exists to a greater degree in the class of implements. In France and England implements to be prized must be tried in all the conditions in which they are to be used by

the farmer, and when the Jury are satisfied with the choice of implements to be recommended to the public, they order a general trial of the best implements, and every farmer can account for, by himself, of the work done, and of the thousand details which we like to know before adopting a new implement.

What is the case here? Implements are not tried or if they are it is imperfectly, and not in a way to inspire confidence to the farmer. Very often the latter comes back from the show after having seen a great number of implements of whose use he could not account for, and this is very simple, it is only on the ground that we can judge of an implement. Therefore this Exhibition of implements becomes useless, since not one will be adopted.

This is the principal objection we make to the present system, and we feel certain on that account that it will never be successful. These shows should be held for the majority of our farmers while but a very few breeders who have improved breeds, attend the present shows. Is that the way to diffuse through the country general ideas of progressive agriculture. We do not believe it. We wish that all the prizes offered for the stock of Canadian breed should be sufficiently important and numerous to bring over competitors from all parts of the province. Now these prizes are so small that the breeder must necessarily lose money every time he exhibits, the prizes offered being not high enough to cover the travelling expenses. What improvement can