

middle of May, and ploughed under when in full bloom, and again ploughed before sowing the wheat, be quite as efficacious a method as the one first alluded to? The latter course combining, as it does, the advantages of a thorough summer fallow wit keeping the ground covered with a crop growing so dense as to smother almost entirely all grass and weeds, would probably starve the wire-worms out.

Township Agricultural Societies.

An opinion is gaining ground by many that Township Agricultural Societies should no longer receive a portion of the Government appropriation, and that the whole should be placed under the controul of District Societies, so that much larger premiums may be awarded than is done at present. As this subject has already been freely discussed in the *Farmer and Mechanic*, it may not be thought necessary to recapitulate any of the arguments that have been advanced, to show the importance of sustaining those local Institutions. It, however, does appear the proper time to urge upon all who are interested in the prosperity of Canadian Agriculture to employ all the influence in their power in the support of Township Societies. If an organization is to be kept up, for the purpose of building up a superior character for the Agriculture of this country, a foundation must first be substantially established in the Townships. When that object is once well secured, there will then be little or no difficulty in concentrating the efforts of larger masses of society, for executing a more enlarged scale of operation.

District Societies are essentially necessary for the annual concentration of the choicest products of the District; and so is the Provincial Association of still greater importance for securing the same end, on a more extended scale. But, as has been previously stated, a spirit for improvement must first be created in the smaller sections of the country. It is very questionable, indeed, whether it be possible to arouse the latent energies of our farmers to prosecute any improvements

on an enlightened scale by the plan of simply awarding prizes at the Fairs or shows. Before much can be efficiently done, the mind of the mass of cultivators must be informed regarding the improvements made in their own and other countries. In the accomplishment of this object, one great point is gained by the assembling of farmers at those exhibitions. They have not only the opportunity of comparing their various articles of merit, with a view of deciding in their own minds of their several relative good or bad qualities, but at the festive board a fitting time for liberal and free discussion is presented. Those dinner-parties should partake, as much as possible, of the character of an intellectual feast, which very seldom happens in this country. This salutary improvement may be brought about within a very few years, by supplying the members with a spirited Agricultural Journal. Besides this source of imparting a large fund of useful information to the practical farmers, it would be well for each Society to make it a practice of awarding a certain number of premiums in the modern works on Agriculture, Mechanics, and Horticulture. When our farmers once arrive at that state of advancement that they generally make it a point to consult the best authors on the science and practice of agriculture, as do other classes of Society, in regard to matters connected with their several avocations, then may we hope to see the officers of Agricultural Societies, whilst awarding and distributing their rewards of merit, demand from the successful competitors a full and detailed account of the mode, and expense, by which they brought their articles or stock up to so high a standard of excellence. It may also then be expected that Agricultural dinner-parties will be conducted in a more rational and intellectual manner than what is usually now-a-days practised; and the speeches, the plain recital of facts, and reports of experiments made by those who favor such Societies with their presence at the festivals, when published by the local press, will tend to impart a popularity to movements of this kind, that cannot by any other means be so cheaply and completely effected. Mankind, at this