

OUR RAMBLES.



HAVING been deputed by the Hon. L.V. Sicotte, President of the Board of Agriculture, and Chairman of the Agricultural Department of Canada at the Exhibition of all Nations to be held at London in May next, to collect the best specimens of

Agricultural productions raised in Lower Canada; we, for this purpose, proceeded to visit during the month of February the counties of Laprairie, Beauharnois, Chateauguay, Huntingdon, Iberville, St. Johns,

Chambly and Verchères; and, wherever we went, we found the same general desire evinced, both by individuals and by the agricultural societies, to contribute to the forthcoming exhibition any of the agricultural and other products worthy of notice, and to show at the *World's Fair* the advancement and onward progress of our agriculture during the past 10 years. We have not neglected the occasion of our visit to converse with the principal farmers in each place, and we must confess that we have largely profited by their experience; and we intend to enrich the pages of our *Review* with their practical suggestions, and to devote as much space as we can spare each month for that purpose.

The progress of each county society has been carefully noted down, and we had more than once occasion to suggest what to us seemed better to advance the employment of the government aid for the still further progress of agriculture. In some counties we have shown the advantages offered by the Board of Agriculture relating to the importation of stock of all kinds chosen from those to be exhibited at the forthcoming exhibition at London; these advantages have not been generally understood by the circular addressed by the worthy President to the different county societies; it was not generally understood that the Board was ready to advance to the different societies the sum required for the purchase of stock, upon the condition

that it should be paid back to the Board in three annual and equal payments.

Thus, any society wishing to import any animal, say of the value of \$600 for instance, which might be delivered to the society in July next, \$200 would be retained off the government allowance for this year, and \$200 retained also off that of 1863 and 1864, and then the society would be discharged from the debt incurred to the Board.

And it is a fact well established in respect to entire horses, that the first instalment would be paid by the service of mares during the first year, and that, properly speaking, the society would only make one actual payment. The subsequent annual payments would be met by the amount received for the service of mares at a very moderate rate; and this is a matter of fact asserted by all those societies who have made a trial, and we will instance the county of Beauharnois society. Their entire horse "*Clyde*," imported lately by that society, served 90 mares the 1st year, furnishing the sum of \$360; and it is more than probable that during the present year the number will amount to 100, so that the 3rd year the animal will have earned its cost, which was \$1,000. We have endeavoured to impress these facts on the directors of county societies, and everywhere it was received with gladness, and a moment of reflection will show that these animals purchased through the Board of Agriculture will cost much less than those purchased by any other party. For, suppose for one moment, that a county agricultural society wishes to purchase a superior bred stallion, the first thing is to find out a responsible agent, who must visit different places for the purpose of obtaining an animal suited to the description forwarded to him. And then, once purchased, which may occupy some days, it must be forwarded by rail to the nearest port of embarkation, where it may wait some time for one of the Ocean Steamships to Montreal, upon what must be constructed a temporary stable; constructed so as to prevent the rolling of the vessel injuring in any way the animal during the voyage. The attendance of a good groom is also necessary, more especially at open sea, and the greatest care is wanted not to sacrifice the life of the animal. It was from this that the Hochelaga county society lost two entire horses of the aggregate value of \$2,800.

The Board of Agriculture by its gene-