

The Farmer's Journal,

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF

The Lower Canada Board of Agriculture.

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The late William Evans, Esq.

Canada has just lost one of those men who, by zealous devotion to one important public object, leave their influence indelibly stamped on the history of their country. Agricultural improvement is no royal road either to wealth or extended fame, but when judiciously prosecuted and publicly expounded and enforced, it is second to no other department of public usefulness. Commercial enterprise, railways, manufactures, political and social reforms, all have their influence in urging forward the growth of a new country; but the growth of two blades of grass or two kernels of wheat where one grew before, is no less important,—in some sense more so, since increased agricultural production, in connection with permanent improvement of the soil, proves the most safe and stable groundwork for all other kinds of useful enterprise.

In this great cause, Mr. Evans long, judiciously, and successfully laboured, and we have therefore a right to claim for him a niche among the eminent benefactors of his country. It is true, that much that he recommended has been only very partially adopted, yet it is also true, that when his advice has been followed, the most beneficial results have been realized, and that these results will, by the sure influence of example, eventually extend an improved practice throughout the land.

We are indebted to one of the near relatives of the deceased for the following short sketch of his public services:—

Mr. Evans came to Canada about the year 1819. In his early years he had in

the occupancy of extensive farms in Ireland, acquired a thorough practical knowledge of agriculture. For several years he acted as Secretary and Treasurer of the Montreal District and County Agricultural Societies, and was I believe the first to suggest the necessity of having a separate class for Canadians at the Annual Exhibitions. He frequently published letters, about this time, on agricultural improvement in one or two of the Montreal newspapers. In 1835 he published a Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Agriculture in Canada. This publication, the Government ordered to be translated and published in the French language; and for this purpose the Legislature appropriated the sum of £215, and 1500 copies of the book were distributed amongst the French Canadians. The following year he published a Supplementary Volume to this Treatise in the English language. In 1837 he published in the *Montreal Courier* newspaper a series of letters on Agricultural Improvement, by the education of those who are engaged in it as a profession. These letters were subsequently published in a small book, addressed to the Farmers of Canada. In May 1838, he commenced the publication of the Canadian Quarterly Agricultural and Industrial Magazine; but from want of support this publication was discontinued after two numbers had been issued. In 1842 he became Editor of the *British American Cultivator*, published in Toronto, a monthly Agricultural newspaper. From the conduct of this journal he retired in May 1843, and commenced the publication, on his own responsibility, of the Canadian Agricultural Journal in the French and English languages. In 1848 the Lower Canada Agricultural Society was organized, and of this Society Mr. Evans became the Secretary and Treasurer. In January 1849 was published the first number of the Agricultural Journal and Transactions of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society in the

French and English languages, under the charge of Mr. Evans as Editor. In 1853 the Lower Canada Agricultural Society ceased to exist, and the Board of Agriculture for Lower Canada was organized, of this Board Mr. Evans was unanimously elected the Secretary and Treasurer, which office he continued to hold until his death. In 1855 he published suggestions for the subdividing and management of a farm in the Seignories of Lower Canada, with plans and descriptions of farm, dwelling house, dairy, farm yard, and farm buildings, prepared for the Local Exhibition at Montreal. His last work was a Review of the Agriculture of Lower Canada with suggestions for its amelioration; first published in a series of communications in the *Montreal Gazette*, and subsequently in pamphlet form.

The above long list of efforts in behalf of agriculture, sometimes with very little public countenance, sufficiently show the enthusiasm of Mr. Evans in the work; and to the thoroughly safe and practical character which generally distinguish his writings, every intelligent agriculturist can testify. We trust that successors may not be wanting to carry out, under the present improved aspect of agricultural affairs, the task begun and so faithfully carried on by Mr. Evans, in a time when agriculture was a comparatively despised and neglected art.

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The Farmer's Friends and His Enemies.

Beside insect foes, the farmer has some little enemies which belong to the vegetable kingdom, and which are sometimes very destructive. We do not here refer to weeds though these are often injurious enough, but to those minute *parasitic Fungi*, often in-