

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We take the liberty of suggesting to our readers, the propriety of establishing in this Province a Provincial Agricultural Society; one which should embrace the interests of the entire Province. We put it to the cultivators of the soil generally, whether the condition of Agriculture in this Province does not require the adoption of some plan by which a more systematic, regular, and profitable mode of farming may be effected? Does not the adoption of some measure by which a spirit of greater enterprize may be awakened, and a feeling of emulation excited among agriculturists, seem indispensable? Would not the formation of a Provincial Society of Agriculture, having delegates sent from the different Districts in the Province, representing their wants, condition and prospects, at an annual meeting to be held early in autumn, have a tendency, in some measure, to produce the desired effect?

Those delegates being selected from among the most intelligent of the agricultural classes, would be able to represent the condition of Agriculture in their respective districts; stating the system of culture there practised; the kinds, quality, and breeds of stock raised; the amount of grain produced, and the probable quantity which might be exported, if any. They would be able to suggest certain improvements in the system of agriculture, and to point out what breeds of cattle, sheep or swine, might be profitably introduced. In this way, might not a more perfect knowledge of the country's resources be obtained, and its wants known and supplied?

Would not such a society exert a salutary and controlling influence in the province, but especially over the farmers? We can scarcely hope for further Parliamentary aid, until the farmers shall do something for themselves. When the public attention is awakened to this subject, and a general feeling on the subject of agriculture shall be excited, then Parliament will be as ready to aid as we shall to ask; all will then work effectually & profitably for the country's good.

We merely suggest the propriety of the formation of such a society, for the purpose of eliciting inquiry, and provoking discussion on the subject. We hope to hear from some of our able agricultural friends on this matter, soon.

ENGRAVINGS.

We are happy to be able to present our readers with several engravings in this number of our paper, and particularly that of the Scotch plough, which is a good representation of the original. That over mechanics is tolerably well designed and well executed.

We have made arrangements with one of the best engravers in the State of New York to execute cuts, and drawing expressly for this paper, which it is our intention to insert as often as illustration of subjects shall require it. Our next number will contain some admirable cuts for illustration of breeds of cattle.

ker a quantity of paper of a superior quality to be made expressly for the Canadian Farmer & Mechanic, and after some delay have been furnished with an inferior sheet. From necessity, we use it for this number. In future, a better article will be provided.

BOOKS AS PREMIUMS.

It gives us pleasure to notice that in many countries about us, agricultural books and papers are offered instead of cash, for the smaller premiums at the public fairs, and have been very favorably received, and the principle promptly acted upon. We doubt not the best effects will result from the practice. The State of Rhode Island has for years ordered annually, several hundred copies of the New England Farmer, for distribution among the several towns of the State. And "experience has proved that the money so employed was well and profitably expended." The Albany Cultivator says, that from ten to fifty volumes of the Cultivator have been subscribed for, and offered as premiums by the Societies, and that some Societies have much exceeded that number. We hope our friends in Canada will consider the propriety of "doing likewise."

MAINE—ITS CULTURE, 1836—8.

We extract the following from the Farmers' Cabinet, with a view to show what may be done in removing prejudices, overcoming established habits, and advancing the agricultural interests of a country, and that, too, in a short time, where an inducement is presented to excite to action. Previous to 1836 it was believed that Maine could not, by any system of culture, be made to produce certain kinds of grain in any quantity; and more than that, she could not grow her own bread stuffs. A premium was offered by the Legislature, and the farmers went to work at cultivating the soil, and the results of the two following years' production is detailed below:

Maine is advancing rapidly in the high road of agricultural improvement and prosperity. She possesses advantages, (all circumstances combined,) unsurpassed by any other State, for the successful prosecution of cattle and sheep husbandry—a system which, if properly managed and persevered in, will keep her soil enriched, and gradually fill the coffers of the hardy tillers of her soil. An astonishing change has taken place in Maine within a short time. Five or six years since, while travelling in that State, we had frequent conversations with farmers and others on the state of agriculture, which to us appeared to be, in most places, in a languishing condition, especially so far as regarded grain crops; while the grasses and roots presented the most luxuriant appearance, and gave ample promise of an abundant harvest—and we found that one opinion generally prevailed, and that was, that Maine could not grow her own bread stuffs! In consequence of this opinion but little attention was paid to the cultivation of grain; and the citizens of Maine paid annually to the farmers of other States very nearly, if not quite, two millions of dollars for flour, an article they could have raised and manufactured themselves, as the sequel has shown, thereby demonstrating the truth of that beautiful sentiment—"nothing is impossible to a willing mind."

The committee on agriculture made a report to the Legislature of Maine in the spring of 1837, in which they state the population

at five hundred thousand souls, requiring each one pound of bread per day, or for the whole population, 915,500 barrels of flour, of 200 lbs. each, per annum. The amount of wheat raised and manufactured into flour in the year 1836, is set down by the committee at 287,331 bushels, making 157,466 barrels, and leaving a deficit of 835,034 barrels. But from this deficiency of bread stuffs is to be deducted 636,805 bushels of corn, and 62,965 bushels of rye. It was therefore apparent that by far the greater portion of bread stuffs necessary to supply the wants of the people of Maine were purchased out of the State, and of course presented an immense drawback on the proceeds from their grazing and fattening of stock, the lumber trade, and the exportation of roots, mainly potatoes, to other States. This being the case, the Legislature, at the suggestion of the committee, determined to hire the farmers to promote their own interests, by turning their attention to the cultivation of grain crops, which had been previously almost wholly neglected, under the prevailing opinion that neither the soil or climate of Maine were adapted to their cultivation. The bounty offered by the Legislature was two dollars to every farmer who raised twenty bushels of good and well cleansed wheat, and six cents for each additional bushel. A small premium was also offered on corn. Although the premium on grain raised in each township was to be paid out of the township funds, it was nevertheless considered as a sufficient inducement for the farmers to address themselves to the work. Many engaged zealously, from a desire to outdo their neighbors, but the great mass were stimulated by the love of gain, to the successful cultivation of their own soil; and gainers indeed they have been, although by far the greatest proportion of the bounty was simply transferred from one pocket of the farmer to the other. Now, with this inducement to cultivate grain, feed themselves, and no longer be dependent on their neighbors for the "staff of life," mark the result. The quantity of wheat raised that year was ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE bushels, for which the growers received as a bounty eighty-seven thousand, three hundred and forty-two dollars, and six cents! The same year ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX bushels of corn were raised, calling for a bounty of sixty-six thousand, six hundred and twenty-eight dollars, and eighty cents. The following is the state of the crops raised in the two years of 1836 and 1838:

	1836.	1838.
Wheat,	287,331	1,107,849
Corn,	636,805	1,630,997
Total,	924,136	2,728,845

Being an excess of \$20,518 bushels of wheat, and 994,151 of corn; total increase of the crop of 1838 over 1836, one million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand, seven hundred and ninety-nine bushels, increasing the agricultural products of the State in a single year to between two and three millions of dollars! It should be borne in mind that the above is only the amount of grain raised on which the premium was actually paid. It does not probably include more than two thirds of the entire produce of the State, as many who raised large crops of grain of the best quality did not apply for the premium, as they were satisfied with the general results, while those who fell below the twenty bushels were excluded.

We hope our readers will give this subject due consideration, and that not a single farmer will say he cannot raise a particular crop until he shall have tried it fairly.

Temperance, open air, easy labor, simple diet, and pure water, are good for a man all the days of his life.