

## CANADA AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

All who are acquainted with the actual state of agriculture in Canada, must be aware that the efforts that have been put forth hitherto to advance agricultural knowledge and skill, have been very inconsiderable, and, when compared with the importance and magnitude of the field of operation, may indeed be considered so very trifling, that the little that has been done over and above individual exertion, may be deemed scarcely worthy of being taken into the account.

The Government of this colony have nobly done their part, to further the great cause of agriculture, and if the people had only been wise, they would have availed themselves of the great boon which has been so bountifully granted them.

A number of the most wealthy districts in the province, have evinced such a degree of apathy in promoting the agriculture of the country, that they have not even availed themselves of the £200, per annum, which is granted by Government, as a stimulus for encouraging a combination of effort on the part of our hardy yeomen, in elevating the standing and improving the character of their noble calling.

We trust that the farmers in Canada, will see to this matter, and endeavour, if possible, to earn a character which will not suffer in comparison with that of their American neighbours. If they would only divest themselves of all their antiquated notions, and become united in the great cause of improving the agriculture of the country, they would thus, in the course of a half-a-dozen years, add to the value of every acre of land in the province, at least, one hundred per cent.; and would also entirely free the country from debt, and place its Commerce in such a healthy position, that the balance of trade would be considerably in its favour.

If these are not fit objects for the serious attention of all classes of our mixed population, and are not of that peculiar nature that the most virulent partizans in the country could join in one common bond of union, in exerting their talents and influence in accomplishing—then, to say the least of it, we are incapable of forming an opinion on the subject. We feel so morally certain, that the intelligent portion of the agricultural population are now prepared to act with union and decision in the matter under consideration, that we have much confidence in recommending a line of policy to be pursued, to achieve laurels, laid in store for our highly favoured colony.

The Township, District, and Provincial Societies must be organized as soon as practical, in order to accomplish the desired good, and, in our opinion, the relation that these three grades of associations should hold to each other, should be as follows:—As an inducement for the greatest possible number of farmers to become members of township associations—the annual subscription ought not to exceed

the trifling sum of one dollar, for which they should receive a copy of some well-conducted monthly agricultural magazine, which should be afforded to the society at a price not exceeding the sum of half-a-dollar, and be allowed to avail themselves of all the advantages that the township and district societies' exhibitions shall afford. The funds for the township exhibitions should consist of only the balance in the hands of the Treasurer of the Society, after the payment of the agricultural magazine had been made, and the funds of the district societies' exhibitions should consist of the £200, granted by Government, together with the annual subscriptions of the members of the district society.

There are in each township in the province, more or less patriotic and wealthy individuals, who would gladly contribute, at least £1, per annum, for the purpose of encouraging agricultural improvement, if they could be made satisfied that the money would be wisely expended. To give those spirited persons an opportunity to subscribe the above sum, it should, in our opinion, be divided among the three grades of associations, that are proposed to be organized. The township society might receive one dollar, for which the subscriber could avail himself of the advantages above-mentioned. The district society might receive two dollars, the whole of which would be awarded in prizes with the Government bounty, at the Grand Annual District Ploughing Matches, Shows, and Fairs, and the remaining dollar might be given to the Provincial Society. It should be a matter quite optional with the subscribers whether they become, either members of the Township, District, or Provincial Society.

At present, the usual demonstration made at agricultural exhibitions is confined to a few, and the Government bounty, which, by right, should be divided among the bulk of the agricultural population, goes to benefit only a class of individuals, who are already acknowledged to be the best practical farmers in the country.

If being members of agricultural societies, and being in possession of the mysteries that are unfolded, through the modern works that have been published on agriculture, are of any service to the wisest and most experienced farmers, certainly the poor un instructed cultivator might be benefited, by participating in those enjoyments. We again would endeavour to enforce the idea more powerfully upon all who take the trouble to read these remarks, that if a few receive any good, from becoming members of agricultural associations, and from reading the views of the learned and most experienced cultivators, on the various influences that act favourably or unfavourably in the different departments of their intricate and honourable profession, that certainly the entire adult male agricultural population might receive a proportionate amount of benefit, if they would only embrace the same advantages. Believing as we do, that the great thing necessary to make this a happy and prosperous country, is to build up and fortify the foundation of her agriculture on a sound and permanent basis, and also, believing that it is to the interest of all, that every individual should become wealthy and intelligent, our readers will, we trust, excuse the zeal which we are apt to practise, when dwelling upon the subject before us.

To enable our readers, to form some idea of the practical working of the agricultural associations, which we are desirous of seeing shortly established in Canada, we would beg

to draw the following picture—Suppose a district with a population of 20,000 inhabitants, the great bulk of whom are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in this district there are, besides towns and villages, six townships, each containing a population of 2000 souls, and in each of those townships there is an agricultural society formed, averaging each 200 members; and out of those 200, 20 of them become members of the district society, paying each ten shillings, per annum, and 10 become members of the Provincial society, paying each five shillings, per annum; the result would be, that such a district would receive 1200 copies of an agricultural magazine, which, if read, would soon improve the condition of the agriculture of the district to an extent almost incredible. There would be in such a district, six township shows, annually, at which prizes to the amount of about \$100 would be awarded at each, open for competition only to such individuals as are resident members of the township societies respectively. And there would also be one Grand District Show, each year, the funds for which would consist of £200, Government bounty, and besides the ten shillings subscription from the 120 members of the district society, that we have supposed might be collected, if the people would only unite and study their best interests. The parties to whom the district societies' exhibitions would be open for competition, would be the members of the six townships' societies, and also the members of the district society, supposing that the members of the latter were without an exception also members of the township societies, there would be still 1200 persons in the district, who would be allowed to show at the district exhibition. The benefits that would accrue from such a grand display, may easily be anticipated, and the funds would unquestionably be wisely expended, as the Chairman of the township societies would be ex-officio, directors of the district society, who would feel an interest in seeing every shilling expended in a manner calculated to promote the object for which it was wisely granted and collected.

The discussions on Agricultural topics which would take place at the monthly meetings of the Members of the Townships' Societies, and the quarterly meetings of the Members of the District Society, would prove powerful engines in promoting the welfare of these Societies, and would be a means of eliciting a vast amount of information on every branch of farming, and would be an efficient agent for inculcating a friendly spirit among all who would participate in the movement.

Some may suppose that the foregoing scheme is not only visionary but impracticable, to such we would say, that much greater results than those we have pictured to our fancy might be realized, if only a few intelligent, spirited individuals in each Township would undertake the task in good earnest, by forming Township Societies on the plan proposed and meet monthly to discuss topics on Agriculture, and publish the substance of the same for the benefit of their fellow-farmers. A beginning in this good work, has been commenced within the past two months, in the Home District, and we venture to predict in the course of other two months there will be at least fifteen Township Societies within the limits of the District, averaging each one hundred Members.

The Provincial Society, about which there has been so much said for the past two years, could be organized on a most magnificent scale, if only the District Societies would adopt the plan of organizing Branch Societies in the Townships. The officers of both District and Township Societies would be the best possible agents that could be had for procuring sub-