

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

MARCH, APRIL.

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BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR LOWER CANADA.

QUEBEC, 11th March, 1863.

Present:—The Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. L. V. Sicotte, President; O. E. Casgrain, Vice-President; Hon. J. U. Tessier, Hon. E. Turcotte, M. E. E. Campbell, C. Taché, F. Ossaye, Professor of Agriculture at Normal School, Jacques Cartier; Rev. Langevin, Professor of Agriculture Normal School, Laval, Rev. F. Pilote, Professor of Agriculture at Ste. Ann's College, Kamouraska; J. Smith, Professor of Agriculture at the Agricultural and Industrial School of Rimouski.

The President took the Chair. The official report of the Minister of Agriculture, indicating the result of the election of the members of the Board for 1863 was read. The Board then proceeded to elect a President and Vice-President.

Moved by Hon. E. Turcotte, that Hon. L. V. Sicotte be re-elected President. (Agreed.)

Moved by Hon. E. Turcotte, that Major E. Campbell, be elected Vice-President. (Agreed.)

On a motion of Mr. C. Taché, it was resolved:—That this Board, after satisfactory proof of Mr. J. Smith's qualifications as Professor of Agriculture of the Industrial and Agricultural School of Rimouski, admit Mr. Smith as one of the members.

The President laid before the Board a letter from Mr. Grant, enclosing two copies of the Report of the Special Committee of the Agricultural Association of Ireland, on the culture and preparation of flax. This letter was sent through the medium of Er. Watkins.

The President submitted the following Report of Mr. Pilote.

Report on the use of \$100 given by the Board of Agriculture of Lower Canada, to the Model Farm of Ste. Anne for the encouragement of the cultivation of flax and hemp.

To the Hon. President and Directors of the Board of Agriculture of Lower Canada:

Gentlemen,—The trial which you wished to encourage at St. Anne has not had all the desired success. It has been impossible to sow hemp seed last spring. The flax seed did not arrive till the first days in June, consequently too late to prepare a crop to steep the flax in the ordinary way, by exposing it on the grass

thin layers.

The seed was purchased from Messrs Lyman & Co. of Montreal, through the medium of the Central Society at the price of \$19 for five bushels, one of which was of Riga. The whole has not been sown; what remains is kept in reserve for next year.

The 7th of June we sowed three quarters of a bushel on a piece of land of 1 arpent and 4 perches, which had been improved by the ordinary process of a good cultivation. The half was seed from Riga, the other was the ordinary flax. Notwithstanding a continued dryness, this piece of land yielded 110 large bundles of beautiful flax, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long for the Riga and $2\frac{1}{2}$ for the other kind; fifty-five bundles of Riga yielded 4 bushels of seed and 55 bundles of the other 5 bushels.

I gave a few gallons of the same seed on trial to two friends in our vicinity and the result was about the same as the above. Several of our neighbours intend to cultivate more flax for the future. I am in duty bound to observe here that the lectures given last summer, by Mr. Ossaye, have largely contributed to diffuse here the love of this cultivation.

The scutching machine which has been deposited here last spring, has not all the requirements for its immediate operation. The trials which were made have had sufficient success, but in order that the operation be made with continued velocity and without fatigue, it must be moved by other powers than strength of arms; I have been unable to get the proper instrument for this purpose. I have adapted to this machine a temporary wheel five feet in diameter having two handles attached to it. Two men suffice to put this machine in operation without much fatigue, provided the work does not last a very long time.

This machine comes from the workshop of Mess. J. Rowan and Sons of Belfast, in Ireland. It is destined for flax only, being two weak for hemp. The proprietors therefore offer it to the public only as "a new patent scutching machine." From the printed directions for its use, with a velocity of 400 revolutions to the minute for ordinary flax, the machine may yield from 25 to 35 lbs of a very fine tow.

I have thought, Gentlemen, I was acting in