

The boards have frequent shows in different parts of the country, where large premiums are distributed for improvements in stock, or in modes of cultivation. It is notorious, that Great Britain owes her present elevated position in agriculture chiefly to these means. In Holland, Germany and Sweden, agricultural colleges with model farms attached, are considered as necessary as courts of law or churches. The agriculture of a great part of Scotland, was rescued by the Highland Society from much such a state as that of New-Brunswick is now in, but little more than half a century since.

There are peculiarities in our position, however, which must affect the mode of procedure. From the protection heretofore enjoyed by our timber in the British market, and the exclusive encouragement given to that branch of trade by our own legislature, timber-getting, and the branches of business intimately connected with and dependent upon it, have absorbed all the energy, industry and capital of the province. Agriculture, the only source of permanent prosperity to any country, has not only been neglected, but absolutely sacrificed. In this country, capital accumulated in other pursuits, instead of being invested in the improvement of land, as in most other countries, has been taken (with the addition of all that could be scoured from the farms) to supply lumbering parties, and to build saw-mills. Farming, thus neglected, would of course prove unprofitable; and farmers themselves being loudest in crying out that farming would not pay, the character of the province, as an agricultural country, has been sunk to the lowest possible ebb, not only among ourselves, but in those quarters from whence we might expect assistance and encouragement. It is owing to this erroneous opinion of the agricultural capabilities of New-Brunswick, that while foreign capital and skill are pouring into the United States, Canada and Australia, the emigrants to our shores have been generally poor and ignorant. Farmers with capital pass us by—the people of New-Brunswick say it is not a farming country; and the wealthy emigrant takes their word for it, naturally supposing that they ought to know best. That New-Brunswick is not the land for farmers, is therefore set down as an established fact—it is so stated to emigrants at the various ports of embarkation throughout the United Kingdom, and it is urged upon them in many of the publications for their information and guidance.

To remove this false impression, and make known to farmers in other countries who are inclined to emigrate, these FACTS,—that our climate and seasons are quite favourable to the growth of wheat, maize, barley, oats, hemp, and all vegetables—that few countries possess a greater proportion of soil fit for cultivation—that freehold farms ready for the plough, can be obtained for less than the annual rent paid for similar farms in older countries—will be the duty of a Provincial Board of Agriculture; and this, with the task of introducing into the country, by means of model farms and otherwise, a system of farming which *will* pay, and the labour of providing instruction in this new system, to farmers' sons and others, throughout the province, will furnish ample employment to the board for many years to come.

The whole success of the board will of course depend upon the appointments being made of those

who will fit the offices, and not from among those whom the offices will fit.

We trust that the other agricultural societies, and the friends of agriculture throughout the Province, will give serious attention to those suggestions, and co-operate with us in bringing this subject under the notice of the government and the legislature. As our sole motive is an earnest desire to promote the welfare of the country, we shall hope to be excused for thus earnestly pressing our views and opinions upon the people generally, and seeking their co-operation in a matter of such vital importance. The occasion is so pressing, that it behoves every man to be "up and doing." Our *one* article of export is now a drug in every market; and as our farmers do not even produce sufficient food for themselves, we *must* change our course or the province will be deserted.

ADDRESS TO FARMERS.

To the Farmers of New-Brunswick we would say:—The prosperity of the country depends upon you. It is only by well-directed energy and economy on your part that a surplus of food can be produced; and until we have that surplus, no manufactures can be carried on profitably. Will you allow it to be said, that while farmers in other countries, pressed down by heavy rents and taxes, and without any right of property in their improvements, are causing their fields to yield double, that you—the owners of the soil—with a climate abundantly favourable for almost every crop—with miles on miles of fertile alluvial vallies, and hills that may be cultivated to their very tops—with a government of your own choosing, and lighter taxes than any country in the world—that you are not only not improving, but are actually going backward!

Farmers of New-Brunswick! You stop the way—you must move onward!

Signed by order of the Board,

ROBERT JARDINE, *President.*

M. H. PERLEY, *Corresponding Secretary.*

St. John, October 20, 1848.

To the Editors of the Canadian Agriculturist.

Sirs,—I saw an article in one of your numbers, from a farmer who grew asparagus "as thick as fork handles." The treatment of his asparagus bed is excellent; but he says he cuts the plants over ground. I understood they should be cut an inch under the surface, and have seen this recommended in gardening works—may I request to know which you consider best?

I would also request your opinion on fall ploughing, as I find a difference on this subject amongst good farmers. All appear to think it good for summer fallow. Some approve of it for the spring crop of barley, but condemn it for any other spring crops. They say that the stiff clay soils, which constitute the character of three-fourths of the soil of the province, get beaten down and hardened by the rains, and that they lose their fertilizing power by exposure to the air and evaporation. On the other hand it is urged that deep ploughing is good, and that the ground can be ploughed deeper in the fall than in spring. This I think true, and I have ploughed this fall, on that account, with three horses abreast. I think I would have done better, had I