

Agricultural Journal

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AND MODEL FARMS.

WE are happy to have it in our power to announce to our subscribers that several gentlemen have offered farms to "The Lower Canada Agricultural Society," on liberal terms, for the establishment of Schools and Model Farms, for the Agricultural education of youth, and their instruction in the practical art of husbandry. The principal objection to the offers made as yet, is, the shortness of the term, in every case, that the lands would be placed at the disposal of the Society, and this certainly is a great objection. It would, if practicable, be better that the Society should own the farms upon which Schools and Model Farms would be established, so that any future time that it might be thought advisable to sell or remove to a more eligible situation, the benefit of the improvements made should be for the advantage of the Society. If lands could not be obtained in perpetuity, it might be possible to make such an arrangement, that in case of returning the lands to proprietors, or their requiring the lands, a valuation should be made of the actual improvements, and proprietors be liable to pay the Society the amount to which they might be estimated. We do not conceive that any objection would be made to such an arrangement as this, because it appears it would be reasonable for all parties. Indeed large proprietors would find it their interest to give land to the Society without any charge, on condition that the Society would bind themselves to establish a School and Model Farm permanently upon such lands. There is not a doubt that such establishments, provided with properly

qualified Teachers, every branch of husbandry conducted upon the most approved principle, and every department managed judiciously, would be the very best mode of instructing young persons for their own future advantage, and for the general prosperity. There is not a great landed proprietor in the country that would not derive more benefit, *indirectly*, from such an establishment upon his property, than would more than compensate for making a gift of the land necessary for the School and Model Farm to the Society. The establishment of one such School and Farm would prove our proposition satisfactorily. It would be no slight advantage to every proprietor or occupier of land to have improvements made and proved in their immediate neighbourhood, in every branch of Agriculture, without any cost to them. To answer the purpose proposed, Model Farms must be under the superintendence of persons of unquestionable competency; because, any experiments made in the cultivation of crops, or the management of stock or the dairy, should be in conformity to fixed rules, and the most approved system of Agriculture. It will, therefore, be of immense importance to be acquainted with the results obtained in the various experiments that may be tried under such circumstances. Good farmers possessed of capital, make their experiments constantly, but only for their own information generally. Not so on Model Farms; the results of certain modes of cultivation and management will be published to the world. This will doubtless prove an advantage to the farmers of Canada that is not yet duly appreciated, and such advantages are not likely to be obtained in any other way. A Model Farm would require to be of suitable size to admit of a perfect system of husbandry being carried on in all its branches, which would include the breeding and feeding of stock, and the management of the dairy, as well as the cultivation of crops; this could not be done except on a large farm. If farm labourers would be trained, as well as employers instructed, it would require business