

settlements, which stout arms and courageous hearts have overcome elsewhere, and the same will overcome here.

Yet there is a feature in our agricultural developement, (referred to above,) which I have cause to fear will operate detrimentally rather than otherwise, (as contemplated,) and that is the unnecessary multiplication of Agricultural Societies in a county, as has been done in this. Two Societies would have been ample for the convenience and interests of this county. This would have brought the backward parts of the county, which are the least advanced or improved in cattle, &c., &c., into competition with the more improved localities, by this means inducing not only a desire but a determination to be able to compete on fair grounds, and as a matter of course improve their cattle, sheep &c., as well as implements, whereas now those localities having separate societies are giving premiums for the best of a stock of cattle which, to say the least of, are of a very inferior description, and by this means the public monies are paid away (worse than uselessly,) to perpetuate a race of cattle in the county which should rather be banished as speedily as possible.

There exists also another great difficulty, in connexion with our agricultural improvement, which I think deserves the serious consideration of those interested in the agricultural prosperity of Canada, and that is the diffusion of agricultural information in a printed form through the country. Generally our farmers are not reading men, and I have met, even here, a resolute resistance against the introduction of Agricultural Treatises as premiums for competition in our prize lists. Yet something must be done, and our hopes are on the rising generation. *Les vœux ont la tête trop dure.* They must be taught the benefits of such a course as far as practicable, and one of the very first steps to this very desirable state of things would be to introduce into our Elementary Schools a course of agricultural study suited to the capacities of our youth, as recommended in the reports of the "County Society, No. 2, for Vercheres," as also the carrying out the other suggestion of so much utility mentioned in the said reports, and as I find them stated there, shall not occupy your time by particularising at present.

There is also another subject in connexion with our agriculture which I fear is too much

overlooked, and that is the manufacture of maple sugar, a large amount is yearly expended in this, as well as other parts of Canada, for sugar, which must all be paid for in cash, which, as a matter of course, must be taken from some other part of our farm produce, a reprehensible and needless drainage on our income as agriculturists, when the condiment can be manufactured on our own lands, and that, not only to the extent of needful consumption, but also for exportation. Our country is covered to a large extent with the sugar maple tree, and all that is needed is energy and industry to meet our demands for this article, and yet our farmers allow this valuable part of the season to pass unimproved, and no other work of importance done in its stead. I would, therefore, suggest to your Honorable Board the propriety of calling the attention of our agricultural population to this important subject. I am happy to be able to state that these things more than ever occupy the attention of our agriculturists, and I anticipate for the future a better state of things.

If these things are of importance to us, (and they undoubtedly are,) there are other subjects which have their bearing on our interest, probably too numerous to mention, but there are two which I think deserve a passing notice, the first is the necessity of township municipalities, the want of which is felt in this county to an alarming extent, and if not speedily obtained the roads through this county will become utterly impassible, so much so are they now that our agricultural interests are greatly retarded and injured thereby, and if the subject lies within the province of the duties of your Honorable Board, I would respectfully suggest the pressing of the subject in the proper quarter.

The second of these is the want of a road—it is true, "we have a road, but what sort of a Road is it?" Why, one which cuts us off from all communication with the improved and improving portion of Lower Canada. Our roads are the same as all the roads in the Districts of Quebec, on which traineaux and carriages only can be driven over. The antiquated inconvenience of which cannot but be apparent to every one who travels over them, the difficulties of which, if enumerated, would almost fill a volume. In a word, they are ridiculed by our neighbours of the Eastern Townships, and the United States, and are designated, "rabbit tracts." In fact they are a disgrace to any

country, and would be tolerated in no country but *Lower Canada*. I feel satisfied, gentlemen, that you have not only seen, but felt the inconvenience of such roads, and you cannot but be aware of the great necessity of our possessing the double road as used in all other parts of Canada, except the District of Quebec, (to which it is a shame and disgrace,) and that you will use your endeavours, as a "Board of Agriculture," to have this disgrace wiped away from amongst us, by representing to the Head of your Department the necessity of pressing upon the Executive Department of this Province, to allowing the "*Sleigh Ordinance*" to come into operation, which would be the sole means at present of opening a winter communication for the Eastern Townships through this county to the City of Quebec, as well as to advance the agricultural interests of this county especially. The inhabitants of this, as well as of every other county in Lower Canada, are looking up to the Board of Agriculture, as well as to the responsible Head of the "*Department*," and I believe they will not be deceived for a representation of their grievances to the Executive, as well for the removal of them, as to obtain ameliorations in their stead, and none more needed in this county than the means of locomotion.

Many and fearful have been the difficulties which the settlers have had to endure in settling this County, but a brighter prospect is dawning upon our agricultural horizon, and we feel there is *hope*. The more especially so, as we feel satisfied from the character of the gentlemen forming the Board of Agriculture as well as the known abilities of the gentleman at the head of the Agricultural Department that every thing will be done that can consistently be done for the prosperity of agriculture in Canada and our prayer is that its best hopes may be realised, and that that Power which directs and superintends all the movements of men may crown the undertaking so auspiciously commenced with its blessings and its favor. The whole nevertheless respectfully submitted,

JOHN R. LAMBLY,

President of M. A. S.

Leeds, March 29th, 1854.

BEEF CATTLE.—The prices of beef cattle having declined in all the great Central markets of the Atlantic seaboard—at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and