

holds out no inducement for any one to make the attempt. I for one, will adhere to the *principle of liberal premiums to real merit*. If any individual in a community has enterprise enough to introduce better stock than his neighbors, the community must be benefited, and if the prize money *does* come out of our own pockets, the argument is in no wise impaired, the principle holds good, that they who share in the benefit, should in some measure pay for it.

The County of Montreal Agricultural Society, was at one time, just such a petifogg'g society, as are now many of our Township societies, (*the Mount Forest one always excepted.*) They held their annual shows, truthfully likened by your correspondent, to annual scrambles for pecuniary gain; and so long as each man got a share of the plunder, no fault was found, nor question asked, as to whether the County at large were receiving any benefit. A change for the better supervened; instead of year after year, squandering their money in prizes for *rubbish*, merely because it was the least unsightly rubbish on the Island of Montreal, they adopted another policy, which was, to introduce a better class of animals than they had ever dreamt of seeing there, and to elevate the tastes of the Canadian farmers to appreciate them. A certain portion of their funds, small at first, was annually devoted to the importation of animals of improved breeds from England and Scotland. Year by year they extended their operations, and any one at all acquainted with the agriculture of the Lower Province, is aware that great benefit to the public has through that instrumentality been scattered broadcast over the length and breadth of the land. In addition to other stock, that society owned in 1858, no fewer than eight imported Ayrshire bulls, and the quality of their stock may be inferred from the fact, that in that year that society carried off the sum of £51 in premiums at the Provincial Fair; and the sum was not "confined to a small circle," far less thrown to "the man in the moon," but was re-invested and re-distributed with yearly increasing advantage to all concerned. These sir, are, I believe, some of the reasons that support one suggestion in that obnoxious report. The others rest upon arguments which time and space alike forbid me at present to enter upon particularly. I would merely say that instead of a Township society *squandering* half of its funds in giving ridiculous prizes for the best bushel of grain, or of roots, let a County society award *liberal* premiums for the best managed farm, and the best fields of grain, and the best acres of roots, and to the man who can tell his neighbours in the most intelligible manner by what process of culture he has been enabled to raise the best crops. In this way, parties situated 40 miles from their County town, can obtain the highest prizes without moving 40 yards from their own doors. That county must be almost a continent, whose centre is 40 miles distant from its circumference, and if County towns are placed at one

extremity of a County, I can see no necessity for societies to hold their show there. Of selfishness in the matter, the directors are innocent, and the officers of two of our Township societies, were the first, years ago, to recognise the principle, and to abandon the system of frittering away small prizes at *small shows*, and I believe the results have not yet disappointed the expectations. I have already occupied too much of your valuable space. One word more, I go further than that report does. I look forward to the time sir, when the independent farmers of Canada will put an end to the controversy by discarding Legislative grants altogether when they will come forward manfully to shoulder their own burden; when they will refuse to allow merchants and mechanics to be taxed in support of agricultural societies; and not till then, will our societies stand on a firm foundation, and be in a condition to accomplish the best results. This may not be anticipated by all of my fellow directors, but it is of your's

ONE OF 'EM.

Dundas, Nov. 1, 1860.

Spring Pigs.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST,—Would you favour me with a reply to the following question through the columns of the *Agriculturist*.

Can pigs dropped before the 1st of March (say the 1st of February) be shown as Spring Pigs in agricultural shows? A SUBSCRIBER.
Culross, Oct. 1860.

[This point we should say, must depend entirely upon the rules of the Society. In abstract we are of opinion that pigs dropped some time after the first of January would have a right to exhibit as spring pigs till the following autumn. At the Provincial Show prizes were offered for pigs over a year old and for those under a year old, and any pig short of 12 months actual age can be exhibited in the younger class.—Ed.]

Agricultural Intelligence.

EXTRAORDINARY YIELD.—The Kincardine Commonwealth thinks that the extraordinary yield of the season will be found to be 365 bushels of wheat taken from 7½ acres of farm of Mr. Kehoe on the Durham road 12 miles from the Village of Kincardine. Above is the number of bushels as measured by the separating machine, and after being threshed through the fanners and cleaned for the market. Exclusive of all waste there was fully 49 bushels to the acre.