

barn-yard; and it seemed to be the general opinion that in this country, where labour was high, and consequently proper care could not be taken to prevent the admixture of foreign seeds, the best plan was to allow it to ferment. Another question arose as to the proper period to cut grain in,—which of the three stages, "turning," "ripe," or "dead ripe,"—and at the request of those present, Mr. Wade agreed to read, at the next meeting, a paper on the subject.

This was on the whole a most interesting and instructive meeting, and we regret that we cannot give a more accurate account. We agree with Mr. Rutlan as to the necessity of some system of organization, confident that without it the rights of the Farmers will be slighted or neglected altogether; and we trust that the opportunity now offered will be embraced by all.

For the Newcastle Farmer.

TO THE FARMERS OF THE DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE.

GENTLEMEN,—

I am happy to avail myself of the medium of the *Newcastle Farmer*, in order to say a few words in commendation of the decision of the Directors of the Agricultural Societies of the Counties of Northumberland and Durham, in attempting the organization of Township Farmers' Clubs, somewhat after the plan pursued in the old countries and United States.

Experience is the best teacher, and if the experience of the Farmers of Upper Canada for the last few months fail to awaken them to their present condition and future prospects, then I can only say that any further efforts on behalf of the Agriculturalists will be but in vain.

A great many people blame the Government whenever measures militating against the agricultural interests are taken. It is not the fault of the Government, Gentlemen, it is our own fault.—The Government, whilst it hears from every other class of inhabitants,—whilst it receives addresses and Petitions from the Boards of Trade, from Lawyers, Ministers, Merchants, Mechanics, Forwarders, and all sorts of Associations,—never hears from the FARMERS. They do not appear to be known as a body at all, and how can the Government act unless upon such information as is laid before it?—

What wonder, then, that the particular interests of the Farmer should be swallowed up, and he stand as an individual unknown?

A Provincial Agricultural Society is about being organized at Toronto in this month, and we of Northumberland have deputed our talented Secretary to meet the Deputy from the other Counties. If this be accomplished, then the Farmers will be in a position to make themselves heard. But in order to give it efficiency as the Farmers' organ, the County Societies must be efficient, and their efficiency depends very much upon the organization of Township Clubs.

So much for our civil standing as a body. As to the consequence of these Clubs to our improvement in the science of Agriculture, they are in my opinion of the very last importance, and lay at the very bottom of our prosperity.

"As iron sharpeneth iron," so the mind in collision with mind will improve the understanding; and it is only in these social meetings that we can have this communion. Should we not, then, Gentlemen, consider it rather as a privilege than a hardship to spend a few hours once a month, and perhaps a few shillings a year, in order to gain information so vital to our prosperity? There is no Farmer so perfect that he will not find it advantageous to attend, nor is there one so ignorant as that some new idea will not be suggested by him.

There are farmers now in Canada who, so far as regards the management of a farm, and even in scientific attainments, will compare favourably with some of the best in the old countries; and I am sure all those will feel it a great pleasure to attend, and impart some of their knowledge to, and encourage by their presence, these Associations.

Let, then, the Farmers of the two sister Counties of this District, Durham and Northumberland, make a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," for the establishment of Township Clubs. Recollect that "Union is Strength," and without it we must expect to remain, although forming nine-tenths of the population of Upper Canada, as a body, isolated and unknown, and occupy a position, instead of the front, in the rear rank of all the various other classes forming the population. Without improvement in our social condition and in our knowledge of husbandry, so in the same proportion must we expect *hard labour, small crops, and low prices*,—and last, though not least, without weight as a body, either political, civil, or social.

As a Farmer merely, Gentlemen, I have no right to address you thus, for I acknowledge that I am a very poor one, but it is because of the deep interest I take, and have always taken in the Agricultural improvement of the country, and from the circumstance of the official situation which I have the honour to hold in the County Society, that I have presumed to come before you with these remarks.

I have, &c.

H. RUTTAN.

Cobourg, 13th July, 1846.

For the Newcastle Farmer.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—I have been much surprised to learn from a member of your Committee, that at a late meeting of the Directors a sum of money, (far exceeding any former amount for the purpose,) has been voted as premiums on Stock to be exhibited at a Cattle Show in October next.

I certainly had indulged the hope that the fallacy of such a proceeding had been made sufficiently apparent, as not answer-

ing the end for which it has been adopted; for while thorough-bred Stock is allowed a premium, it is (under present circumstances) merely fostering a monopoly,—such Stock being in so few hands, that there is in fact no competition; nor are the members of the Society, or the farmers of the County, benefitted to a tithe of the amount which they would be by a different application of the funds.

That any person going to the expense and trouble of importing Stock of improved breed, is worthy of encouragement and ought to be supported by the Society, must be granted; but the question is, whether more cannot be done by the means at the command of the Society.

We have had improved Stock in our vicinity for some years,—how many thorough-bred females of that Stock, (say heifers and ewes,) have ever passed into other hands from the original owners? very few I believe, *if any*, and if so, how can the flocks and herds of the members of the Society ever get much beyond a half breed, which never can by any possibility enter into competition with the full blood?

It is idle to talk about every person having an equal opportunity with others of importing Stock; the main question is, Has the end been answered hitherto by the means already adopted? I contend not,—and would respectfully submit for your consideration a few remarks.

I believe I may safely affirm, that within a very few years no less a sum than £300 has been expended in premiums on Stock; now, Sir, had this amount been laid out in the purchase of *young*, thorough bred cattle and sheep, &c. and sold again to the members of the Society, say even at a loss, of twenty-five per cent., (although that would not necessarily follow,) and the produce of the sale again invested in new purchases, and sold as before, the process to be repeated so long as any money remained, it will be found by making the calculation, that Stock to the amount of nearly twelve hundred pounds would have been distributed throughout the country; and the whole of the members of the Society might have been in the possession of Stock of a superior quality, and at a very inconsiderable outlay of trouble and expense, we should have had a vast accession of members, and the amount in aid from Government, would have enabled the Society to purchase successive supplies of the very best animals to distribute throughout the County, beside giving handsome premiums for a Cattle Show worthy the name, with reasonable expectation of fair and active competition. I am, Sir,

Your's most respectfully,

A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

Hamilton, June, 1846.

TOWNSHIP CLUB MEETING.

HAMILTON.—1st Saturday in September, at the Town Hall, in Cobourg, at 4 o'clock, P. M.—Subject for discussion,—*Fall and Spring Ploughing*.

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