

within their teaching, becomes gradually but irresistably revealed, binding and disposing all to work together for the greatest end, not of the individual only, but of the whole family of man; not of his physical necessities or intellectual pursuits alone, but of his whole relation to that highest wisdom, whose evidences and attributes are engraven upon the fabric of nature, not of power or knowledge only, but of universal and inexhaustible beneficence."

LEGISLATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE

As so large a portion of the population of the United Province follows that most ancient, and most useful of all occupations, agriculture, as the business of their lives; and as the legislature anxious to encourage improvement in this important pursuit, have legislated at various times, and have instituted Boards of Agriculture and Provincial Agricultural Associations, whose duty it is to watch over and promote the organization and development of County Societies, who, in their turn, control the Provincial Associations, by the votes of the Delegates, the farmer has by his own vote, and the voice of the individual to whom he delegates his authority, the power to decide upon all questions that concern his own individual interests, and which are calculated to promote the success of his peculiar pursuit.

It would appear, from recent events, that these privileges are not well understood, or sufficiently prized by the farmers of the Lower Province, or if understood, we are utterly at a loss to account for the apathy exhibited by so many of the Societies at the last fall exhibition. As was stated at the close of the Sherbrooke Exhibition not one delegate attended from any Society in Lower Canada, except those from Sherbrooke and its vicinity, and the very object of the Act of the Provincial Legislature in giving to the County Societies, who should best understand their own interests, the power to appoint their office-bearers and the places of exhibition is defeated, or becomes a dead-letter by reason of the non-attendance of the delegates from the County Societies.

As it is possible some portion of this apathy may arise from a want of knowledge of the scope and bearing of the provisions of the Act, we have thought it would be an acceptable service to our readers that we should turn to the Provincial Statute Book, and shew in a short, but succinct manner, the

objects of the Act for the better organization of County Agricultural Societies, and the means by which those Societies can, by systematic and combined exertion, promote the objects for which Parliament has legislated.

The Board of Agriculture is composed of eight Directors, four of whom retire every year to be re-elected, or replaced by the votes of the different County Societies, at their annual meetings in the month of February. It is of the utmost importance to the farming interest that these selections should be made with care and judgment. Those alone should be selected who are competent, resolute, and indefatigable men, earnest in season and out of season for the promotion of this object. If the proceedings of the Board have not been of such a character as to satisfy the agriculturist, or if the members have not shewn themselves to be persons of sufficient vigor, activity and intelligence, here is the remedy provided by the wisdom of parliament to effect a satisfactory change in its proceedings, and, if the farmer values his own privileges and interests, he will set himself anxiously to the consideration of this matter, and apply a remedy if it be needed at the usual time of election.

The Provincial Association is composed of the Board of Agriculture, the President and Vice-Presidents of the County Societies, and all annual subscribers of five shillings; the Board, and the President and Vice-President of the County Societies (or any two members in the place of the latter whom a County Society may appoint) are the Directors of the Association. And these Directors are bound by the Act to meet during the exhibition which takes place during their term of office, for the purpose of fixing the place for the holding of the next exhibition, and appointing a President and Vice-President for the Association.

If any section of the country is anxious to have the exhibition within its limits, it should take care to have its interests well represented at this meeting of Directors. At this meeting also the representatives of County Societies would have the opportunity of discussing many important matters with the Board, and the future proceedings might be so shaped, after consultation and due consideration, as to advance in the highest degree the objects contemplated by the Act, and hence the importance of appointing, as

we have insisted, men of activity and intelligence to the trust.

The subject is one of deep and abiding interest to the agricultural community. We shall return to it, and shall be glad to find our warning and advice have not been uttered in vain. We were informed the other day by an extensive miller in the adjoining States, that Canadian Wheat is acknowledged universally by American Millers to be from 10 to 15 per cent. better than American Wheat. On asking him the reason why, he replied that he believed the snow of our much maligned climate nurtured a more vigorous and productive plant. Owing to the superiority of our cereals, and the great demand likely to arise for them in the present state of Europe, many American farmers have come over to purchase our wheats, and even want to purchase and farm our lands. Much of the famous flour sold in Europe with the Genessee brand, is manufactured in that district from imported Canada Wheat, which the miller prefers to that grown in the Genessee valley. It will be a deep reproach to our people if others can perceive and appreciate the advantages we possess, and are prompt to profit by the circumstances of the times, and if we should be so slow or apathetic as to be insensible to those advantages, or should fail to second the local legislature in its thoughtful and carefully matured efforts to promote our own agricultural prosperity. In this case the fault will be justly ascribed to those who neglect the important functions they are appointed to fulfil, and who thus inflict a serious injury upon the most productive interest of the Province.

STATE BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE.

The Hon. Henry J. Gardner, Governor of the State of Massachusetts, in his annual address to the two branches of the Legislature, refers in the following terms to the State Board of Agriculture, and its influence upon the agricultural prosperity of this important part of New England:—

"No portion of my official duties has been more agreeable than those performed as a member of the State Board of Agriculture; and, though the relative expenditure of money under this head is small, no department of government is intrusted with a subject of more intimate concern to our entire community. The wise foresight, which encourages the different county societies by a State grant, and which gives to each of them a direct representation at the Central Board, where the experience of all is considered and compared; and the prac-