

farmer has commenced the thorough draining of his land, the cultivating root crops extensively, or any other ameliorating improvement, state the fact and the results, and the supposed amount of such improvement taking place in the county or township. State any improvements that may be taking place in the introduction of agricultural implements, the progress making in the cultivation of fruit trees, or other horticultural operations, and the success attending it. If there is any particular improvement necessary in farm management, or for the proper development of the capabilities of the soil, let it be stated. The leading features of the annual exhibition, as a display of agricultural and mechanical products, and as showing the interest taken in the progress of improvements by the residents in the county or township, may also be briefly referred to. In short, the report should be such a concise and faithful sketch, supported by such brief details and statistics, as would enable the reader at a distance to estimate the general progress and capabilities of the county or township correctly.

It is not necessary that the portion of the reports here referred to should be very long. For a County, from ten to twenty, and for a Township, from six to twelve pages of ordinary writing on foolscap paper would afford abundant space. It is not desired, however, to restrict the reports in any way. The reports, or so much of them as may be considered suitable, will be published in the Transactions, and the names of the successful competitors will be immediately announced after the prizes have been adjudged. The amount of prize will be forwarded, unless in the case of instructions to the contrary, to the Secretary or other officer of the Society, from whom the report shall have been received. It is hoped that these reports will furnish a large amount of interesting and useful information for publication in the Transactions.

Should there not be considered to be sufficient time, after receiving this notice, to

get up the information, the report might be adopted *pro forma*, and afterwards amended, with the consent of the Directors. It is highly desirable, however, that the reports should be forwarded to the Board of Agriculture, if possible, some time prior to the 1st of April, the date fixed by law.

HUGH C. THOMSON,

Sec. Board of Agriculture.

Toronto, Dec. 15, 1859.

GRAIN CRUSHERS.

It is now a recognised fact in the improved practice of British Agriculture, that the food of cattle, such as hay, straw, oats, &c., when cut or bruised, is far more economical and nutritious, than when given in its crude state. By this means not only less masticating force is required, but the food itself, by being broken up, yields more readily and completely its nutritious ingredients to the wants of the animal. Bruised oats, for example, have been found by experience to go one-half further in measure after being crushed, and the horse put into better condition for work at less expense.

Comparatively few of the grains of oats when given whole are masticated, as is obvious from their being voided in the same state, and consequently they cannot have been of much benefit to the animal. It is well known that grain given to animals in its natural state, sometimes produces injurious and even fatal consequences; especially when it is new and damp and given in large quantities. But if it is bruised, it can be taken by animals with safety, as it will be deprived of its vitality; while crushing greatly facilitates the mastication and digestion of the food, and all the functionary processes are thereby much quickened.

It is in every respect desirable that the practice of crushing grain, as cattle-food, should be generally introduced into Canada. Wherever it has been fairly tried in this country, the advantages of the practice have been acknowledged. In a season like the present, when the hay crop has fallen so much below an average, it behoves the