

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Board met, pursuant to adjournment, on the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of April, in one of the Committee Rooms of the Parliament Buildings in this City. Members present:—E. W. Thomson, Esq., Chairman; Hon. Adam Fergusson; David Christie, Esq., M. P. P.; R. L. Denison, Esq., John Harland, Esq.; and the Secretary. T. C. Street, Esq., M. P. P., President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, favored the Board with his attendance, to assist in revising the Premium List, and making arrangements for the next Provincial Exhibition to be held in Toronto, in September next. Wm. McDougall, Esq., was also present, by request, at one of the sittings that the Board might have the advantage of his views and experience with reference to the working of the new Agricultural Statute, and certain objections that have been raised thereto.

The following is a short abstract of the proceedings.

The revision of the Premium List occupied a large portion of the time; the Secretary submitted a number of communications, containing suggestions and recommendations on the subject. Nothing was expunged from former lists, worth mentioning here, but several additions were made, and the aggregate amount of premiums, for 1852, will greatly exceed any previous year. As the list will be published in the next number of the *Agriculturist*, the mention of particulars here is unnecessary.

The Secretary had received but few returns of Judges for the next Exhibition from County Societies, a circumstance the Board much regretted, as involving considerations of the greatest importance to the efficient and satisfactory working of the Show. It was agreed, however, that the Secretary, with the other members of the Board should use their best exertions in timely preparing as full a list of competent judges as may be practicable: and in order that the judges may assemble in good time, and become acquainted with each other, previous to entering on their duties, it was resolved that an early Breakfast be prepared for them on the grounds, on the first day of the Show. It was also determined that the previous regulation, imposing an entry charge of 7½d on each article above three, should be abolished; such regulation having been found to cause much trouble and inconvenience in practice, without making any addition worth considering to the funds. It having been found from an experience of four years that a ploughing match in connection with the Annual Exhibition of the Provincial Association has proved comparatively a failure; the competitors being in most

cases from the immediate vicinity in which the Show is held, and the attention of both officers and visitors is so fully engrossed with other matters, it was deemed expedient to discontinue the usual ploughing match. The Board is of opinion, however, that the encouragement of County ploughing matches, and devoting an entire day thereto, is an object worthy of consideration and support.

The Secretary submitted communications from the Agricultural Societies of Perth and Northumberland, objecting to several provisions of the present Agricultural Statute; one or two other Societies, it had been incidentally noticed in the public prints, had also raised objections, but they had not communicated them to the Board. The Secretary also mentioned some suggestions which he had received in the course of correspondence with individuals relating to this subject, which were entitled to consideration. After devoting much time and thought to the matter, it was deemed expedient to defer the further consideration of the question to another meeting; in the mean time the Minister of Agriculture should be consulted, and the Board informed of the views and intended plans of this new department of the Government. It was also suggested that the Statute under which this Board is organized should be so far amended as to include the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the Provincial Association as *ex-officio* members thereof. The Board was of opinion that the 20th clause of the Act, interpreting the word County as including United Counties, should be repealed, so as to make each County separate and independent, and that the present amount of £17 10s, to be raised by a Township Society, before it can be legally organized, should be reduced to £10. These, and, perhaps, in few minor alterations, appeared desirable should be made in the next Session of Parliament, but it was thought at present premature to interfere with the principle and other provisions of the Act, till it had been tested by a longer experience. The Board will be always thankful to receive communications on the subject, since there can be but one object to secure, viz: the obtaining of the best legislative enactment, upon the whole, for promoting the Agricultural improvement of the country.

Several reports from County and Township Societies were received, with statements of income and expenditure, list of officers, &c., abstracts of which were ordered to be made and published in the Transactions. Only two reports, however, had been received that came within the prescribed conditions, accompanying the Prizes offered last year for Agricultural reports of Counties. The first prize of £20 was awarded to the Report of the County of Wellington; the second prize of £15 was awarded to the Report of the County of Hastings. These reports were ordered to be published in the Transactions, prefixed to the *Agriculturist*. It was also resolved that Reports in this class should be received up to the 1st of May; such reports, however, can compete only for the third and fourth prizes. For the future competition for County Reports is to be thrown open to the public generally; the conditions will