

PRIZE REPORTS.

We have received several inquiries respecting the prizes offered by the Board of Agriculture, for the best Agricultural reports of *Counties*, in Upper Canada. The new agricultural statute, which was published in our last number—and should be carefully examined by all office bearers—requires that Township Societies shall hold their annual meetings in the month of January, and transmit their reports to their respective County Societies, in time for the annual meetings of the latter, which are to take place in February. County Societies have to transmit their reports, together with those of the Townships in each County, to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, on, or before, the 1st of April, in each year. The Board of Agriculture will give four premiums for the *four best County Reports*. The competition, therefore, lies between the whole of the County Societies in Upper Canada. The object of the Board is to elicit the truth with regard to the actual condition and capabilities of agriculture in this country. Societies are, of course, at liberty to engage what assistance may be deemed desirable in preparing their reports. We subjoin the conditions, as published in the last premium list:

AGRICULTURAL REPORTS OF COUNTIES.

For the best County Report of the Agricultural Society of the County,	£	s.	d.
1st do.	20	0	0
2d do.	15	0	0
3d do.	10	0	0
4th do.	5	0	0

These Reports, in addition to the usual information required respecting the condition of Agricultural Societies within their range, should describe the various soils of the County; modes of farming; value of land; amount of tillage and average of crops; breeds of live stock; implements and machines in use; methods of preserving and applying manures; sketch of past progress, with suggestions for further improvement. All statistical information should be condensed as much as possible, and when practicable, put into a tabulated form. The main object of each report should be to afford any intelligent stranger that might read it, a concise, yet an adequately truthful view of the Agricultural condition and industrial pursuits of the County.—While all unnecessary particulars are to be avoided in the preparation of these Reports, *completeness* should, as much as possible, be constantly kept in view. The Reports must be sent into the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture on, or before 1st of April, 1852; and the premiums will be paid in the hands of the Treasurers of the respective County Societies, that may win the same. The Board will publish the whole, or such parts of the Reports, as may be deemed expedient.

THE LOW PRICE OF GRAIN.

Although we have had this year, in Upper Canada, a bountiful harvest, there is too much reason to fear that many of our farmers will not find that their business has been profitable. The almost unprecedented low price of wheat that now obtains, must, except in cases of extraordinary production, entail an actual loss on the growers, while other products of the farm are not selling at rates that will make up the deficiency. In a comparatively new country, where the condition of agriculture has scarcely begun to assume a systematic form, it is extremely difficult to fix the minimum price at which wheat can be raised; but our opinion is, taking any considerable area of Upper Canada, during a series of years at the present price of labour, that the farmer can receive a moderate remuneration for his labour and capital, in the production of wheat, at less than from four to five shillings a bushel, at the lake ports. Good wheat is now selling in Toronto as low as three shillings, and even less; while in several country markets in England, we have observed of late, the price as low for sound samples as 3s. per quarter, (8 bushels.) It is self evident that should the present depressed price continue for wheat, the Canadian farmer must look less to this article, for his pecuniary returns, than has been his wont: new productions must be sought for and tried; among such that hold out the greatest promise at the present, are in our estimation, Hemp and Flax. What the farmer requires in reference to these two important articles, for the growth of which the climate and much of the soil of this country seem admirably adapted,—is a market for his *raw produce*. Claussen's newly invented machine for partially reducing the fibre would be highly advantageous, especially to growers in the remoter districts. But before much could be done in this country to make the culture of Hemp and Flax profitable on a large scale, mills, with the necessary machinery, will have to be erected in different parts of the Province, for extracting the oil and preparing the fibre for the purpose of manufacture. A fair commencement and trial in this important department of industry, will, we believe, be made in earnest during the next season; and every real friend of his country must wish such enterprize success.