

REPORT OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1852.

The Annual Meeting of Essex County Agricultural Society was held in the Court House, Sandwich, on Saturday, Feb. 19, 1853. John G. Buchanan, Esquire, *President*, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted; after which the Board of Directors and officers brought forward their Annual Report, which was read by the Secretary and adopted.

REPORT.

We, the Officers and Directors of Essex County Agricultural Society, would beg leave to report (as required by the Agricultural Act passed the present session of Parliament) for the information of the Society at its Annual Meeting, and also for the Board of Agriculture for U. Canada. The following documents marked in order, will shew the Society's proceedings and transactions for the past year.

No. 1. The names of members and the amount of their several subscriptions.

No. 2, Prize list, being the account of Premiums awarded to animals and various other articles at the Society's Fall Fair and Show, held at Amherstburgh in October, 1852.

No. 3, A detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Society during the year 1852, together with the reports of Township or Branch Societies in this county for the said year.

Your Board would further remark that the operations of the County Society have, during the two years of its existence, been entirely confined to the awarding of premiums for the best articles of agricultural produce; they have not appropriated any money for the purchase of improved stock, as this seems to be the peculiar province of the Township or Branch Societies, as will appear from their Annual Reports; all their efforts are directed in the way of procuring the most improved live stock. As an illustration of the great attention paid to the improvement of cattle in the several townships of this county, they carried off the highest prizes awarded to foreign stock at the State Fairs of Ohio and Michigan.

What would appear to be the interest of this Society would be the offering of premiums for the best cultivated farms or fields that yields the greatest remuneration to the farmer. Such an object might inspire a spirit of rivalry among our farmers, and in some measure compensate for the absence of a model farm which is scarcely attain-

able in this sparsely settled country: it is very doubtful whether farming conducted on a scientific basis, as performed on model farms would be appreciated in this county, owing to the great want of education among a portion of the farming community. Education is the basis of all enterprise and improvement; we would, therefore, hail as a valuable auxiliary to the improvement of Agriculture, the contemplated establishment of Township Libraries by the Chief Superintendent of Education, and also the perfecting of our common school system, so that education may come within the reach of all: and only a few years can elapse before the younger branches of our farming community will be able to lay hold of all the improvements going on around them, and also combine theory with practice in such a manner that Essex will come up alongside of those counties which are already so far advanced in agriculture.

Your Board would remind the Society that laxity in the attendance of members renders such Societies as this very inefficient. When the business of the Society is conducted by a few of its principal officers, it does not give such general satisfaction; neither is the Society answering the end for which it was established.

We would impress upon our successors in office the absolute necessity of attendance to this duty as such, and make this Society something worthy of being appreciated by the farmers of Essex. We possess a soil and climate unsurpassed by any locality in British North America, and it only requires intelligence and energy to develop the resources we have at our command. Let this Society act in conjunction with its branches in the surrounding townships, as the hand-maid of the farmer in developing the riches of his soil, and Essex will stand side by side with its sister Societies in other parts of the Province; and at no great distant day put in its claim for the Provincial Exhibition to be held on the Banks of the Detroit.

In concluding this Report your Board would beg to call the attention of the Society to the receipts and expenditure of the last year, and it may form a question for consideration whether it is beneficial to appropriate the entire revenue of the Society for premiums, in the manner we have been in the habit of doing. The purchase of choice seeds, and as before mentioned, the cultivation of the soil, might command the attention of the Society with equal advantage. However, these are subjects for the future action of the Society.

Our term of office has now expired, and we cheerfully resign our stewardship to our successors in office by wishing them all success.