

prices are now being made by machinery, in many of the older settled parts of the Province, which presents a wide and remunerative field for the application of the art of draining, and which, in wet lands, forms the basis of all agricultural improvements.

"New and improved varieties of seeds are frequently enquired after by members of the agricultural societies, and I trust that means will speedily be provided for testing in a trustworthy manner all such as are at all likely to be suited to the soil, climate and markets of this Province; such operations, however, will necessarily involve time, caution and perseverance, and should be conducted at first on a comparatively small scale. To facilitate the changes of seeds of known and approved varieties, grown on different soils at considerable distance apart, is what appears at present to be most urgent and pressing.

"It is an encouraging fact that during the last year in particular, mowers and reapers and labour-saving implements have not only increased in the older districts, but have found their way into new ones, and into places where they were before practically unknown. This beneficial result has, no doubt, mainly arisen from the difficulty, or rather, in some cases, impossibility of getting labour at any price; but in consequence of the operations of Agricultural Societies, and the information so widely and cheaply diffused by the press, there is an increasing desire felt by farmers to avail themselves of the valuable aid of the mechanic, whose skill and enterprise will be found adequate to meet any increased demand of this nature that may arise.

"The working of Agricultural Societies under the new statute, during the year, has been on the whole as satisfactory as could be anticipated. It will take another year or two before the new system can be brought to anything approaching maturity. It is a matter deserving the earnest attention of such as have had a large experience in the management of our agricultural organizations, whether it would not be more advantageous for the interests of agriculture for two or more township societies to unite, at least occasionally, and hold but one exhibition. There is a prevalent feeling abroad that we have too many shows, and consequently a frittering away of means which might be otherwise more beneficially employed.

"From the returns sent to my Department, it is gratifying to observe that several Township Societies, during the year, have expended considerable portions of their income in purchasing superior animals, with a view to improving their stock. The breeds of all kinds of stock have of late been steadily improving, and the Province owes a debt of gratitude to those enterprising men among us, who from time to time have imported animals of the best blood at great risk and expense. If such individuals have not in all cases received the full benefit to which their large expended capital justly entitled them, the country at large has shared greatly in the advantages.

"We live in an age remarkable for the application of scientific knowledge to the practical purposes of life.

"Agriculture has, in all countries, advanced more slowly than most of the other industrial arts, though it forms the foundation of the prosperity of them all. It is earnestly to be hoped that in the Dominion of Canada, and in the Province of Ontario in particular, our numerous Societies, so wisely and liberally fostered by the Legislature, will become more and more efficient in the discharge of their important functions, by availing themselves of all the light which the science and practice of other countries can impart, and consequently more efficacious for eliciting and diffusing a taste, among young men especially, for the study of such branches of physical science as have a direct application to the practice of their valuable art.

"The position of the Province to-day is a cause for patriotic congratulation. In almost every branch of industry, a steady progress is to be seen, and the aggregate wealth in the hands of the industrial classes is greater than it has been at any former period of our history.

"Farming in this Province should become, and with many it is fast becoming, every year less a mere matter of manual drudgery, and more an occupation where education and intelligence, earnest experiment and scientific research should assert their claims, and make themselves felt as a necessity to success. Farmers should realize that on the farm, quite as much as in any other sphere of life, the highest mental culture can find not simply the fullest exercise, but an ample reward."

There are several important appendices to the Report, notice of which we must reserve for a future issue.

#### COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

This body held its first meeting on Wednesday, February 24th, in the Agricultural building, Toronto. As some of the members had not arrived on that day, owing to detention of trains, adjournment was had until Thursday. On proceeding to business, Mr. E. Mallory, of Napanee, was appointed President, and Mr. L. E. Shipley, of Falkirk, Vice-President. Mr. Geo. Graham, of Brampton, was elected Treasurer at a salary of \$400 per annum, without after-claps, percentages, or "casual advantages." A motion by Mr. Cowan that it is advisable to appoint a new Secretary was lost, and Mr. Hugh C. Thomson retained in office. It was resolved to keep the funds of the Association in the Bank of British North America; and to take security of the Treasurer to the amount of \$30,000, himself