

thus active in out-door improvements, their wives and daughters have been by no means idle at home. The dairy has engrossed a large share of their attention, and the quantity and quality of the butter and cheese they have turned out, has kept pace with the other improvements we are so happy to notice, and we feel confident that they will go on with increased ardour, as the augmented number of cattle gives them more and more material to work upon, until production shall have reached its utmost limit; which we are sure will only be determined by their ability to undergo the necessary amount of labour.

Last, but not least, we have to notice the great amount of draining done within the last twelve months, which exceeds that of any former year in a double or even a three-fold proportion. This is one of the most important and beneficial improvements that can be made upon land, as it not only removes one of the most serious obstacles to the growth of the crops upon which we depend for our subsistence, but even tends to ameliorate the climate in no small degree, for the presence of water continually evaporating under the influence of the sun and the atmosphere lowers the temperature of the air and strikes cold to the roots of the plants and stunts their growth, while in its subsidence into the soil it carries down the soluble substances from which they derive their food, to a depth to which the roots cannot penetrate, and the noxious matters existing in the soil are brought to the surface by evaporation, thus exercising a double action equally judicious to a healthy vegetation.

On the whole, we repeat that the past year's transactions have exhibited a most satisfying amount of progress; and though we admit that much of it is owing to the wholesale destruction of the grain crops for the years past by that pest of the agriculturist, the wheat midge, whose ravages have compelled our farmers in self-defence to seek the more reliable system of conducting their business; yet we trust that the late severe season may eventuate in establishing a more remunerative, less exhausting, and less precarious state of agricultural production; we venture to express our hope that the increase of its peculiar food, and the improvement of tillage, which we anticipate from the changes we have recorded, may have the effect of gradually decreasing the numbers of midge and its kindred destroyers, and

perhaps in course of time, of reducing its ravages among our crops to a thing of the past and a subject of history.

#### HURON.

COUNTY SOCIETY.—Eighty-three members; amount of subscriptions, \$89; deposited by township branches, \$471; Donation from Canada Company, \$60; government grant, \$479.98; received from premium wheat sold for seed, \$47.68; received for turnip, mangel wurzel and clover seed, \$155.37; sundries, \$97; total receipts, \$1395.43. Paid balance due the treasurer from previous year, \$86; for clover and other seeds, \$165.77; township branches, \$743.87; premiums, \$234; expenses and sundries, \$156.46; balance in treasurer's hands, \$9.33.

#### *Extract from Report.*

Taking the County of Huron as a whole, we have a soil and climate not surpassed, and rarely equalled by any county in Canada. The means and methods employed by the great bulk of the farmers are not in proportion to these advantages, but there are some good practical farmers in Huron—men who understand their business and attend to it in the proper way. The abundant results of their superior farming may incite others to follow their example, and in time the County will be as noted for its well cultivated farms as it now is for the richness of its soil, and the salubrity of its climate.

One illustration of the improvement of this county is the large yearly increase of the quantity of wheat exported, and that of a quality not inferior to any in Canada. The farmers in this county no longer labour under the disadvantages of bad roads. During the last eighteen months there have been (running through different sections of the county) about 150 miles of road gravelled. These roads lead generally through the most thickly settled and best cultivated parts of the county, and add another feature to the many improvements that are yearly taking place.

#### TOWNSHIP BRANCHES.

ASHFIELD & WAWANOSH.—Forty-three members; subscription, \$46; balance from 1853, \$48.42; grant, \$24; sundries, \$1.87; total received, \$120.29. Paid premiums, \$60.50; expenses, \$8.63; balance in hand, \$51.16.