

an experiment is likely to turn out, and then by keeping strict accounts, and calculating its actual profit and loss, after the experiment has been tried, we arrive at correct results, which cannot be arrived at in any other manner.

Let farmers look into the foregoing calculation and honestly convince themselves of its truth, or falsehood, not by jumping at conclusions, but by rigorous examination; and in calculating the labor cost of their men and teams, let them remember that if they have not full employment for them, that is no fault of the men or teams, but their own mismanagement. We consider 275 working days in the year a fair calculation for a team, that is, deducting from 365 days, 52 Sundays and 38 wet or idle days; allowing the feed of each horse to cost the farmer £10 a-year; and for the other items, comprising interest and wear and tear, we allow the horses to cost £20 each; waggon, £15; shoeing, £1 10s. a-year; wear and tear, one-tenth of the cost of horses and waggon, as a charge each year. No charge has been made for taking the wheat to market, as the value of the straw will be fully equal to that.

J. H.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Report of this Society for 1848, is lying before us, as published in the *St. John Courier*, and, as is usual with such documents, it contains much that is interesting and instructive. We feel much pleasure in laying before our readers what our fellow subjects are doing in New Brunswick, an important portion of our dominions in British America, that possesses much higher agricultural capabilities than is commonly imagined.

The Report commences by stating that a large quantity of seed oats, barley, turnips, carrots and beets, had been during the previous spring imported from Scotland, and the results at harvest had been most satisfactory. The soil and climate appear well adapted to oats: some of the Polish and potato varieties, imported four years since, now produce a heavier weight than the original seed. The society had offered handsome premiums for the erection of improved oat-mills, several of which are in the course of erection. The wet weather of the last season had been unfavourable to the crops—though hay had been generally abundant and well saved. Potatoes were early affected with the disease, and a full half rotted in the ground. Oats, generally good. Barley, owing to the wet weather, was light. Although samples weighing 54lbs. a bushel were exhibited at the Fair.

We can only make room in our present number for the following earnest appeal, which we assure our subscribers in New Brunswick is, in some important respects, equally applicable to Upper Canada. One great step, we think, towards the advancement of British America, is a full confidence in our great natural resources.

A PROVINCIAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

In our report of 1847, we called the attention of this community, and of other societies throughout the province, to the propriety of urging upon the legislature the adoption of energetic measures, by means of which the agriculture of the province might be raised from its present disgraceful and ruinous position.

The only results of our appeal were, a grant of £500 to import race-horses, and the enactment of a law to prevent the growth of thistles!

The time seems now to have arrived, however, when a continuance of apathy and neglect, on the part of the government and the people, in relation to agriculture as a subject of the most vital importance to the province, will certainly and speedily bring about universal bankruptcy, and the depopulation of the country. As we do not content ourselves with the cuckoo cry of "something should be done," we proceed to state what we conceive *can and ought* to be done.

In the first place, we propose that a Provincial Board of Agriculture should be formed, to be composed of those, who, from their position, energy, business habits, and acquaintance with the state of agriculture in this and other countries, would be most likely to bring forward, and *carry out*, measures of improvement. Sufficient funds should be placed at the disposal of this board to enable it to carry on its operations with vigour and effect.

Next, as to the work to be done. It is not so much the want of industry, as the want of knowledge, which renders farming unsuccessful in this colony. Our native farmers, as might be expected, follow in the footsteps of their fathers; they neither see, nor hear of, any better methods than those of their ancestors. Those emigrants who undertake agricultural pursuits, do as they see others doing; and as few, or none, of these new settlers have been bred to farming, they introduce, if possible, a worse system than the old one—an exclusive reliance on the potato.

The mode of culture adapted to the virgin soil—to the rich leaf-mould newly rescued from the forest—will impoverish and render valueless the cleared fields which now compose so much of our farms. Yet the cultivation by which these worn-out fields could be made to produce far more than ever the *burnt land* did, is unknown and unpractised. There is no rotation of crops—no draining—no proper ploughing—and but imperfect manuring, as hay and most of the other produce are sold off the farm; consequently the land is almost barren. Only uncertain and short crops are produced, and the universal cry is—"No use trying! Farming in this country will not pay." And no wonder—*such farming would not pay in any country*.

To introduce and encourage a better system of farming, would be the chief business of the board.

There are various ways by which agriculture is encouraged in other countries. The Agricultural Boards of the United Kingdom employ lecturers on agriculture, who visit every part of the country. The boards also establish model farms, and agricultural schools, in which the best modes of agriculture are carried on, within the view of all; and at the same time means are adopted, by a system of accurate accounts, of furnishing ample knowledge as to the profit and loss of farming upon sound principles.