

plough, cultivator, and hoe, the land is left in the very best condition for spring wheat, barley, or oats.

The manure employed for these crops is wholly from the barn yard. Composts have not yet been adopted, even the barn-yard manure has hitherto been much neglected, and the liquid portion of it almost wholly lost. In some cases, the manure before being spread upon the land is properly fermented, which is a great advantage, inasmuch as this process destroys the seeds of weeds, and facilitates vegetation; in many cases, however, it is taken out without any such process. Different modes of applying the manure have also been adopted. Some haul it out, spread it over the surface, and then plough it in. Others carefully prepare the ground, then run it into drills—for corn 3 to 3½ feet apart, for potatoes about 3 feet, for ruta бага and mangel wurtzel about 30 inches. The manure is then placed in the furrows, and the drills reversed. For Indian corn and ruta бага, &c., a light roller is then drawn up and down the drills. Indian corn is planted in straight rows across the drills, and about 4 feet apart. Ruta бага and potatoes are put in in the usual way. By this method these crops can be mostly cleaned without the use of the hoe, and when properly done the land is in first-rate condition for the succeeding crop.

In a County like this, a great part of which is rather flat, proper draining is a matter of the greatest importance. Some of our best farmers are fully aware of this, and are turning their attention both to the cutting of open ditches, and the making of covered drains. These latter wherever tried have proved of singular advantage. Portions of fields which, before their use, were utterly valueless, have by means of them become far the most profitable. There is one thing, however, which operates as a great drawback to extensive agricultural improvements—and that is the high price of labor. Wages in this County are from 20 to 40 per cent. higher than in the Home District. In no part of the Province have able-bodied labourers a better opportunity of securing a competence for themselves than in the County of Lambton. Even in winter, an active man will easily obtain from \$12 to \$15 per month, and board.

The price of land in this County varies so much in different localities that it is almost impossible to mention an average rate. In some of the back Townships, wild land may be obtained for \$1½ to \$2 per acre. In Sarnia, Plympton, and Moore, the average for wild land is from \$2 to \$4 per acre. On the St. Clair, however, even wild land sells from \$12 to \$16 per acre. Improved farms vary in price \$8 to \$20 per acre.

The "St. Clair Agricultural Society" was

organized in December, 1843, and continued in operation till superseded by the "Lambton Agricultural Society," in 1852. Much benefit to the County has resulted from the operations of these Societies. Stock has been greatly improved. Cattle and sheep in this County will compare favourably with the general stock of the Province. Our horses, as a whole, are inferior. During the past season the Directors of the "Lambton Agricultural Society" have expended a large sum, about \$180, in order to obtain the use of a superior stallion for agricultural purposes. Though this sum appears large to be spent in such a way, and many may be inclined to doubt the expediency of such an expenditure, the Directors are fully persuaded that the County will be amply repaid for the outlay. Besides the animal whose services the Directors secured, other excellent horses were brought in to compete for the premium, so that during the past season farmers in this County had a better opportunity of choosing a stallion than they ever had before.

The members of the "Lambton Agricultural Society" now number 134. (For their names and the sums paid by each, see Appendix A, annexed to this Report.) The Directors would respectfully suggest to their successors in office the importance of employing active agents in order to collect the subscriptions for 1853, and increase as much as possible our subscription list.

The Directors have great pleasure in being able to congratulate the members of the Lambton Agricultural Society on the steady improvement of the County, and on its future prospects. This is manifested in a variety of ways. They would mention only a few. A great improvement has taken place in farm buildings; comfortable dwelling houses, commodious barns and stables are getting by no means uncommon. Within the last few years roads have been much improved, and the means of communication greatly facilitated. From Port Sarnia a plank road has been laid down, extending through the Township, and is likely to be followed by others in different parts of the County. The spirit of improvement was also evinced at our last Annual Show. Though the day was exceedingly unfavourable, the show of live stock, grain, dairy produce, &c., would have done credit to a much older County. The number of articles entered for competition was 219. The number of premiums awarded was 96. The sum of money thus awarded amounted to \$147 75. (For names of persons to whom premiums were awarded, and the amount of each premium, see Appendix B, annexed to this Report.)

In reference to the *Acts of Parliament* recently passed for the regulation of Agricultural