

1st. I recommend the abandonment of the idea which seems to have been entertained by your predecessor, if it be entertained by you, that the Minister and Boards of Agriculture should undertake the importation directly of animals, implements, or machines, except in those rare cases in which private enterprise has been found wholly inadequate; and in these rare cases, I apprehend the offer of premiums, provided they are sufficiently liberal, will be found the cheapest and most efficient means to achieve the desired result.

2nd. I recommend the abandonment of any special inducements or agencies, that may have been proposed or adopted, with the view of turning the attention of farmers in Upper Canada from their present crops to that of flax. I offer no opinion upon the propriety of special Governmental inducements in Lower Canada.

The offer of premiums, say £100 each, through the Boards of Agriculture, for the introduction and establishment in Upper and Lower Canada, respectively of a complete set of flax machinery, might lead to beneficial results; I therefore recommend the offer of such premiums.

3rd. I recommend that a sufficient sum be placed at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture, to enable it to secure, either by offering a sufficient premium, or by entering into a conditional agreement with some practical potter in the vicinity of Toronto, the immediate importation of Scragg's Tile Machine. The same aid should be extended to the Board for Lower Canada. Should it turn out that the machine of Mr. Charnock is capable of producing good tiles with rapidity, and at small expense, importation will of course be superseded. I may observe that numerous "improved" Tile Machines have been presented to the public within the last few years, but Scragg's, Clayton's, and Whitehead's appear to have maintained their supremacy.

4th. I recommend the offer of a liberal premium for the invention, or introduction of a Ditching Machine, the conditions being prescribed by the Board of Agriculture.

5th. I recommend that measures be taken to make the Geological Survey immediately useful to the agricultural interests of the Province. A better digested and more systematic arrangement of materials explained by diagrams, maps, &c., upon the same plan as the State Survey of New York, is what seems to be wanted.

6th. I recommend that an immediate grant of £400 or £500 be made to each of the Boards of Agriculture, in order that they may begin the collection of materials to form the Agricultural Museums contemplated by the Act 16th Vic, cap. 2, sec. 16. I am not aware that any step has yet been taken to establish these museums, owing, I presume, to a want of means by the Boards. The manufacturers of implements would, in most cases, supply samples gratuitously, as they would be repaid by the publicity thus secured. The collection of grains, seeds, &c., and the testing of their qualities under the direction of the Boards, would be productive of important results. No one can visit the museum at Albany without perceiving at once its great utility.

7th. I recommend an amendment of the Patent Laws, so that foreign inventors may obtain a limited protection in Canada on complying with certain conditions; one of which should be the establishment of a manufactory or depot in the Province, where the invention could be purchased.

There are other points, some of them of as much

importance to the cause of agricultural improvement as any I have yet mentioned, which I should have been glad to submit for your consideration, but they do not come strictly within the scope of Mr. Cameron's letter. The Experimental Farm at Toronto is in an unsatisfactory state for want of means, and from uncertainty as to the ultimate disposition of the University grounds which have been assigned for the purpose.

Unless more decisive and thorough measures are speedily adopted, the whole project will miscarry, and not the least of the evils to be apprehended from its failure is the prejudice it will excite in the public mind against all scientific demonstration in the art of agriculture.

Having taken a deep interest in the organization of the Bureau and Boards of Agriculture, and having been honored by your predecessor with frequent consultations in the preparation of the Agricultural Act, I have felt the more freedom in offering suggestions and recommendations as to general conduct and principles, rather than specific measures.

Without attempting to enumerate the various implements, &c., which I consider adapted to Canada, I have endeavoured to ascertain what action by your department and the Boards of Agriculture in promoting their introduction into this Province, would be likely to ensure success, and to point it out.

I have the honour to remain,

Your humble servant,

WILLIAM McDUGALL.

Toronto, December 1853.

ADULTERATION OF GUANO.

There are few victories more dearly bought than a good bargain; there are no dangers against which it is more necessary to re-echo so continual a caution. Down even from the days of Troy, when Glaucus changed away his golden suit, to the time when Moses brought his gross of spectacles, and the countryman tried his dozer of razors, it has been still the same. Despite the oft-solicited interference of "the presiding magistrate," ladies are found yet to essay on the great sacrifice of Oxford-street. Wonderful hacks, sold only because their owners have no further use for them, are still to be fared out of curious corners, by clever people only too anxious to get "a bargain." Flash auctions, sham smugglers, and too accommodating bankruptcies, all pander most profitably to this weakness of the English people.

None, as we have often had occasion to tell him, has more need to beware of a bargain than the agriculturist, as none, in the exercise of his vocation, may gain one at a greater cost. It would be difficult to calculate how often or in how many different ways, has this been impressed upon him. In the purchase of certain articles necessary for the business of the farm, the cheap must be the bad. There can be no doubt at all about it. The more and more you examine the real bearings of the case, the more you will become convinced how utterly impossible it is to *honestly* undersell the market. For the benefit, however, of him to whose well doing our labours are chiefly directed, we may venture to tell the following story, founded, as it will be seen, strictly on facts:—

Situated at the extreme north of the Isle of Anglesey, is a spot known as the Paris Mountain. To the miner and geologist this, it is hardly necessary to add, has long been an object of interest as well as