

for it. "Breathes there a man with soul so dead" as not to glow with inward satisfaction at the prospect of getting 384 such pages as these for a dollar; we don't want his name on our subscription list. We intend to make a good paper, and shall go on the principle that a just and generous public is willing to pay value for it.

We shall receive very thankfully whatever encouragement and co-operation may be accorded to us, whether in obtaining subscribers, forming clubs, or sending items of agricultural intelligence, or communications suitable for these columns. And now, having made our bow, and delivered our inaugural address, we beg leave to retire.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES, AND LAWS FOR THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT.

The first formation of Agricultural Societies in this Province, so far as we can ascertain, took place in the year 1825; and an Act for the incorporation of such Societies was passed in the year 1830. Under this Act, any Society raising by subscription not less than fifty pounds in any one year, received one hundred pounds from Provincial funds. This Act was allowed to expire in 1836; but in 1837, another was passed to re-establish Agricultural Societies, granting them double the amount of subscriptions raised by them, up to two hundred pounds per annum; and forming them into County, Riding and Township Societies. In 1845, the legislative aid was increased to treble the amount of subscriptions obtained, up to a maximum sum of two hundred and fifty pounds per annum.

In 1846, the Agricultural Association was formed, and in 1847, it was incorporated by Act of Parliament. The Board of Agriculture was organized under an Act of 1850, and in 1851 the Agricultural Societies were amalgamated with the Board, and their respective duties defined. In 1852, the Bureau of Agriculture was established, and the supervision of the Board and Agricultural Societies devolved upon the Minister having charge of the Bureau.

In 1853, new Electoral Divisions were formed in the Province, and in 1857, the benefits of the

Agricultural Act were extended to such new divisions, and provisions were also introduced to give encouragement to the Arts and Manufactures, and to Horticulture. These various Acts were consolidated in chapter thirty-two of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada.

In November, 1866, a Convention of Delegates of County Agricultural, and other Societies was held in Toronto. A draft of a new Bill was adopted, and submitted to the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. This draft, modified in many important particulars, was introduced by him to the Legislature of Ontario, and became law by a unanimous vote of the Legislative Assembly on the fourth of March, 1868.

The following is a brief synopsis of the law as it now stands:—

Section one continues the Bureau of Agriculture, the Board of Agriculture as Council of the Association, and all lawfully existing Societies in the Province of Ontario.

Sections two to seven provide for the detailed organizations of the Bureau of Agriculture, included in which is the duty of encouraging immigration from other countries; the establishment of a free Agricultural and Arts and Manufactures Library of Reference and Museum in connection with the Bureau; and the general supervision of all Agricultural and similar Societies receiving Legislative Aid.

Sections eight to seventeen provide for the constitution of the Agricultural and Arts Association, the mode of election of the members of its Council of management, and the division of the Province into twelve Agricultural districts, each to elect one member to represent it in the Council.

Sections eighteen to twenty-three provide for meetings, and define the functions of the Association. These comprise the duties of the old Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Association now amalgamated in one. The functions of the Association include the holding of an annual Provincial Exhibition, establishing an experimental farm, the importation of improved breeds of animals, new seeds, agricultural machines, &c., and the establishment of a Veterinary School.

Sections twenty-four and twenty-five provide