

encouragement should be held out to bring the ploughs in most general use in the country without any exception to these matches. It is a field of fair competition that implements will be fairly tested, and their merits, and defects made manifest. We disapprove of competitors at ploughing matches, taking a long time to plough the small portion of land assigned for them. It is absurd to take so much trouble and time to plough a small portion of land, and perhaps not plough an acre of land so well again during the ensuing year. Competitors at ploughing matches should be obliged to plough in ordinary time, and as it would be necessary for them to do on their own farms. The man who will prove himself to be the most useful ploughman, upon his own, or upon his employer's farm, should be awarded the premium, and not the man who may occupy double the time which any farmer can afford to devote to ploughing a given quantity of land. These men who do take a long time to finish their work at ploughing matches, often take the prize from much more useful ploughmen.

To the Editor of the Agricultural Journal.

Sir,—Your Journal, being an ever-flowing spring, where every farmer may dip and draw, without let or hindrance, I take the liberty to forward you the few following remarks on "Ploughing Matches," with which you will be at liberty to deal as you shall think proper and right.

The Lower Canada Agricultural Society have held two "Ploughing Matches during the past year, one in the District of Montreal, and one in the District of Quebec. The County of Quebec Agricultural Society has held one.

Though these are all intended for general good, and the improvement and encouragement of Agriculture, the manner in which the ploughing is generally done at these matches, especially in the District of Quebec, is very objectionable—the plough-irons are altered from their usual state, in order to set a good shoulder upon it, which makes the ploughing very laborious; and, as they are so fixed only to answer the present purpose; after the match is over they are fixed again as they are usually and for ordi-

nary ploughing. As there is no scale given or settled upon, every one ploughs as he lists; some shallow, others deep, and others deeper still, which is a great fault in the managers. These matches should be for "Model Ploughing," and performed in such a manner that a man could continue at work the whole day, and several days after, instead of having a mere sport for an hour or two, which exhausts himself and his cattle for the whole day. If proper regulations were insisted upon, and seals given, they only who paid the most attention to them in the performance of their work, should be entitled to prizes. I also conceive that it would be advantageous to all farmers to have a fair trial of "Ploughs." There are in Montreal Mr. Fleck and Mr. Jeffers, excellent "plough-makers;" and we have in Quebec Mr. D. Flemming and Mr. West, with several others. Why not give all those friends of agriculture, who provide the farmer with the necessary implements to extract the hidden treasures of the otherwise sleeping earth, "a fair chance," to contend, by fair experiments, "for excellence and superiority?" Such a "trial" would be the means of bringing out, or making known, "many hidden excellencies," which, peradventure, might supersede and excel all the *known ones*. If my suggestions are worth noticing, I would not reject, but invite "Wheel Ploughs" at the "Trial Match;" I have seen excellent ploughing done with them by many of our Canadian farmers (French Canadians.)

Leaving it to your superior judgment to reject or insert the preceding suggestions and remarks in your valuable "Journal," I conclude, by wishing you a happy New Year, with health and success.

MATTHEW DAVIDSON.

Ste. Foy, 10th January, 1852.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS AND MODEL FARM.

We think it our duty to advocate constantly the establishment of Agricultural Schools and Model Farms, until we have such institutions, or until it is satisfactorily proved that they would not be useful to the country. We would not recommend that those establishments should be very large or expensive in the commencement until it would be ascertained how they would succeed. If land were pur-