

made about the year 1825, but after two or three years' trial failed another attempt was made in 1830, or 31, and partially succeeded. This was made before Legislative aid was afforded, the subscription was £1 per member. A small importation was made from New York State of Devon Bulls and one Durham, not probably producing much direct benefit, but indirectly paving the way for more successful attempts.

Our present County Agricultural Society was commenced in 1837, through the united efforts of the late G. Manners, Esq., our worthy Sheriff H. Ruttan, Esq., and a few others, and after plodding through many discouragements, and difficulties is still alive and prospering. Since Legislative aid has been furnished it has been much easier to keep them going, our townships have also most of them availed themselves of the act of Parliament and formed themselves into Societies, and Clubs for discussion.—But however much has been done by the County and Township Societies the thing would not have been complete without the Provincial Association. It forms a centre, to which the others connect themselves, and from the peculiar formation of our Province being a narrow strip of Country—in the widest part not extending more than 100 miles—while in length it is 700 or 800, something of this kind is required to bring the inhabitants of the various Counties together, and since this institution has been commenced great improvement both in Stock, Implements of Husbandry, Labour, Saving Machinery and indeed in every department connected with Agriculture, has taken place.

And now gentlemen having in a very imperfect manner, endeavoured to introduce this most important and momentous subject to your notice, I will leave it in your hands, knowing well the deep interest you all take in it, and also your ability to make up what I have left short, and as we are about to enter upon the preparation for holding the Grand Provincial Fair in our own County, I think a subject more appropos to the occasion could not have been chosen.

Mr. P. R. Wright said that Agricultural Societies have done good there can be no question, but that they have accomplished that amount of good which some enthusiasts claim for them, is in my opinion very doubtful. The intentions of our Societies are certainly praiseworthy and philanthropic but I can hardly believe that the amount of good they have accomplished is proportionate to their combined exertions. There are two things which materially affect the success of any undertaking, calculated to effect a change in the general usages of communities, viz: the remedy and its mode of application, and the susceptibility of the parties subjected to its operation. The question then arises, to which of these can we attribute the partial failure which has attended the efforts of Agricultural Societies, to advance the interests and stimulate the exertions of Agriculturists generally.

Let us examine briefly the career of the parent of all our Agricultural Societies—"The Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland." since its establishment in 1781. The members of this Society at its outset and even yet are principally landowners—the Nobility and Gentry of the Country, and consequently possess an influence, independent of pecuniary means, which few other Societies can command. They have combated prejudice, with every possible weapon, examples, the aids of Science. Honors and rewards: have been each and all brought into the field, and the war carried on for upwards of seventy years by skilful and experienced Generals, but at this day, and even in Scotland will any one have the temerity to assert that an enlightened system of Agriculture is the rule and not the exception, or

charge the Society with a misdirection of its energy or misapplication of its resources. It is only (as Mr. Wade has said) within a short period that Societies are beginning to influence the Agricultural Community generally, and why? because that body is beginning to feel the necessity for a more liberal Education and acquaintance with the Sciences which so materially affect the successful cultivation of the Soil. There must be something radically wrong when it is found necessary to hold out premiums to induce a set of men to throw aside a bad management and adopt a better. Do those who offer the premiums wish to participate in the advantages which they think will be the result of a change, and do those to whom the premiums are offered think this is the case, or are the Farmers so ignorant or so prejudiced to old customs, that they are blinded to their own self interest? It is evident that those who offer the premiums expect that they will have considerable effect in directing the mind of the Farmer, to inquire into, and probably adopt such a line of practice for the future as may secure the advantages which may be naturally calculated on. Self interest is the moving principle of every man's conduct, and has a much greater influence on him than any premiums; he will only compete for them, if he feels that it will be more to his advantage by doing so, than by not doing it.

There have been no premiums held out to Manufacturers, and yet the wonderful results, which have followed the improvement in all the manufactures that have been made during the last fifty years, is the fruit of a conviction that each of the new inventions will pay all those liberally, who use them; but how different with agriculture. A continual succession of premiums have been awarded to Farmers during the last twenty years, and yet, how very little has the Agriculture of the Country been benefited by it. This shows clearly that there is something wrong in the mode of trying to improve Agriculture, or that there is some other thing which hinders the Farmer from adopting the improvements; it may be partially owing to both. If prizes were offered for the whole of the Farmer's stock, or for the management of the whole farm, instead of for the best bullock, the best sheep, or the best dozen turnips, so that no prize be awarded but to that which on the whole shows the greatest profit, it might be an improvement on the present principle of giving prizes, and if the science of Agriculture held a more prominent place in our schools and colleges, the next generation of Farmers, would, in all probability, be an improvement on the present. On the whole, I think, that if the benefits we have derived from Societies, Clubs, and patriotic and enlightened individuals, have not been commensurate to their exertions, the fault rests mainly with the Farmers themselves. A little more philanthropy, a little less jealousy, and a little more liberality would greatly conduce to perfect the working of our Agricultural institutions, which are now fairly on the road to accomplish a complete renovation of Canada, so far as Agriculture is concerned. We, as Farmers, ought not to rest satisfied with giving to these institutions merely a pecuniary support, by paying as many unworthy members do, one dollar to speculate on the chance of gaining ten; but show we are really desirous of improving our condition, by heartily co-operating in every scheme which has a tendency to eradicate error, and supporting every man who labours for our improvement. It is now generally admitted that great good has arisen from our Agricultural Clubs; a liberal and enlightened Press has been the chief instrument in effecting this, for if publicity were not given to the proceedings of a few spirited individuals who attend the meetings, their