

the supervision to this Department, which will for the future receive the reports from the resident agents, collect statistics, and control the management of the Lower Canada Roads, in a manner precisely similar to that heretofore adopted in respect to the Roads in Upper Canada. In future, therefore, the Department will be in a position to give details on the important subject of Lower Canada Colonization, which it finds itself at the present moment unable to furnish. From the Returns of the Department of Crown Lands, it seems that there are in Lower Canada 91 Colonization Roads extending over the whole of the Lower Province, on both sides of the St. Lawrence, and on the northerly bank of the River Ottawa, from Gaspe to Pontiac.—During the past year 107½ miles have been completed, 79½ miles opened, 13½ miles repaired, and eleven large bridges built, involving altogether an expenditure of \$52,683 06. In the Report of the late Mr. Boutillier, for the year 1830, the total number of miles opened in these roads is stated to be 1,458. It would appear therefore that at the close of last year the total number of miles opened was 1,537½. Detailed information respecting the Elgin and the Matane and Cap Chat Road, may be found in the reports of the resident agents attached to the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

AGRICULTURE.

The circulation of the customary queries relating to the Agricultural interests and prospects of the Province has been resumed this year, but the replies which have been made are neither in number nor in the information which they convey, so satisfactory as could be desired. Notwithstanding that upwards of 800 circulars were issued in December last to the County Agricultural Societies, the Wardens, Reeves, and other influential persons in Upper Canada, and 500 to the Agricultural Societies, Municipal authorities, and others, in Lower Canada, not more than 46 returns have as yet been received from the section of the Province. This apathy and indifference to the efforts of the Bureau are most discouraging, and entirely preclude the possibility of arriving, at the present time, at any just conclusion as to the result of agricultural labours during the past year, or of the agricultural progress the country is making. This report has been delayed in the hope that an abstract of the agricultural statistics for Canada, obtained by the Department from the census returns for 1861, would be attached. Though the most strenuous exertions have been made, it has been found impossible to include it without making the Report longer than is considered desirable. The agricultural returns for the whole Province will be ready in a few weeks, and will be immediately published. The cultivation of flax has lately received much attention at the hands of the Government.

This branch of Agriculture has hitherto been much neglected, notwithstanding that the soil and climate of Canada seem admirably adapted to its success. In order to promote the more extensive production of flax, and with the view of affording the fullest instruction and information as to the mode of scutching and dressing it, the Government has lately imported six of "Rowan's new patent flax scutching machines," to be distributed over both sections of the Province, subject to the order of the Department.

The undersigned has decided that these machines shall be distributed under the advice of the Agricultural Boards, and it is proposed that they shall be moved from place to place throughout the country, and thus extend their usefulness over as wide a district as possible. The absence of proper dressing mills appears to have, hitherto, prevented Canadian farmers from cultivating flax to any large extent, for though, as Mr. Donaldson (to whose representations and exertions in the matter this Department stands much indebted) states, there are some very good mills in the country, such as that of Mr. McCrear, at Canestoga, in the County of Waterloo, that of Messrs. Blaikie & Alexander, at Norval, and others, yet in the replies to the agricultural queries to this Department, almost universal complaint is made that no facilities exist for dressing and preparing any flax which may be grown.

CENSUS OF 1861.

Considerable progress has been made in tabulating and preparing for publication the statistics collected by the Census returns last year. Already have the detailed statistics relating to origins and religions of both sections of the Province been published and distributed in a pamphlet form among the members of the Houses of the Legislature. The agricultural portion of the Census is nearly completed, and is being rapidly prepared for the printers. Every effort is being made by the Department to bring the whole work to a conclusion at the earliest possible date.

BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

The annual Report of this Board as prescribed by the 28th sec., 10 Vic., cap. 32, has been received.

The general condition of the society appears to be satisfactory, but the withdrawal of all Government aid from the Mechanics' Institutes appears to have resulted in the failure of some of them, and in crippling, materially, the usefulness of others. Some few of them, however, in cities and towns are not only self supporting but prosperous.

The statements of the treasurer of the Board show a balance in hand after payment of all expenses of \$1,923 63. The valuable works belonging to the Patent Office, left under the charge of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, are highly appreciated, and several donations of