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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. FOR THE YEAR 1868.

We have before us the first annual report of the Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts, published by order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is a goodly-looking octavo of nearly 300 pages, and comprises a synopsis of the Returns from the Agricultural Societies of the Province for 1867, and most valuable information in relation to Agriculture and Horticulture for 1868.

The volume commences with the Commissioner's Report to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in which a brief and succinct account is given of the organization of his department, and the important charges affecting Agricultural and Horticultural Societies and Mechanics' Institutes by the new Agricultural Statute. It will be seen by the attentive reader that a fresh and salutary impetus has been given to the most important industries of the Province, and to the special enlightenment of the great classes engaged in the pursuits of Agriculture and Horticulture, and the Mechanical and Manufacturing Arts.

The Commissioner's concluding remarks, form an admirable summary of the Report. They scarcely admit of abridgment, and will, we are sure, be read with much interest.

"In reference to the results of the present year's crops, in the Province of Ontario, it is difficult to form an estimate that will apply to all sections of the country; since, in so wide an area, considerable differences obtain.

"From an analysis of the reports forwarded to my department by the Electoral Division Societies, I indulge the hope that, when prices are taken into consideration, our farmers' re-

ceipts in a pecuniary point of view will not fall below an average of years. Considering the length and intensity of the drought, with which we, in common with many countries of Europe, were visited, there is reason for us to be thankful to an All-gracious Providence for the degree of success which has crowned the labors of the husbandman.

"It is a source of regret, that the enterprise so much encouraged among us for the past few years, of growing flax, and preparing it for market, has not met with the success that was anticipated. The great reduction in the price of cotton, consequent on the termination of the American civil war, will in a great measure account for this result. Notwithstanding, it would be undesirable for our farmers to abandon altogether the culture of this important plant. Markets will probably somewhat improve, and the seed alone is of very great value for feeding stock.

"Greater attention, I have been assured, is now being paid by farmers in the older settled districts to improved systems of cropping, adapted to their respective soils and localities; and also to a more economical management and application of farm yard manure, the waste of which has been, and still is—in too many instances—a source of great loss, and a stigma on Canadian farming.

"We are not yet, it is true, sufficiently advanced in this new country to adopt a rigid system of rotation, as practised in older ones; but it is satisfactory to find increased and more enlightened attention being given to this important matter, and also to farm yard manure, which may justly be regarded as the Canadian farmer's sheet anchor.

"The increased value imparted of late years to live stock, cannot fail to act beneficially on arable culture. Farmers are now keeping more and better animals than formerly, feeding is more liberal, and consequently an increased amount of manure of better quality is made, and the arable land brought into a much better condition—particularly when subjected to a deeper and more thorough cultivation, for the production of grain. Draining, too, is receiving more attention, and its practice extending every year. Draining tiles of good quality and of moderate