

ing of the hair of the tail, below the end of the bones, as is the custom with hunters in England, where the hair is cut squarely off about eight or ten inches above the hocks.

No apology is offered for not giving here a description of these two operations; they are so barbarous and so senseless, that they are going very rapidly out of fashion, and it is to be hoped that they will ere long have become obsolete, as has the cropping of the ears, formerly so common in England.

A more humane way of setting up the horse's tail, to give him a more stylish appearance, is by simply weighting it for a few hours each day, in the stall, until it attains the desired elevation. This is done by having two pulleys at the top of a stall, one at each side, through which are passed two ropes which come together and are fastened to the tail, the ropes having at their other end weights, (bags of sand or shot are very good for the purpose) which must be light at first, and may be increased from day to day.—The weighting should be continued until the tail has taken a permanent position as desired. It is true that this method requires a somewhat longer time than that of cutting the muscles, but while it is being done the horse is never off his work, and he suffers infinitely less pain.

The method of nicking or pricking, as usually performed in this country, is not quite so cruel nor so hazardous as the cutting of the muscles.—*Herbert's Hints to Horse-Keepers.*

## Transactions.

### Report on the County of Bruce.

(Continued from page 539.)

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

These are the next institutions that command our attention. There is a county society, with several township branches. They are so much like all others in the county, they need no description. They are all composed of a President, Directors and Members, they pay their subscriptions, obtain the government grant, and divide it as equally among themselves as possible. Now and then there is some grumbling when some party gets rather more than his share, and a successful candidate thinks he might have a few prizes more than are awarded to him. He is very much dissatisfied and threatens to withdraw, but somehow or other he repents before the time for subscribing has expired, and holds on for another year. After the first two or three years every man gets the same prize for the same kind of stock, grain, roots, vegetables,

and manufactures, and there is little improvement effected in the practice of agriculture.

At a meeting of the Directors, one time, there was a proposition to apply the funds of the society to purchase a superior bull for use of the members; another proposition was made for the introduction of flax; prizes were offered for the best tilled farm, for the best tilled gardens, but none of these measures resulted very satisfactorily.

That agricultural societies have been of incalculable benefit to the country no one can deny, but the principles of a society that would work very well in the Home and Gore Districts would be but ill suited to a green bush county. But a system could be adopted to suit both. Every Township should be a society of itself, the council should be the board of directors, the funds should be levied by general taxation. Prizes should only be awarded for the working of the soil, such as Draining, Trenching, Subsoiling and Manuring. The competitors should be of two classes, first on a large scale with the plough, second on a small scale with the spade. Seeds of the best kind should be procured for every one that required them, and that would be every one in the Township, for when they understood that they were paying for them they would take them whether they would sow them or not. In like manner if every one was compelled to contribute funds for the promotion of agriculture they would all endeavour to reap some benefit from it.

But there must be some particular rule laid down for their guidance, some established principle that if rightly carried out cannot fail of success. As long as the potato succeeded in Ireland nothing could induce the people to try any thing else in the shape of root crops, and although they had ample warning, they headed it not. In the year 1836 the blight first made its appearance and it was not until 1857 that it reached the roots. Then and then only would they be convinced that the potatoe was not to be depended on, nor was it until millions had died that they were roused to any exertion to provide a substitute. But the people of Ireland are very differently situated from the people of Canada, as every one in Ireland has to rent the land he labours for the very highest price the landlord can obtain for it, and that varies from \$5 to \$25 per acre per annum, exclusive of other taxes. From this you will see that the tenant has but a very scanty subsistence