

PLOUGHING MATCH.

By invitation, we attended the ploughing match which took place on the farm of Mr. David Smith, township of Toronto, on the 9th instant. Ten ploughs entered the field, and the work on the whole was executed in a most creditable manner. Indeed we were most agreeably disappointed with the performance, as we were under the impression that the common Canadian ploughs were still extensively used in the township in question, but upon enquiry we learned to the contrary, and were credibly informed that there are a number of mechanics in the township who manufacture Scotch wooden ploughs of as good a quality as could be purchased in any other section of the District.

The fund for the Ploughing Match was made up by private subscriptions and entrance money, so that none of the Society's funds would be required to cancel the awards, which arrangement was highly praiseworthy of the gentlemen who superintended the performance.

GORE DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Cultivator.

Nelson, 20th March, 1844.

SIR,—Will you allow me to notify the Members of the Gore District Agricultural Society, through the medium of your valuable paper, that a proposition will be made at the next annual meeting to change the Constitution of the Society, and to form Township Societies in connexion therewith, on a plan somewhat similar to that adopted in the Home District.

The reasons which have induced me to adopt this Resolution are,

1. That the Society has been generally supported with spirit in those Townships only in which the June shows have been held; that it is impossible to have these shows in every Township; that the adoption of Township Societies, as contemplated, will greatly increase the number of Subscribers, and thus enable the Parent Society to extend its usefulness incalculably.

2. That in Township Societies every Branch of Agriculture may be encouraged—whereas the District Society has been hitherto obliged to confine its operations almost exclusively to the encouragement of stock.

3. That the Funds of the Parent Society being increased, and the number of shows restricted to two in each year, (one for grain, implements domestic manufactures, &c. &c., and one for stock,) instead of six as at present, much higher premiums could be offered, thus ensuring greater competition; and funds would thus be also provided to enable the Society to offer liberal premiums for the best cultivated Farm, the best enclosed Farm, the best drained Farm, &c.

Other good and substantial reasons for infusing more vigor into our Agricultural Societies readily occur, and none more so perhaps than the great exertions made by influential bodies in Great Britain to induce the Imperial Authorities to throw open British Ports to the free introduction of Foreign grain, which renders it absolutely necessary for the Farmers of Canada to bestir themselves, and to consider what steps should be taken to guard against the further prostration of their interests, which will inevitably take place, whenever that day shall arrive.

In my humble opinion nothing can enable us to compete successfully with our European brethren, except the adoption of a system of Agriculture approaching in excellence to the improved systems pursued in Europe, and I know no means so well adapted to bring about this desirable end as the exertions of Agricultural Societies, whose transactions shall be published in some cheap periodical, and furnished to every member.

Let us ever remember, that the profit on any article does not depend upon its marketable price, but upon the excess of that price over the cost of production; and that as large fortunes have been

made by manufacturing calicoes at six-pence and nine-pence per yard, as when the same articles were worth from eighteen-pence to three shillings per yard.

Let us also ponder well on the fact that many thousand acres of land in Great Britain, which thirty years ago were not worth more than one or two shillings per acre per annum, have been improved until they have become worth fifteen to thirty shillings per acre or more; and that these improvements have been effected through the instrumentality of the Highland and other Agricultural Societies, assisted by the leading and influential men in the Kingdom.

Similar Societies are producing similar results in France, in the United States, and in every civilized part of the world; and I sincerely hope the day is at hand when the Societies in Canada will receive such assistance and encouragement from the magnates of the land as will cause its Agriculture to advance steadily to perfection, and render this Colony one of the best cultivated portions of America.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN WETENHALL.

To the Editor of the Cultivator.

SIR,—I think that none of your subscribers, will consider that I too highly appreciate your valuable work, when I assure them, that a single number is worth to me far more than the subscription price for a whole year. I trust that the valuable information contained in the columns of the Cultivator, is read with as much interest in other sections of the country as in this. It gives me great pleasure to see the noble stand, which the Home District Agricultural Society, and its Branches in the Township, have taken, not only in support of the Cultivator, but in their zealous endeavours to remodel and establish their constitutions on a solid basis; which I feel confident will be a safe model for similar Associations in other Districts to follow. The conversational monthly meetings, which are about being held in several of the Townships of your old and wealthy District, together with the quarterly meetings of the District Society, which will be held at the period whilst the District Council is in Session, will no doubt prove highly interesting and useful to all who take part in the proceedings of those meetings, and I also trust that in this respect, the noble example set by the intelligent and wealthy farmers of the Home District, will be followed by the farmers of every Township and District of the Province.

If there ever was a time, more than any other, that the Canadian farmers should unitedly and energetically exert themselves in advancing their own and the country's welfare, it is this; and I flatter myself, that the good work is already begun in such a laudible and spirited manner, that speedily an entire change for the better will be effected in every department of business, throughout the entire length and breadth of the land.

It appears to me, that by a spirited and general effort on the part of the Canadian farmers, they might not only be successful in organizing and establishing an Agricultural Society in each District, with branches in the Townships, and a Provincial Society to extend throughout every populated portion of the same, but might almost surpass our American neighbours in showing fine bred animals, and in the general routine of farm management—that such will shortly be the result is my most ardent desire.

Before I close this letter, I beg to give your readers, a brief outline of my success in breeding Berkshire Pigs the past year. I am fully convinced that if this or some other breed equally as good could supplant the long legged, long snouted, and otherwise ill shaped animals that abound in most parts of the Province, that thus thousands of pounds would be added to the exports of the country, and besides the profits to the farmer would be greatly increased.

On the 23d December last, I killed a pig, 20 months old, being a cross of a pure Berkshire boar and Woburn sow, which weighed 437 lbs. I have seen greater statements than this on paper, but am of opinion, for a pig of this age, in any country,

have exceeded the weight of the one I killed; and I assure you that no extraordinary care either in keeping or feeding was bestowed to this animal. The quality of the pork will not suffer in comparison, with that made from any other description of swine in the country. Indeed, I am so convinced of the superiority of the full bred Berkshire swine, over that of any other breed with which I am acquainted, that I have at considerable expense and trouble, imported the best animals that I could purchase in the neighbouring States, and have constantly on hand, pigs of various ages, which I will dispose of on reasonable terms. You will shortly hear from me again.

I remain, yours, &c.

J. W. ROSE.

Williamsburg, West, April 9, 1844.

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Cultivator.

The Briars, Glanford, March 16, 1844.

SIR,—I have considered the plans mentioned in your journal of forming a Provincial and District Agricultural Societies, combined with Township ones, and my opinion is that the best and simplest plan is, first to get a good, sound Provincial Society leaving for the consideration of its members all future details and recommendations for District and Township Societies, &c. &c. It is therefore proposed, That a Provincial Society be at once formed; That each District send two or more members to be chosen by their Agricultural Societies, their expenses to be paid out of the funds of the said Societies; That they meet at Toronto, on the day of —; That the board thus formed determine upon and recommend a plan of proceedings for the protection of our Agricultural productions, the improvement of the soil, and all such matters. A Secretary to be chosen who ought to be a resident in Toronto, the President, &c. to be chosen out of the members sent. The regular formation to take place in 1845.

Yours truly,

JAMES S. WETENHALL.

INDIAN CORN.

1. The soil intended for corn must be dry; all experience proves that moist soils are unfit for the culture of this grain.

2. It should be made rich, and deep. Corn will bear heavier manuring than any other cultivated plant, and the soil should be deep to permit the roots to descend beyond all danger of drought.

3. Preparation of the seed is useful; but no seed ever soaked or swelled for planting or sowing should be allowed to become dry, as that injures its vitality.

4. The use of top dressing, such as mixtures of ashes, lime, plaster, &c. is established beyond a doubt. Perhaps there are few ways in which labor is better expended, than in placing such composts about corn.

5. The uselessness of hilling corn is demonstrated. Not a great crop of corn has been grown for years, in which this practice has been followed.

6. It is proved that corn too thick will not ear; but that in some seasons it will bear to be thicker than others.

7. The impolicy of throwing all the corn put in a hill, when planted, together, is forcibly shown by the success of planting in drills of single kernel.—*Cult.*

CURE FOR SPRAIN.—Mr. E. D. Worbasse of New Jersey, writing to the editor of the Cultivator, says, "The following I have found would cure a bone spavin in its first stages, if properly applied. Add to two table spoonful of melted lard, one of cantharides, made fine or pulverised, and a lump of corrosive sublimate, as large as a pea—all melted up together, and applied once a day till used up, confining it to the callous. This quantity is for one leg, and may be relied on a cure. It will make a sore and the joint will be much weakened while applying the medicine. No need of alarm; it will all be right when healed up."