

but that the subscribers to our Association are becoming more numerous than formerly. Let us hope that our farmers, generally, will contribute to our funds, the annual subscription of five shillings is a good investment, from which, if they will only compete for the premiums offered by the Society, they will derive a profit, indeed will be singularly unfortunate, if not remunerated fourfold; let none, then, from the fear of losing a day, a dollar, or from more unworthy motives, stand aloof. All the success that has been accomplished, may justly be attributed to the Agricultural Society, in dispensing premiums for crops, the introduction of improved breeds of cattle, agricultural implements, and the like; it does more; it promotes that intercourse which is necessary to bring Farmers acquainted with each other's improvements, and make them emulous of excelling each other in their cattle and crops.

The Society, through the kindness of Mr. Morris, have added another thorough-bred two year old Ayrshire Bull to the stock, and have placed the animal in the care of James Powley Dawes, Esq., of Laclune, for the use of the farmers in that direction. The bull imported by the Directors for the year 1853, has been given in charge of Leon Laporte, Esq., of Points aux Trembles, for the improvement of stock in that locality and your directors have, through their President John Dods, Esq., remitted an order to Scotland for another bull, which they purpose placing at St. Laurent. This arrangement they trust will be carried out by their successors.

The bulls imported by the Society were both sent to the Provincial Exhibition, held in Quebec, and each received a first premium in its class, adding, thereby, ten pounds to the funds of the Society, less the cost of their voyage to and from Quebec. While upon the subject of the importation of stock, your directors regret to inform you that a boar purchased for the Society, was lost at sea; the vessel in which it was shipped was dismantled in a storm, and, in clearing the wreck the pig was found dead. This is the second loss the Society has sustained in attempting to import improved breeds of pigs. This should not discourage us however, and we think it right and fitting, that the directors for the ensuing year should make a third attempt, which would, no doubt, be successful.

The annual Show of stud horses was not as numerously attended as formerly. Your directors deem it right to suggest, that the spring show be held at a time to ensure a good attendance—say the latter end of April or beginning of May.

The annual cattle show was not as numerously attended as upon former occasions; but your directors conceive that the falling off, in this respect, was to be attributed to causes over which the farmer had no control—a long continued drought and intense heat, had rendered pasturage so poor that

the generality of farmers were averse to exhibiting their cattle in bad condition. The show of cattle was pronounced on all hands however, to have been very good, and evidenced a marked improvement in breeding.

By referring to the list of premiums, it will be observed that your directors confined the competition of male animals, linen, flannel and cloth, to one class; this, they sincerely trust, will be continued by their successors in office. It was thought expedient to offer distinct classes of premiums, to be competed for in other animals and things, because a sufficient time had not elapsed to afford the French Canadian farmers a chance of competing, successfully, with the British Canadian. It would be well, perhaps, to continue this plan yet another year or two, but not longer as every man who desires to improve his stock has now an opportunity of so doing; a farmer needs only to become a member of the Society, to have the gratuitous use of the male animals imported by the Society.

The ploughing match, under the direction of the Society, was the most successful meeting of the kind ever, perhaps, witnessed in Canada. A club purse of £10, offered for general competition, was honorably won by a County ploughman.

Your directors have endeavoured to apply the funds of the Society in such a manner as to accomplish the greatest possible benefit, in awarding premiums, as stimulants to industry; and congratulate the Society upon having a very handsome balance to open the account for the ensuing year. The flourishing state of the funds is to be attributed, principally, to the continued liberality of the city of Montreal, and your directors take this public manner of expressing their thanks to the citizens of Montreal, for their countenance and support.

The crops are reported as being generally below average but the prices for produce, being high throughout the year, has compensated the farmers as well, perhaps, as more abundant crops at lower prices. Your directors deem it right to remind you that it is more than probable agricultural products will command high and remunerating prices the coming year, hence an inducement for energetic preparations for the ensuing season; and, while the countries of our fathers are unfortunately engaged in war, and are vast fields of preparations for battle, our Canada should be a field of agriculture, teeming with crops, a granary for other lands. We cannot want a market. No possible limits can be assigned to the probable demands upon us; and as we before remarked, the prices will be remunerating. Let us study the economy of labour, and patronize improved implements. Labour, however, is not likely to be scarce next season. Farmers generally suffered serious damage from not being able to obtain sufficient help during the past season.

Your directors deem it their duty to direct

your attention to the necessity that exists for all farmers of the County of Montreal being members of the Lower Canada Agricultural Association. This Association is re-organized yearly, and the subscribers meet for the purpose one of the days on which the Provincial Exhibition is held.

It may not be out of place for us to express a hope, as our predecessors have done, that the Bureau of Agriculture will establish the Agricultural Museum, and Agricultural and Horticultural Library, for which the law provides. This matter we look upon as being within the roll of duty of our County Members of Parliament; and we believe, that, if attended to by them, would be accomplished, as the public funds cannot be better (if as well) employed in any manner whatever.

In conclusion, your directors would advert to the fact, that, before another General Meeting takes place, a law will be perfected whereby the old land-marks of the County will be swept away, and, as now for municipal, will become two distinct Counties for agricultural purposes. We advert to this matter for the purpose of giving the farmers of the Island an opportunity of considering, before the time arrives for division, whether it would not be expedient to continue to work together as one Society, and whether the funds of both, economically laid out, would not accomplish more real good than a small amount separately expended.

The whole, nevertheless, respectfully submitted.

The County Cattle Show was held at Montreal, the 7th September, 1854. The following comprise the premiums awarded:—

#### GENERAL CLASS.

##### Draught Stallions.

1st prize—Edward Quinn	£5 0 0
2d do William Cole	4 0 0
3d do Pierre Groulx	3 0 0
4th do Bazile Groulx	2 0 0

##### Saddle Stallion.

1st prize—George Swinburn	3 0 0
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##### Broad Mares.

1st prize—Edward Glendinning	3 0 0
2d do James Logan	2 10 0
3d do James Somerville	2 0 0
4th do Alexander Ogilvie	1 10 0

##### 2 year Horse Colt.

1st prize—Charles Holdsworth	2 0 0
2d do James Logan	1 10 0
3d do Charles Valois	1 0 0

##### Fillies or Geldings.

1st Prize—John Dods	£2 0 0
2d do James Somerville	1 10 0
3d do John Drummond	1 0 0

##### Aged Bulls.

1st Prize—Hugh Campbell	2 10 0
2d do John Drummond	2 0 0
3d do James Somerville	1 10 0
4th do Joseph Laporte	1 5 0
5th do Francois Groulx	1 0 0