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THE NEW AGRICULTURAL BILL.

Our readers are aware that a new measure for the improvement of Agriculture, was introduced by the Hon. M. Cameron during the early part of the present Session of Parliament. Although much assailed by the more violent of those journals which oppose the present Government, and in some cases grossly misrepresented, the measure passed by a large majority—we believe as high as 51 to 17—and has since received the Royal sanction. We have obtained a copy of the Bill as it passed the House, and publish it for the information of our readers.

We would observe that this measure, although opposed from political motives, is not in any shape a political measure. It must be worked out in all its details by those whom the majority of the people elect for that purpose. The only feature not embraced in the previous law is the Bureau, and even this was so far sanctioned by the provision which made the Inspector General a member of the Board of Agriculture, that the new law is only a carrying out of the principle (already recognised,) that a member of the Executive Government should be specially charged with the duty of fostering and promoting the agricultural interests of the country. Such a provision cannot be regarded as party or political in its character, because whether a Liberal or Conservative Administration rules, a member of that Administration must for the time being, discharge the duties of the office. We have noticed the expression of a fear that *politics* would hereafter be introduced into Agricultural Societies. It was argued that the Bill would necessarily lead to such a result, because all Societies, &c., were placed under Mr. Cameron, the present minister, and that he would appoint his partizans to all the offices, &c., &c. The persons who argue thus display their igno-

rance of the law, and give reason for the suspicion that they would like to bring about the very thing they profess to dread. Agricultural Societies are as independent of the Government under the new law, and in a position to become more so, *than they ever were before*. They are formed by the people of the county or township—elect their own officers,—conduct business in their own way,—and upon raising a certain sum of money, become *entitled* to a certain other sum from the public chest without any interference whatever.

There are two *Boards* of Agriculture, one in Upper and one in Lower Canada, also to be *elected* by the people through their Societies, of which Boards the minister is *ex officio* a member. In the draft of the Bill he was made President, with power to appoint a Vice President. These Boards must depend wholly upon the Government of the day for the *funds* with which to carry on their operations, and therefore there would have been a great advantage in having one member at least appointed by, and in the confidence of the government. But the zeal of a few opponents of the measure was so strong for the interests of the agriculturists [!] that they opposed this provision, and to meet their views the clause was altered. The consequence is that practically there is no connection between the Boards and the Government, though the creation of these Boards was always intended to form a link between the Societies and the Government, and though their ability to accomplish any good will depend almost entirely on the assistance they will be able to obtain from time to time from the minister of the day. If he does not approve of their suggestions, of course he will not grant the means to carry them out. We contend therefore that in the only case in which any direct connection with the Executive was proposed by the Bill it was very desirable that such a connection should be formed. No improper influence, no coercion could have been used, because there would have been but one