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The Early History of Agricultural Societies in Canada.

EDITORS OF THE AGRICULTURIST.—GENTLEMEN.—For many years I have wished to gather information respecting the early history of Agricultural Societies in this Province, from the gentlemen who first established them, with the view of preparing a little history hereafter from some day at my leisure.

The first parliamentary law passed for the organization of Agricultural Societies was in the year 1830, and, immediately afterwards these valuable societies began to spring up and flourish in many of the older districts of the province. Before the passage of the law for their establishment some districts were partially organized, the Home District being among the number, and, if I mistake not, there was also a Society at Kingston, and another at Cobourg, started previous to the Agricultural Bill. Of these, we have no report as far as I can learn, and never shall have, unless provided for us by the early promoters of them, and these, I fear, are not very numerous at the present day. I can, however, name a few gentlemen whose connection with these societies, and doubtless the proposers of them, are still living, and could furnish valuable information. I refer to Colonel E. W. Tomison and W. B. Jarvis, Esq., of the old Home District; Col. J. B. Marks, of Frontenac; Lennox and Addington, and the Hon. George Ruttan, of Northumberland, Durham, &c. If these gentlemen would take the trouble to try back in their storehouses of papers, and furnish such a history as they can furnish of the societies named above, and any others, giving the objects for which they established them, and some of the names

of their colleagues, and earliest importers of stock, &c., with any documents they may have, such as By-laws, Show Bills, or Prize lists, they would confer a favour. Of course all the societies organized under the Statute can be traced by the reports they furnished to Parliament, in accordance with the law.

With this little history, brought up to the year 1847, when the law was passed to incorporate the Agricultural Association, which was commenced the year previous, we should have all that may ever be expected, and who knows how much it may be prized by our descendants, and especially those descended from the fathers of Agricultural Societies in Upper Canada.

Yours, &c.,

RICHARD L. DENISON.

Dover Court, Feb., 1862.

Elodea Canadensis.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—SIR—I am not prepared to answer the question you proposed (page 534), "Is the *Elodea Canadensis* known in Canada?" But if it is not, *unde derivatum?* whence its name? Gray mentions but two varieties, *Virginica* and *petiolata*—the latter from New Jersey, southward and westward. He describes, however, a member of another family, the *frog's bit*, (the *Elodea*, he says, is a *St. John's wort*) the *Angcharis water weed*, which may perhaps be the plant in question. At all events the name is more suitable to so mischievous a weed as the one described in the article that has elicited these remarks, a weed altogether destitute of charms. It would seem that neither of these plants is intended to flourish in rivers possessing a rapid current. They are *marsh* or *pond* plants, and rejoice in such waters as are slug-