

bers of the Committee of Management, for the time being, should be allowed no other than honorary premiums or rewards, either directly or indirectly. Such a clause would, I think, greatly benefit the Agricultural Societies, by keeping out the suspected interested individuals, which your correspondent threatens "to steer his course, to render conspicuously notorious;" and indeed the Agricultural Societies would be very thankful to him if he would, as soon as convenient, carry his threat into execution. I am of opinion that they would shew a great amount of usefulness performed—that their failing to realize the full measure of anticipated success has not been the consequence of their want of energy or of honesty; neither is it to be attributed wholly to the defects in the statute, but in reality arises out of the novelty of the case, the unprepared situation of the country, and agriculturists generally—that their success depends mainly on the education of the rural population—that, at the same time, that they are greatly influential in promoting a general desire for instruction, they feel a well grounded confidence that their usefulness will increase in a duplicate ratio, in proportion with the advances made in education. Sir, your own well-founded complaints are a convincing proof of the difficulties that surround Agricultural Societies. It is true, as you very properly observe, that it is unaccountable that the people should be so alive, and so energetic, on subjects which only remotely concern them, and, at the same time, so perfectly calm and indifferent about those by which they live and provide for their families, for, when a political meeting is called, crowds assemble, and the numbers overflow—every man comes with his opinion formed and reflected on—his reasons ready. But when agricultural improvement is the question, it is a difficult matter even to form a quorum, and nobody appears to have given a thought about the business for which they are assembled. Measures are therefore hurriedly adopted, without sufficient previous examination; and those very individuals, whose duty it was to weigh and suggest better ones, are the very first to complain and expose the unsuccessful issue. But, Sir, a very short time will change all this—our necessities will compel us to change it—and

Agricultural Societies and Agriculture must flourish.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient humble servant,

T.

14th December, 1849.

*To the Secretary of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society.*

SIR,—As a practical farmer, I cannot too strongly recommend your views of draining the land, previous to wasting our substance in endeavouring to ameliorate the soil.

You have already treated the subject too well to render it necessary for me to enter more particularly upon the matter, but, in one instance, I beg leave to lay before you the result of my own experience, which I do not remember to have seen noticed, although eminently useful in this country where wood abounds. I have several acres, made twenty-five years ago, which remain still with undiminished utility. I constructed it thus—first, I dug my ditch four feet deep and two feet wide at bottom: I then laid two cedar poles, parallel, at the bottom of the ditch, leaving an interstice of about four inches between them: I continued to lay similar poles, end to end, the whole length: I then cross-cut a clean (that is without knots) and sound hemlock tree, of about eighteen inches diameter, into lengths of eighteen inches, which I split, with the greatest facility, into thicknesses of about three-quarters of an inch, and these I laid on my cedar poles at the bottom of my ditch, taking care to lap them over about an inch as I proceeded: I then threw in green branches and sticks, and then the matted turf, and filled up and levelled.

This method is so simple and plain—so economical, the material lying on almost every farm, no tiles, no leaking, no outlay wanting, except the labour, and withal, so effectual—that I am, perhaps, only telling what everybody knows, but few practice.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient humble servant,

T.