

were of opinion that this course, considering the peculiar circumstances of Lower Canada, was calculated to produce more general benefit to the rural population than any exhibition they could have held up to this period, and they appeal with confidence to this Meeting for approval of their proceedings. Last fall they held two Provincial Ploughing Matches, one at Quebec, and one at Varennes, paying £50 in premiums at each place. The application of this amount of their funds, the Directors conceive, will have a good effect in encouraging a laudable desire to excel in the operation of ploughing, so necessary to good and successful farming.

From a desire to form a friendly intercourse and hearty co-operation with the County Agricultural Societies, the Directors elected the Presidents of these Societies Honorary Members of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, (a measure, they hope, you will approve this day,) and invited them to a general Agricultural Congress, which took place on the 10th of February last in this city, to assist in the discussions and deliberations which might take place. Several of these gentlemen were at that Meeting, and others had written interesting letters accounting for their absence, and expressing their satisfaction and willingness to unite with this Society in forwarding the objects for which, it is presumed, all Agricultural Societies are organized. For the information of Presidents who were not present at the Congress, the Agricultural Journals, containing reports of the proceedings at the Congress, have been forwarded, with a respectful request that they would acquaint the Directors of this Society with their opinions and views upon these different subjects, and make any other suggestions they might conceive to be expedient.

The opinion of the Directors of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society remains unchanged in regard to the necessity and expediency of providing means for imparting an agricultural education to the children of the rural population of Lower Canada, and they conceive a commencement might be made by the intro-

duction into the country schools of suitable books, such as Agricultural Catechisms and Class Books, prepared or selected for the purpose, for the reading and study of the pupils. But they conceive it would also be expedient to establish in the District of Montreal and Quebec an Agricultural School connected with a Model Farm, where youths over 14 years of age would be received, educated, and instructed in the science and practical art of agriculture. This would encourage men of education and capital to become agriculturists, and be the means of saving much capital that would otherwise be wasted when employed in agriculture by those who would be inexperienced in the business. All other professions and businesses have the advantage of a suitable education and training, but agriculture never had this common justice that was so essentially necessary to its interests and prosperous progress. The expense of the first establishment of these Institutions is the great objection, and the agricultural population are not in a position to enable them to establish them from their own means. Their introduction would, therefore, appear to be hopeless, unless through Legislative aid. If once established under judicious superintendence and proper management, there is no reasonable cause to doubt that they would be self-supporting, or otherwise the system of husbandry adopted at these places would not be advantageous as an example, and the land live stock and implements, would be good security for the expenditure on their purchase.

The Directors of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society would recommend to the Members of the Society, who may be engaged in agricultural pursuits, have adopted a good system of husbandry, and are interested in the prosperity of agriculture, to make reports of their experiments, cultivation, management, and the results, for publication in the Society's Agricultural Journals. Such reports, carefully made, from whatever quarter they may come, would have a very beneficial influence in recommendation of good systems of husbandry, and in extending agricultural improvement.