

coming Members; and feeling that the good will, and support of the working farmers must be more generally secured for the Society, if much good were to result from its labours, made every endeavour to enlist the interest of the farmers, and to increase the number of Members amongst that class of subscribers.

Members of your Board addressed the farmers at the different Parishes in the County, pointing out that the sole object of the Corporation was for their benefit, and that by persisting in not becoming Members of the Society, they were refusing to accept of the liberal donation made by the country for their advantage. The Board wrote circulars to the *Curés* of the different Parishes requesting these gentlemen to use their influence in the rural districts with the Members of their flocks, to induce the farmers to take more interest in the proceedings of the Society. And finally, to meet certain objections of the operative farmers, and to hold out greater encouragement to this class generally to join the Society and compete for its prizes, the Board passed a resolution, admitting all subscribers, to compete for the Society's diplomas; but excluding the gentlemen farmers from competing for the pecuniary prizes, which were reserved altogether for the working farmers. There are many enterprising and spirited gentlemen farmers in the County, who go to great expense in the introduction of *thorough bred stock*, and modern improvements in agriculture, perhaps as good stock, and as good cultivation can be found on some of the farms belonging to these gentlemen as in any part of Canada. In this way the farmers of the County have derived great benefit from their more wealthy and spirited neighbours, but as every rose has its thorn, this same highly bred stock, and improved cultivation has of course generally run off with the prizes, and some of the working farmers were consequently discouraged from becoming Members of the Society, and competitors for its prizes.

The Board are happy to think that its efforts to extend the benefits of the Society and to enlist the support of the operative farmers, have been moderately successful.

The Society has heretofore been supported by non *cultivateurs* say parties living in the city, and not by the farmers. The citizens subscribed liberally, and the Society has never wanted funds. In the first year of the series 1848, there were only 30 Members farmers, against 110 others, and at present the Society numbers only 44 farmers against 122 Members, merchants, professional gentlemen and other well wishers to agriculture.

The Autumn Show was held at the usual period, but the Provincial Exhibition, taking place at Montreal, interfered with the Show, as nearly all the choice stock in the County went up to Montreal.

Your Board finds it necessary to say, that

it had been the practice of the Society to give prizes for vegetables, grain, &c., at the fall exhibitions, but your Board being of opinion, that this mode was unsatisfactory, in as much as, the quantity grown was unknown, as well as the manner of cultivation, and it had come to the knowledge of the Board that parties more eager to catch prizes than to advance the legitimate objects of the society, had actually resorted to the mean attempts of defrauding the Society by mixing grain, representing garden to be farm crops, &c., for which, and other reasons, the Board considered the fairest competition, and the real interests of the Society would be to hold an exhibition for growing crops.

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture has addressed the following important communication to Mr. Trudelle, the Secretary of the Society: stating, "That in conformity with the practice which exists in Upper Canada, the Secretary be instructed to request the Agricultural Societies for the County of Quebec, to merge their funds for the ensuing year into those of the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition, to held at Quebec on the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd of September next, 1854; on the understanding that the members of these Societies shall be members of the Provincial Association for that year, and be entitled to all the privileges as such. I beg to state further, that it is invariably the practice in Upper Canada for the Agricultural Societies of the County in which the annual exhibition takes place, to give all their funds towards its support, and in many instances, other Counties also contribute towards the same object.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, COUNTY OF BEAULIARNOIS.

Report of the Transactions, &c., of the Society for the past year, presented, read and approved of at the Annual Meeting, held on the 23rd February, 1854.

The Society was reorganized under the act 16 Victoria, cap. 18, on the 23rd of February last, and it now devolves on the Officers and Directors to report on their proceedings for the past year.

From various untoward circumstances and delay in the transmission of the Subscription List, it was late in the season before the necessary documents could be forwarded to the Board of Agriculture to enable them to obtain their share of the Legislative grant and warrant them to proceed to business.

They are happy to state however, that the Subscription List, through the liberality of the seignior of Beauharnois, (he having contributed about two-fifths of the whole amount), was sufficiently large to enable

them to receive the maximum grant of £250; and, it may be noticed here, that their Society is one of the few in Lower Canada that have attained that enviable position.

The account of receipt and expenditure shows how the funds have been disposed of.

At a meeting held on the 9th August, it was determined to have a Cattle Show at Durham, on the 22nd of September; and, seeing the absolute necessity of renewing it, to appropriate a portion of the funds for the importation of seed wheat from the Black Sea. The President corresponded with and had interviews with several gentlemen on the subject of importing wheat, but the uncertainty of procuring it in time for the spring sowing, by the St. Lawrence, and the unwillingness of parties to import, on account of the then believed impending difficulties in Europe, rendered it impossible to negotiate with any person for the next season. Means have however been taken to procure ample information on this matter for another season, through a correspondent at Odessa, which will be duly communicated.

The Show at Durham was well attended, and the concourse of visitors unusually great. The competition was spirited, and the horses, sheep, young stock and pigs showed much improvement. Dairy produce was of excellent quality, though deficient in quantity: Domestic manufactures were good and some very creditable specimens of improved agricultural implements were exhibited.

The additional subscription from the seignior was given by him, contingent on the Society's having a Show in one of the Canadian Parishes for Canadian Farmers only; and this took place on the 13th of October. Owing to the unfavorable weather there was a very limited attendance, and, with the exception of a few tolerably good horses and some domestic manufactures was, on the whole, not satisfactory.

A Ploughing Match took place on Mr. Whyte's farm, near Huntingdon, on the 27th October, and although the weather was very unpropitious, eleven ploughs were on the field and did good work. The Directors have much pleasure in noticing a marked improvement in this department.

The Winter Show for stallions, bulls, fat cattle, and sheep, and seed, grain was held this day at Huntingdon; but owing to the state of the weather and bad roads, the attendance was not large. The Judges,