

sidered entitled to a grant of £500 each. The Gore, London, and Midland would, upon this basis, be pretty fairly entitled to an annual grant of £400. The Newcastle, Eastern, Johnstown, and probably the Western might, upon the same rule of computation, receive £300 per annum, and the remaining districts the £250 as at present. The above scale of course could be varied to suit the exigencies of the case; it is simply given to afford the basis for future discussion and action.

Heretofore there has been a great difficulty in interesting the common farmers in the cause of agricultural societies. To remedy this evil in some measure, the plan of furnishing each member with a cheap agricultural periodical has been practised with admirable success, whereby each member received for his subscription much more than value in the paper. By this means vast numbers have become members of societies, and taken an interest in the shows, who otherwise would not have given a farthing towards such an object. Periodicals of this kind, conducted with even ordinary ability, widely circulated through the country, and read by practical farmers, would soon become the instrument in effecting a much greater amount of real good to the country, than would be accomplished even through the medium of the largest premiums within the power of such associations awarding. By repeatedly reading carefully prepared papers on the various subjects connected with agriculture, and her kindred arts, the farmer will, in process of time, see the force of the arguments, and by degrees, the views advanced by the writer, so far as they are consonant with his practice or with common sense, will become his own, and as far as his means will admit, will be put into practice on his farm. A thousand arguments might be made use of, if required, to prove the mutual advantage that may be derived, both to agricultural societies and the publishers of agricultural periodicals, in favour

of the advancement of agricultural improvement, by the means of such societies furnishing each of their members with a cheap, and if possible, an ably conducted magazine, devoted to the advancement of the cause of agricultural and mechanical improvement. As this mode of promoting improvement has been in successful operation in nearly all the districts of Western Canada, during the past five years, and as the soundness and utility of the principle have become generally acknowledged by all those whose opinions upon such matters are worth anything, it is scarcely necessary to here employ an additional argument in favour of it.

As the great bulk of the farmers cannot even be prevailed upon to give five shillings per annum to advance the interests of agriculture, when they could obtain for their money five times its value in an agricultural paper, and, besides, have an opportunity of competing for the liberal prizes awarded by those societies, it would be well to adopt the course so successfully practised by many of the local societies in England, and by the national agricultural societies of every country where such institutions have been formed, of putting a small *poll-tax* on every non-subscriber who enters the show-ground. If this plan could be carried out by the district societies, and only one exhibition be held in the year, to come off in the early part of autumn, a large fund might be raised at the gate, which, with the Government bounty and entrance fees, would enable the societies to combine with those shows all the departments which receive encouragement at the hands of the Provincial Association. The mechanical and horticultural departments, and also that for the encouragement of domestic manufactures, should receive a very liberal amount of patronage by the district societies.

#### TOWNSHIP SOCIETIES.

These societies are considered by many to be, when compared to the larger societies, what the branches are to the trunk of the tree; in the opinion, however of the writer,