

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
Board of Arts and Manufactures
FOR ONTARIO.

FEBRUARY, 1868.

THE AGRICULTURE AND ARTS BILL.

In the December number of the Journal, we noticed the changes proposed in the law relating to Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures, as adopted by the Convention that met in Toronto during the November previous. The draft of Bill as submitted to the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture, by the Convention Committee, subsequently underwent many important changes at the hands of the Commissioner, prior to its being by him introduced to the Legislature; and other important amendments were made by the select Committee of the House, with the full sanction of the Commissioner.

The Bill, as it passed its third Reading in the Legislative Assembly, on the 17th of February, will be found in this number of the Journal.

The leading features of this measure, are:—

The Board of Agriculture, as such, is abolished, and its property and functions merged in the Agricultural Association, which is continued under the name of "The Agricultural and Arts Association." The members of the Board are continued as the Council of the Association; the members of such council to be hereafter elected by the votes of Agricultural Societies, in twelve Agricultural Districts.

The Board of Arts and Manufactures is discontinued, and its valuable Library of Reference is transferred to the department of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and forms the nucleus—and no mean one either—of an Agricultural and Arts Museum and Library, which is open to the public for reference from 10 A.M. till 4 P.M., each day, in the east wing of the Parliament Buildings.

Mechanics' Institutes having evening classes organized for the purpose of imparting instruction, or having established a technical Library, are entitled under the Bill to receive grants from the public funds to an amount not exceeding \$200 for any one year, provided that the institute contributes or appropriates for either or both of these objects an equal amount to that claimed from the Government. An Association of Mechanics' Institutes for Ontario is also incorporated, which is to hold its Annual Meeting at the time and place at which

the Provincial Exhibition is being held. The same provision is also made for the Fruit Growers' Association, which is to meet at the same time and place, and is to receive an Annual Grant of \$350.

It is also provided that Horticultural Societies may be formed in any Town of not less than 2,000 inhabitants, and that such Societies shall be entitled to rank the same as Township Societies, and draw their share of the County Grant.

Agricultural Societies may be formed for each of the 82 Electoral Divisions in Ontario, except that the City of Toronto is to be considered but as one Division for the purpose of this Act. All Societies are to receive their grants in full: 73 Agricultural Electoral Division at \$700 each; the city of Toronto \$550; and the seven other City and Town Electoral Divisions \$350 each. The grants under the Bill, if drawn in full by every Society, will amount to upwards of \$56,000 per Annum. The Agricultural and Arts Association will receive by vote of the Legislature a specific sum each year in lieu of the 10 per cent. heretofore withheld from the Societies, and the Annual vote of \$4,000 to the Board of Agriculture. The County Societies will report direct to the Bureau of Agriculture, and will receive their grants direct from the Government. New Electoral Divisions are allowed to the first day of May next to organise Societies.

Township Societies may be organised whenever fifty persons subscribe one dollar each—three-fifths of County Society Grant to be subject to division amongst the Townships; but no Township Society is to receive more than one-fifth of the whole of the Grant to any County. No Township Society show is to be held in any Township in which the County Society Fall Show is held, in any year; and every Township Society is to be known by the name of the Township in which it is situated. Many other judicious amendments have been introduced which will be apparent on a careful perusal of the Bill.

Some Sections have been added providing for Police regulations, and prevention of gambling, at Exhibitions.

From the manner in which the Bill has been received by the Societies' affected by it, and also by the Legislative Assembly, we should judge that it will be acceptable to the Country, and a great improvement on the Old Law.

Seth Green, Holyoke, Mass., is hatching shad by the million, artificially, and he wants to say to everybody that he will give them all the young shad and impregnated ovas that they will come and take away. The day before writing he hatched 5,000,000.