

very little benefit; it would be expedient that the officers annually elected, and the awarding committees, should forego premiums while in office. It would further be necessary to prevent an individual from receiving more than one premium at any anniversary meeting, or more than one premium on the same animal. This would give a wider circulation to premiums and to encouragement. It would also be right to provide, that before any premium shall be paid, the person claiming the same, shall deliver, in writing, to the President of the Society, an accurate description of the process in preparing the soil, including the quantity and quality of manure applied, in raising the crop, or feeding the animal; as the case may be—the expense and produce of the crop, or increase in value of the animal; with a view of showing accurately the profit of cultivating the crop, or of feeding or fattening the animal.

“That the several Presidents of the County Agricultural Societies which may be formed, and who may receive public money to expend, shall annually, in the month of December, transmit all such reports or returns, as they shall be required to demand or receive, to the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Agriculture, together with an abstract of their proceedings, exhibiting a detailed account of the expenditure of all monies which shall come into their hands, and stating to whom and for what purpose paid, with the vouchers therefor.”

It is through a General Board of Agriculture that the wants of the agricultural class can be most effectually and impartially brought before the Government and Legislature. It is also through them that encouragement and suggestions of improvements will be best received.—If the business that gives occupation and subsistence to nine-tenths of the inhabitants of British America, could be made infinitely more prosperous and profitable, by instituting such a Board, is it reasonable to neglect doing so? If the people of England have thought it necessary to unite all parties in a Society for promoting agricultural improvement and prosperity in a country, where agriculture is already in a higher state of improvement than in any other part of the globe; why should it not be good for us to adopt means that would be likely to produce the same results? We have already sufficient experience that we cannot attain this good through the instrumentality of any local Societies that may be formed here. With a General Board of Agriculture, local Societies may effect much good in their several localities, as they would be the proper medium of communication between the inhabitants and the Board. We trust that this suggestion may receive some consideration before it will be rejected. There are many more arguments that might be submitted in support of our views, but we shall defer them to another opportunity. We recommend this plan *solely* because we suppose it would be advantageous.

The Representatives to our Provincial Parliament of a population such as that of British America, that is strictly agricultural, in undertaking the duties and honours of Representatives, are, we humbly conceive, bound to attend to the interests of their Constituents. That there was some laws necessary to be introduced for the improvement and benefit of our agriculture, there cannot exist any doubt, though no attention has yet been given to them. To depend entirely

ly upon our Municipal Councils for the laws that are to effect the local or public improvements that we so much require, will, we apprehend, produce nothing but disappointment to us, under the present circumstances of the country. Municipal Institutions, and their duties, are not yet perfectly understood by a large proportion of our population, and we cannot expect them to execute their duties advantageously, until they are better understood. To his Excellency our present Governor-General, the agriculturists of this country should respectfully submit their wants and wishes. His Excellency is connected with the best friends of agriculture in the British Isles, and no doubt, will be favourable to the infant agriculture of this part of the British Empire, that is the chief dependence of our population to supply all their wants. We certainly have more firm reliance upon his Excellency to forward the interests of our agriculture, than we have upon any other quarter. We know that his Excellency will make himself acquainted with the state and circumstances of a class that constitute nine-tenths of the population under his government, and that we shall obtain impartial justice, and all the favour we could reasonably expect, and God forbid, that we should ask or wish for any more. In England the most respectable of all parties are cordially united to promote the improvement of agriculture. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, have now near six thousand members, and there are no less than three hundred other agricultural societies in that country. These facts ought to stimulate us to exertion; who have no other resource but our agriculture. Agricultural Societies should suggest the laws and regulations that they would conceive necessary to the improvement and prosperity of agriculture. A judicious practical law, on the subject of drainage, is one of the most necessary for farmers, and for general improvement. We know from observation and experience, that British American agriculture, is more injured by the want of draining, than by any other local cause. It prevents proper cultivation, and the consequence is, that the soil is foul, and produces scanty and weedy crops. We shall refer to this subject in our next number.

### What is a fair return for Capital invested in Land and Agriculture?

This is a question of great importance to the agricultural class in British America. In this country the farmers are generally proprietors, and are entitled to a fair return for the capital invested in land, whether they inherited these lands from their fathers—purchased them cleared—or brought them into a state of cultivation from the forest. For the amount of capital invested in land, we will say the proprietor is entitled to six per cent. per annum. For the amount in buildings two per cent. at the least, as they are subject to decay and to casualties. For the amount of capital in stock, seed, implements, and labour expended on the crop, six per cent. In addition to this, the farmer would be entitled to a per centage for risk—casualties in stock—and unpropitious seasons, perhaps to the amount of four per cent. For management and superintendence of crop, stock, &c., five or six per cent. would not be too much. A proprietor of two hundred acres of land, with stock, seed, implements, and labour expended annually to the

amount of one thousand pounds, would not think it too much to pay a competent man fifty pounds annually, to superintend, to advantage, the whole business of such a concern,—and the proprietor would still reasonably expect interest on the capital invested in land, buildings, stock, seed, implements, labour, and for casualties, unpropitious seasons and risk. If the proprietor oversees and manages his own business, he is not the less entitled to a per centage for superintendence, even though he should not work. The farmer and proprietor, have their capital locked up and cannot make any return from it more than once a year; and capital employed in stock may, in many cases, not produce any return oftener than once in three or four years. Hence proprietors of land, and farmers, are entitled to larger returns on their capital, than the mercantile class, or tradesmen. These estimates may be considered high, but on consideration they will not be found so. A farmer, instead of employing his capital in stock, seed, implements, and paying for labour on a farm, may put his capital at interest, and still have his own time to employ otherwise. It is, therefore, only reasonable that he should charge for superintendence. His capital employed on the farm, will, by casualties of stock, unpropitious seasons, and other risks, be subject to serious loss, that he would not be subject to, if his capital was placed in the funds, or in other good security. For these casualties and risks he undoubtedly is entitled to a fair per centage. Those who are not acquainted with agricultural affairs, may be very clever in their own opinion, in estimating the farmer's profits, and no doubt would forget very many items in the account. We can state, without fear of contradiction, that the business of a farmer is most laborious, that his attention is required to be unremitted, and that his profits and remuneration for all this, is less than would satisfy any other class of the community. We do not make this statement in disparage, or from any dislike to farming, for though it is a laborious and not a very profitable business, we would prefer it under every circumstance, even were they more discouraging, to any other occupation on earth.—It is by strict investigation into every matter connected with agriculture, that we shall be able to estimate fairly the probable profits.

Agriculturists pay too little attention to these matters, and seldom take into consideration the returns they have fairly a right to obtain from the capital invested in land, buildings, stock, seed, implements, and labour. If they obtain a farm by inheritance, and pay no rent for it, they look upon all its proceeds as profit, forgetting that if they were to sell it they could obtain interest for the money it would bring. It is the same case with those who bring their into cultivation from the forest state. They seldom take into their estimate the returns they are entitled to for capital invested, either in money or labour.—The agricultural class in British America have, at this moment, a very large capital invested in land, buildings, stock, implements, seed, furniture, &c., an amount certainly that would fully entitle them to have more attention paid to their interests than they have ever yet received, whatever has been the cause. The amount they have thus invested is much larger than the capital invested by all the other classes of the community put together. We do not desire unfairly to promote the interests of our class, or to do other classes; but we wish to be on a perfect