

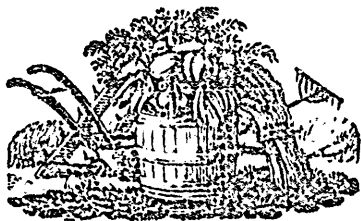
THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

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HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 16, 1843.

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SECOND REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AT HALIFAX.

In presenting to the Legislature the Second Report of the Proceedings of The Central Board of Agriculture at Halifax, during the past year, together with the Treasurer's account, and a brief extract of the correspondence with the several Local Societies, the Board have been actuated by a desire to place before the country, a clear and correct view of its transactions thus far, in order that a just opinion may be formed of the manner in which they have discharged the duties which have been entrusted to them. In working of the system they have adopted, and the extent to which the aid of the Legislature, so liberally bestowed on that branch of industry, has hitherto operated in exciting a spirit of enterprise and zeal among the Agricultural classes.

Although the Board have great satisfaction in congratulating the Country on the results of the late bountiful Harvest, the increased production of bread corn, the introduction of superior seed, and improved Implements, and the progress of a more systematic cultivation, the Board are free to admit that they have as yet realized that full measure of success to which their own sanguine anticipations still point, yet they indulge the hope that an impartial examination of the details they now submit, will not only afford the clearest evidence of the propriety of continuing in the steady pursuit of the objects they are striving to attain, and establish a claim to indulgence for many errors into which their own inexperience may have led them, but also to the generous support of all whose breasts are animated with a desire to procure for our common country the rich blessings of happiness and independence.

The Board are not unmindful of the exceedingly low rates obtained for Agricultural Produce during the past year, nor that the fact has been by some superficial reasoners adduced as an argument against increased production: but the Board cannot for a moment admit the force of the objection. They believe that the rates will improve as soon as the causes, which led to their depression, are removed,—the chief of these being the stagnation of commerce during the last year, when the Wood trade and Shipping had almost ceased. Late accounts encourage the hope that activity will soon take place in these pursuits, and that we,

shall share in the benefits resulting from the late successes of the Mother Country by an improved demand for our exports.

While the Board are desirous of keeping steadily in view the great importance of the subject with which their labours are so closely connected, they also wish to avoid any course that would excite too hastily the public mind, or lead it without deliberation into schemes of extensive improvement—Agriculture is not to be successfully pursued without capital, or a tolerable stock of practical experience: with these, in connection with a steady and persevering industry, the Board entertain the entire conviction that no pursuit within our Provincial limits is more certain of an ample reward; while it is eminently free from the cares and vicissitudes of many other avocations.

Frequent allusion having been made to the utility of introducing an Agricultural School, and Pattern Farm, where both practical and theoretical knowledge might be obtained coincident with other branches of education, the Board have no hesitation in expressing their favourable disposition towards such a system should it be introduced into some of the educational establishments in the more fertile districts of the country.

While the exertion and zeal of many of the Societies, with whom the Board have the pleasure of corresponding, merit their warmest approval, it is a matter of regret that some have not exhibited that activity which might reasonably have been expected, from the liberal encouragement of the Legislature, or the disposition on the part of the Board to place within their reach all the information at their disposal. The subscription of Ten Pounds entitles a Society to a share in the general Grant, and while many have largely exceeded it, others have but raised the amount, and some have omitted doing so altogether. It is to be hoped that the Board will not again have occasion for remark on this point, and that another year will exhibit a different feeling. The object of the Legislature is no doubt to awaken the zeal and give an impetus to the cause, but the Board must ever consider the amount of the local subscription, the surest test of the desire for Agricultural improvement.

One or two active and persevering Members in each Society will give a tone to their whole proceedings, and infuse a spirit of life and vigour through the whole body, and as such are found in every district, the Board recommend to each Society to press them into the service forthwith.

It is gratifying to learn from the Reports of the Pictou and Brookfield Societies, that our native artisans are commencing the manufacture of Implements of Husbandry within their limits. This is one of the results of the introduction of Models through the instrumentality of the Central Board, and an object they have kept continually in view. It is in vain to complain of the want of money in the Rural Districts while we are importing from strangers such articles as our own Mechanics can produce, and letting them remain idle for want of patronage. The Board will have much pleasure in encouraging their industry, and continuing to procure the best models at the expense of their own funds.

The Board had hoped, ere this, to have had it in their power to have noticed the establishment in the City of a respectable Agricultural Warehouse, where New Publications, Seeds, Implements