

ere they can be drawn from the Treasury, and this is, that we shall, amongst ourselves, for the same purpose, raise, by subscription, a certain sum—the whole, thus voted and raised by subscription, to be, as I have said, exclusively devoted to the improvements of Agriculture. This conditional subscription acts well as a nice criterion by which to determine how far we are capable of appreciating the boon of the Legislature, and of being benefited by it. Should we, in the blind spirit of ignorance, neglect to respond to this vote, and to form the societies and comply with the conditions prescribed, the Legislature has a right to conclude that, as a body, our farmers are wholly dead to their best interests, and in no manner whatever susceptible of improvement.—that, from their labours, any prospect of obtaining for our country a competent supply of food must be utterly hopeless,—and as the country must be supplied, legislative encouragement must be directed to the most suitable mode of encouraging foreign importation, should this ultimately lead to the utter extinction of our Agriculture.

No middle course, therefore, remains for us to pursue. We must either, by promptly responding to the legislative vote, convince the government that energy and intelligence exist amongst our farmers as a body, and that they as fully appreciate the need as they are willing to embrace the means of improvement, as well in the present instance as in any future encouragement that legislative aid can bestow. We may thus reasonably expect that the present enactment in favour of Agriculture is only a prelude to others, by means of which and of our own co operation the Agricultural, and consequently the general prosperity of our country may be advanced to a degree beyond our most sanguine expectations. But should we, by our supine indifference in the present instance, convince the Legislature that nothing need be expected from us as farmers,—that indolent contentment, in our present defective system, is inherent in our natures, we must not be surprised to find our future applications for legislative aid, towards opening roads through the interior, erecting mills and bridges, improving our stock and importing seeds, destroying wild animals, or, in short, towards whatever would advance our welfare, treated with merited contempt. The attention of our Legislature must necessarily and exclusively be directed to the advancement of those means by which the country can be supported. Foreign importation, therefore, of every kind of agricultural produce must be encouraged,—and then our farmers, unable to compete with such in the market, may leave the little they can bring to market to rot at home, as it will not pay the expenses of carriage when roads are wanting on which to carry it thither. Embarrassment, debt, with the finishing oyster, mortgage, will thus place our freeholds in the hands of those who can appreciate their value, and the advantages of legislative aid,—and thus, in the course of but a comparatively short period, will our freeholds pass into the hands of men of enterprise, and but too many of us may live to see ourselves and our children tenants and day-labourers under those who, by their superior skill and activity, have become the owners of our freeholds.

Would we avoid this, or some like change, that certainly hangs over us, as it has fallen on the Indian, the once listless, indolent owner of the soil, then let us exert ourselves in earnest to improve our present system of agriculture by the means held out to us at present, and before the opportunity has for ever passed away, of escaping from the dangers that threaten us, and of becoming happy and independent. Let us, throughout the whole length and breadth of our land, establish Agricultural Societies, and we may reasonably expect that they will introduce the implements here which they have elsewhere.

Baddeck, 29th Sept., 1841.

AGRICULTURAL.

DEAR SIR—At the last quarterly meeting of the Agricultural Society here, along with other topics of Agriculture, the propriety of having an Agricultural School, and Model, or Experimental Farm combined, established in some part of the Province was discussed, and it was supposed by every member present that it would have a great tendency to improve the Agriculture of the country. Although not instructed to that effect by the Society, I now take the liberty to suggest to the Honble. Board of Agriculture the propriety of taking this subject into their deliberate consideration. As there is part of the Legislative Grant for the encouragement of Agriculture unappropriated to the different societies, perhaps something might be devoted to this purpose, which I conceive would answer a better purpose than a special grant from the Legislature to any one County in the Province.

Many are now persuaded that both the soil and climate of Nova Scotia is well adapted to farming, but there is a great lack of scientific knowledge, and until it is more generally diffused it is vain to look for much improvement in practice. The benefits accruing from such institutions are now highly prized in the best cultivated countries, and there is little doubt but they will soon become very common: Theory without a practical test is apt to mislead the inexperienced farmer, from a variety of circumstances, but here there would be such a plain illustration as would give confidence, and the most salutary results might be anticipated.

I have thought a good deal upon the subject, and if the Board consider it worth an investigation I shall be most happy to give any information in the matter at my command, if called for.

The Agricultural Implements are all safe to hand, and give general satisfaction.

I formerly spoke of trying an experiment in Drilling Wheat the result was favourable, five acres yielded 142 bushels.

Yours, most respectfully,

JOHN BONYMAN,

Secretary to the Stirling Agricultural Society

To Titus Smith, Esquire.

We have taken the liberty to publish the above letter, although the fund to which Mr. B. refers is otherwise disposed of this year, but the experience of Europe has certainly shewn the great utility of Agricultural Schools, and it is a subject to which we wish some talented persons would turn their attention. It is important the children when young should begin to think upon what is to be the business of their future lives; a Farmer with whom the writer was acquainted had the custom every morning of calling his son before he went to work, and stating to him the different jobs that ought to be done that day, and asking his opinion as to which ought to be first performed, the particular way in which the work should be performed, &c. mentioning the advantage or loss that would follow in each case. The child who was but seven years old answered first, "I don't know Father, you know better than I." The Farmer still continued the practise, and before the boy was ten years old he always had planned the business for the day before he was called to give his opinion. He had learned to think, and proved afterwards a very successful Farmer.—EDITOR.

Extract from the Report of the Parrsborough Agricultural Society.

"Hay was never so plentiful in Parrsborough before as in 1841 and there was no instance of failure in wheat,—there would have been more of it sowed only for former failures. Potatoes for the drought were a light crop, probably not more than one or two thirds the usual quantity, but this deficiency has, in general,