

pagated by the institution of courses of lectures through the different Townships which might be delivered by competent persons, under the direction and supervision of the Board of Agriculture, and receiving a recompense from Government grants. I do not think that at the present time the country is in a fit state for the erection of agricultural colleges or schools, as labour is so valuable that farmers would be unable to spare their sons away from home for a sufficient time to prove really useful to them. But as the government is now exhibiting every laudable desire to encourage education in general. I think that some portion of their funds might be very usefully laid out in promoting this special branch, either by the means I have pointed out or by establishing classes for that purpose in different schools throughout each district. That the ignorance on these matters is a crying evil, there is no doubt, and if some initiatory steps are only taken, the best and easiest system of carrying out education in this branch on a wider basis, would then be discovered. The only difficulty I see, is getting any person to move in the matter, for, if once undertaken, I am certain that the people would gladly avail themselves of any means readily brought within their reach, and wonder that they had got along as they have done so long blundering in the dark.

I have the honour to remain your obedient servant,

FRANCIS DRUMMOND FULFORD.  
W. Evans, Esq.

*To the Proprietor of the Farmer's Journal, Montreal.*

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to hand you inclosed, an excellent letter, addressed to me by Francis Drummond Fulford, Esq., of Hemmingford, supposing, I presume, that I was connected with the *Farmer's Journal*.—May I hope you will be pleased to give it insertion in your valuable paper.

I perfectly concur with Mr. Fulford, as to the cause of the difficulty of obtaining communications from agriculturists for your Journal,—I experienced the same difficulty for many years, while I had the management of the *Agricultural Journal*. Mr. Fulford's suggestion in regard to Agricultural Education, and Agricultural Lectures, is entitled to favourable consideration, but I fear, it will not receive the attention it deserves. I have frequently endeavoured to attract attention to the same subject, but with little success. It is very commendable in Mr. Fulford, taking so much interest in our agriculture, and to write such a letter as the enclosed. I hope this example may act as an encouragement to other educated, and respectable young men, to give their views on the same subject. It would be a great advantage to agriculture, if it was to become a favorite occupation here, as it is in Britain.

Very truly yours,  
Montreal, April, 1856.

WM. EVANS.

There is no doubt much truth in the reasons adduced above by our Correspondent for the paucity of agricultural communications. We trust, however, that our readers will bear in mind that in such matters we attach far more value to sound practical facts than to merely literary merit. We would also remind them that the winter evenings of Canada afford to the farmer much time for mental improvement, as well as for making known to others the results of his experience.

All enlightened agriculturists must agree with our Correspondent in desiring better provision for education in the theory and practice of farming. We are aware, however, that much difference of view exists as to the means by which this can be obtained. For our own part, we hold that, not one only, but many means must be employed. The country may not yet be prepared for the establishment of proper Agricultural Colleges and Schools in connection with Model Farms. We cannot doubt however, that even now the Legislature would act wisely in providing for at least one such institution in Lower Canada. Under skillful management it would form a centre and nucleus for all other efforts. In the mean time, we may at least have the following agencies—(1) Our Universities and Colleges might establish classes in agriculture, offering their advantages on easy terms to young farmers during the winter months, and if they require aid for this purpose, the Board of Agriculture might assist either by giving bounties or scholarships to the most successful pupil, or by providing the necessary apparatus, &c. (2) Agricultural chemistry should be taught to the pupil-teachers in our contemplated Normal Schools. They might then, with the aid of text books which may be readily obtained, teach this subject in their schools or open evening classes. (3) These agencies could scarcely fail to produce some young men qualified to become itinerant lecturers under the Board of Agriculture. Provided with a portable apparatus, they might in the winter months pass from settlement to settlement, bringing before the mental vision of young and old the new lights which modern science has cast on the most ancient of arts. (4) Under the auspices of such men, and of other educated agriculturists, meetings for discussion might be organised in connection with the Local Societies; and Farmers' Clubs and Libraries

might be established. (Lastly) Lectures and discussions in such meetings might be published in our Journal, for the encouragement of others and the diffusion of new facts in agriculture. Such agencies, acting and re-acting on each other, will constitute a combined effort in the direction of improved agriculture that must speedily be felt throughout the Province. Let any of our higher institutions of learning institute in the next winter a school of scientific agriculture, let the subject be thoroughly taught in the Normal Schools which we hope will be in operation before the close of this year, and let the Board of Agriculture devote a small sum to aid in such efforts in any way that circumstances may render expedient, and the point of the wedge will be entered.

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### Onions and Squashes.

We cannot say that we have much experience in cultivating onions or squashes on the large scale; but the success chronicled in the following extract from the *Massachusetts Ploughman*, shows that under the care of our New England neighbours, these vegetables, form no small source of profit. The manure used was sea-weed, but well rotted manure or compost with a dressing of guano, would almost exactly represent this.

Mr. Brown had eight acres of land in onions: the largest lot containing about three and a half acres. This is in the underdrained field exhibited in the Transactions of the Society for 1854. A portion of this lot, (viz, that part which before under-draining, was covered with stagnant water much of the year) say from one-fourth to one-half an acre, has now upon it the greatest yield of onions, beyond all controversy, ever raised in the county of Essex. Mr. B.'s estimate I believe was 1000 bushels to the acre for this spot. I cannot estimate it at less than that, and indeed find I had marked on my memorandum as high as 1200 to the acre for the spot referred to; and in my present estimate of 1000 bushels I am fully sustained by several gentlemen, Trustees of the Society, who visited and examined this field just before the onions were pulled. They were then lying upon the ground and perhaps seen to better advantage. This amazing yield, it is true, is confined to a comparatively small spot; but if the whole eight acres shall be found to have less than 5000 bushels of marketable onions, I shall be disappointed. The average would be 625 bushels, and as that amount has not unfrequently been reached in the county, I cannot believe it too high. The manure was chiefly the decomposed kelp before mentioned, ploughed in with a small quantity of