

tained that both the soil and climate are highly favorable, and the article, commercially considered, if once duly encouraged, in Lower Canada more particularly, would prove next in importance to wheat. During the late war the price rose to £100 per ton. Besides, the British Government have ever shown every disposition to second the efforts of the colonists in this object. Our legislature in 1802 voted £1200, and subsequently a like sum but no pains whatever was taken to further the object. The late R. Bouchette, Surveyor General of the Province, wrote a great deal in its favor in his work on British America. It has occurred to me that if the Provincial Agricultural Association would recommend the encouragement to each county for the largest quantity and best manufactured, that it would soon become general. The Provincial Agricultural Association ought to offer a prize for an Essay on the most improved mode of manufacture.

Pray give the subject your valuable consideration.

I remain, very truly yours,

W. REES.

To Prof. BUCKLAND,
Secy. Bd. of Agriculture.

ON THE CULTIVATION OF WILD RICE.

(ORIGINALLY ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, AND
TRANSFERRED TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF UPPER CANADA.)

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, LOWER CANADA,
MONTREAL, 21st September, 1859.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

When in this country in 1843, I addressed a communication to my kind friend Lord Metcalfe, for which I received a special letter of thanks, introducing to His Excellency's notice a native cereal, which seems destined by nature to become at some future time, on this continent, the Bread Corn of the North. I left the country temporarily soon after, from causes which Your Excellency is well aware of as detailed in former communications; and His Lordship returned to die in England from the painful disease under which he so long and so heroically suffered.

I allude to the *Zizania Aquatica*, or Indian Rice. It is highly esteemed by the Indians of the West, as highly as was corn by the Indians of the North-east, in the first settlement of the country. It has been hitherto, unless by the Indian tribes, almost entirely neglected. It is collected by the Squaws in September, who, pushing their canoes among the thick growth, bend the heads of the Rice over the sides of their rude vessels, beat out the grain with their paddles, and after drying it in the sun, husk and winnow it. Considering the productiveness of this native cereal, and habituated as it is to situations which refuse all cultivation, it is surprising that European settlers have, as yet, taken no pains to cultivate and improve a vegetable production both valuable and indigenous.

It has been on the journey to the Red River, purchased from the Indians at a dollar a bushel, and has been found an agreeable and sustaining article of food. It seems almost unnecessary to describe a plant so generally known in Canada. Its appearance resembles the oat much more than it does the common