

fects of his visit to England; and on this subject he gives some judicious cautions respecting the necessity of careful experiments before investing largely in such ventures, as the difference of climate and other causes sometimes lead to very discouraging results. The importation of seed wheat from Russia, in particular, should be entrusted to a reliable agent in that country, for much of the wheat exported thence is kiln-dried and is fairly unfit for seed, besides consisting of a mixture of different varieties.

Some arrangements have been made, we are informed, for obtaining specimens of British agricultural implements, and the Messrs. Howard, of Bedford, very liberally granted the loan of a number of their implements for the Agricultural Museum of this Province. The British manufacturers complain very naturally of the high import duties levied on their machinery here, and which no doubt keeps out of this country many most valuable implements, which under a more generous system of legislation would be available to Canadian farmers.

Professor Buckland's report, after advertizing to arrangements made by him for the interchange of reports with British Agricultural Societies, closes with some judicious remarks on the subject of emigration, which is now attracting so much attention in Great Britain. He deprecates, as we do most strongly, the introduction into this country of the refuse population of English cities, and the ineapable or vicious portion of the pauper burden of the old country. For suitable classes of emigrants, however, there are here ample room and great inducements. We most earnestly hope that the Government of Canada will give this subject that careful attention which the present crisis especially and most urgently demands.

An analysis of the reports of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province comes next in the contents of the volume under notice. These accounts are almost entirely confined to financial statements. We are glad to learn that printed forms have been prepared for these reports in future, which will secure fuller information and greater uniformity for the purposes of comparison and analysis.

Next follows a summary of crop returns from various societies, but these, on account of the short notice given, and other causes, are very incomplete. Some more efficient system than any hitherto adopted must be put in practice before we can obtain any general and reliable statistics on this important matter.

Statements and abstracts in reference to Mechanics' Institutes come next in order. A fresh impetus has been given to these useful institutions by recent legislation, and the assistance now offered under certain conditions by grants from the Government will no doubt largely increase their numbers and their efficiency.

The report of the Fruit Growers' Association, which follows, occupies considerable space, and contains much valuable matter. Some of this has already been published in the pages of the CANADA FARMER, but much of it has not been made public in any shape. Of this class is a very valuable report by Mr. Saunders, on fruits in the neighbourhood of London, with interesting notices of a great number of injurious insects. It would be very desirable if these transactions and papers could be printed separately and distributed among the members of the Association, and others interested in the important subjects of fruit-growing.

At the end of the volume is given, in the form of a supplement, a full account of the recent investigation into the financial position of the Board of Agriculture. This matter is now too well known to need any further comment. The facts of the case amply vindicate the course adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, and show that he has acted throughout in a manner that entitles him to the thanks of the community. We trust that the new Council of the Agricultural Association will wisely exercise the powers entrusted to them, and that the next report of the Commissioner of Agriculture will show material progress in the most important interest of the country, and the basis of our national prosperity.

The Emigration Question.

There is considerable discussion going on just now in the columns of the press, and among the public in general, as to how we are to obtain some increase to our labouring population, and divert to our country a portion of the tide of emigration, setting in a steady stream from the older countries of Europe to the shores of America. The English journals are also taking up the question, and after showing that every working man in England "carries a pauper on his back," they very considerably, on philanthropical grounds, we presume, propose to relieve the pressure upon their workmen, and the parochial rates at the same time, by sending a few shiploads of paupers to Canada.

There can be no doubt of the fact, that we are greatly in need of steady and industrious labourers to work in the cultivation of newly opened lands, as well as to take the place of a large number of our young men, principally farmers' sons, who most unadvisedly, as we could show, have left the paternal home disgusted at the worse than do-nothing policy of the Canadian Government in the matter of Crown Lands, and gone to the Western States, where land could once be had cheap, and every encouragement is given to the settler in preference to the speculator. Many a farmer now plods wearily alone who once had grown up boys to assist him in his work, and would be but too glad to give a

home and helping hand to a steady, industrious labourer, who would be willing to give a fair amount of work for a fair day's wage.

But it would be very unfortunate indeed for us, if under the seeming guise of a blessing, we should find, when too late, that we are receiving a curse, and instead of obtaining labourers to till our fields and help to gather in our bountiful harvests, we are unwittingly taking the weight of the pauper from the Englishman's back to carry it upon our own. To those who have seen the working of the system of parochial relief in England, and the class of persons too commonly supported on public charity, it will be no matter of surprise to learn, that for pig-headed, obstinate laziness, an English pauper stands unrivalled.

We have recently read many articles in the British Agricultural papers on the labour question, and from them we gather that all efforts to improve the condition of the agricultural labourer at home, are in a measure rendered nugatory by his own ignorant prejudices, and that while labour is seemingly cheap, it is found less costly to employ expensive machinery to do the work of the farm, wherever it is practicable to do so.

There is, however, an exception made in favour of the Scottish labourer, and we see it stated that the cost of working farms in Scotland is much less per acre than in England or Ireland, because while a Scotch labourer will obtain double the wages, he actually performs four times the amount of work that an Irish labourer does, and two men on a Scotch farm do all the work that it requires eight men in Ireland to perform. It is an old and true saying that "heaven helps those who try to help themselves," and while we have no desire to add to our already too large stock of idlers, we could not go far wrong if we were to give a measure of assistance to such of the industrious poor at home as desire to better their condition by coming among us, and at the same time have some small means of their own—enough to place them above losing self-reliance—yet perhaps not sufficient to enable them to come across the ocean with their families, without sacrificing their little all in the effort to reach their new home, and finding themselves in the humiliating position of being obliged to suffer from want, or be treated as beggars. These are the class of persons that we can encourage to emigrate to our shores with a reasonable prospect of their becoming useful to us at the present, and a credit to themselves and their adopted country in the future. They would require to be shown the advantage that would accrue from their taking the step, without, at the same time, being misled by overdrawn accounts of high wages, &c., and to have some direction from a properly qualified agent, who should also arrange all matters of transit for them, and we should have homes ready to receive them on