

heretofore received, the Board of Agriculture offers the following premiums:—

For the best County Agricultural Society Report, adopted at the Annual Meeting, and transmitted to this office before or on the 1st April next, a prize of.....	\$30 00
For the second best do.....	20 00
For the third best do.....	15 00
For the fourth best do.....	10 00
For the best Township Society Report adopted at the Annual Meeting, and forwarded as above along with the report of the County Society.....	20 00
For the second best do.....	15 00
For the third best do.....	10 00
For the fourth best do.....	5 00

By reference to the 42nd and 47th clauses of the Act, which was given in full in the April number of the Journal and Transactions, 1858, it will be seen that each report should consist of four distinct parts:—

1. The names of all the members of the Society, with the amount paid by each set opposite his name.
2. The names of all persons to whom premiums were awarded, with the amount of premium, and the animal or article for which it was given.
3. Such remarks and suggestions upon the Agriculture and Horticulture of the county or township, and arts and manufactures therein, as the directors shall be enabled to offer.
4. A detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Society during the year. (If this is voluminous, a condensed statement or balance sheet ought to be added, showing the amount of receipts and expenditure under the several principal headings.)

It is in part three of the report, as above detailed, that improvement is mainly desirable. The majority of the reports have heretofore been sent in, without any attention being paid to this requirement of the Act at all. The remarks ought to be of such a character as to give the reader a correct idea, so far as possible, of the actual condition and progress of Agriculture, Horticulture, &c., in the County or Township, with the profits and advantages offered by those pursuits.— and in order to do this clearly, the report ought not to embody vague generalities, so much as specific statements of facts. For instance, the generally prevailing character of soil may be stated, the average value per acre, the current rate of wages for laborers and mechanics, or any other information of a similar character. If the crops have been injured, by any insect or other cause of blight, state the amount of damage done, and whether greater or less than other years.

State the amount of improvement taking place in the different breeds of cattle, sheep, &c., and what breeds are believed to be best adapted to the locality. Give the details, with the cost and results, of experiments in breeding and feeding cattle for sale, or sheep farming. If any farmer has commenced the thorough draining of his land, the cultivating root crops extensively, or any other ameliorating improvement, state the fact and the results, and the supposed amount of such improvements taking place in the County or Township. State any improvements that may be taking place in the introduction of agricultural implements, the progress making in the cultivation of fruit trees, or horticultural operations, and the success attending it. If there is any particular improvement necessary in farm management, or for the proper development of the capabilities of the soil, let it be stated. The leading features of the annual exhibition, as a display of agricultural and mechanical products, and as showing the progress of improvements by the residents in the county or township, may also be briefly referred to.— In short, the report should be such a concise and faithful sketch, supported by such brief details and statistics as would enable the reader at a distance to estimate the general progress and capabilities of the county or township correctly.

It is not necessary that the portion of the reports here referred to should be very long. For a County, from ten to twenty, and for a Township, from six to twelve pages of ordinary writing on foolscap paper would afford abundant space. It is not desired, however, to restrict the reports in any way. The reports, or so much of them as may be considered suitable, will be published in the Transactions, and the names of the successful competitors will be immediately announced after the prizes have been adjudged. The amount of prize will be forwarded, unless in the case of instructions to the contrary, to the Secretary or other officer of the Society, from whom the report shall have been received. It is hoped that these reports will furnish a large amount of interesting and useful information for publication in their Transactions.

Should there not be considered to be sufficient time, after receiving this notice, to get up the information, the report might be adopted *pro forma* and afterwards amended, with the consent of the Directors. It is highly desirable, however, that the reports should be forwarded to the Board of Agriculture, if possible, some time prior to the 1st of April, the date fixed by law.

HUGH C. THOMSON,  
Sec. Board of Agriculture.

Toronto, Dec. 15, 1859.]