

# THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST,

AND

## Transactions

OF THE

### BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF UPPER CANADA.

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#### THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

##### ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—It is with extreme regret that I have recently learned that William Matthie, Esq., our respected President, has, from ill health, been obliged to decline the performance of his duties, as President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, at our Annual Exhibition.

I feel myself at this late hour wholly unprepared to do justice to Mr. Matthie's plans and exertions, in forwarding the best interests of Agriculture in the Province.

It would indeed be an act of injustice not to mention the liberal manner in which he has offered prizes from his own private purse. I highly appreciate his judgment in selecting the articles for which the prizes have been offered. I am confident that had his health enabled him to carry out his own views, it would have been far more satisfactory to himself and advantageous to the public.

The generous donation of His Excellency the Governor General, which was transmitted to Thomas C. Street, Esq., our last excellent President, too late to be introduced into the Premium List of 1852, has been wisely set apart by our Association, to elicit the best mode of draining our land; and I feel positive that its appropriation will meet with the hearty concurrence of the noble donor.

I would here remark, that the thanks of this Association are certainly due to Mr. Street, for his liberal prize offered during the last and present years, for the improvement of our Carriage Horses.

The liberal sums which have from time to time been granted by the Canada Company, for the production of the best Wheat, Hemp and Flax, and recently for Machines for preparing the two last-mentioned productions for market, are such as to entitle them to the best thanks of this Association. The gratuitous distribution of the finest samples of Wheat, one of the staple articles of export of our country, should secure them the thanks of the Province at large.

The wisdom of the Government is certainly apparent in the continuance of their munificent support, both to the Association and the Board of

Agriculture; and it is confidently expected that the establishment of the Bureau of Agriculture will prove of the highest possible advantage to Canada.

Having only recently become connected with this institution, I hope it may not be improper in me, and I consider it only an act of justice to the founders of the Agricultural Association, and the projectors of the Board of Agriculture, to acknowledge, that a debt of gratitude is due to them, for their exertions, the extent of which is little appreciated. I would beg to suggest, that as the funds of the Society are adequate to it, that the early proceedings of the Association be revised; and that its most important transactions, as well as those of the Board and Bureau of Agriculture, be published and widely circulated.

The late Judge Buel, of Albany, who established the *Cultivator*, raised the character of the farmer in the United States from a low and depressed condition, to that of a profession of the highest and most respectable order in society; and this elevation I may also claim for that class in Upper Canada.

In proof of the prosperity of our country, I would beg to refer you to two most admirable lectures, delivered before the Mechanics' Institute of Toronto, in Feb., 1852, by the Rev. Adam Lillie, in which he clearly shows that our progress in an agricultural point of view, and in its increase in population, would bear a favorable comparison with the most thriving of the United States. These lectures, I believe, have passed through several editions, one of which has been brought out at Brockville, to which have been added the statistics of the counties of Leeds and Grenville, reflecting great credit upon the enterprising inhabitants of that section. This edition has been widely circulated in Britain, which must render great service to Canada.

During the Exhibition at Toronto, in September, 1852, some members of the Deputation from the New York State Fair observed, that while their exhibition far exceeded ours, in point of extent, they were pleased generously to admit the superiority of several articles exhibited there; such as draft horses, neat cattle, and swine; while in grains, and garden vegetables, we distanced them entirely; and the same remark was made in reference to the Floral Hall and Ladies' Department.