

amount and value of our annual productions might be soon doubled, which they never can be by cattle shows alone. We appeal to the common sense of impartial friends of the country, what amount of improvement is likely to be produced by our last District and County Cattle Show. We have ever considered that the true object of granting public funds to agricultural societies was, that they might be expended in the instruction and encouragement of improvement where most required. This, we say, should be the first object of all who sincerely wish to advance the true interest and prosperity of Canada generally. We were glad to observe several members of the Legislature at the cattle show, who appeared interested in the proceedings. This is what is required, that they should not only be interested in the exhibition of fine cattle, but in forwarding improvement with the Canadian farmers in the most remote sections of the country, by seeing that instruction and encouragement is sent to their very doors. There is not much danger of the farmers who are able to send cattle to these exhibitions, and who obtain premiums, that they will not take care of themselves, and follow the most approved system of farming, for the mere profit of it—indeed it appears an absurdity to apply the public revenue to any such purpose as giving premiums to such persons. To encourage the better cultivation of the naturally fine soil of Canada, nearly waste, because it is not better cultivated, would be an object worthy of all real friends of Canada, whether members of the Legislature or not. We can have no motive in recommending these measures, but the general good of the country. If what we suggest is undeserving of notice or any action being taking upon it; let some other plan be proposed and adopted. We are only anxious to see improvement going on where it is decidedly necessary, not where there is already sufficient improvement, or a certainty that every advantage will be taken of every new improvement that may be discovered. If general good husbandry is desirable as a public good, let us strive to make it generally so by giving instruction and encouragement to those farmers who have not had so favourable opportunities of learning the art of agriculture as old country farmers now settled here.

In order that the act of the last session for the

encouragement of agriculture may be productive of general good, we conceive that every exertion should be made to organize agricultural societies in every county in Eastern Canada. It is, we believe, in the counties that require them most, that societies are not yet organized. It is also probable, that where such societies are organized, and in operation, the funds at their disposal are not expended so as to encourage and instruct where most required. In every parish in each county, a part of the public funds should be expended as premiums for the best managed farms, best draining, best crops, and best stock of cattle generally. This would bring encouragement to the remotest farmers in the country, who now feel they would have no chance whatever in competing with old country and other farmers that happen to be favourably circumstanced as regards skill, capital, and situation. Persons forget how very different are the sources from whence the funds of agricultural societies here, and in the British Isles, are supplied, and, therefore, how very differently the funds should be employed. In Britain and Ireland, there is no money given from the public revenue to the support of agricultural societies. The landed proprietors and farmers unite together, and from *their own voluntary subscriptions* offer premiums, under such rules and conditions as they may think proper. This is perfectly just, that they should do what they please with their own. Here it is different, as considerable funds are given from the public revenue, for encouraging the improvement of agriculture, and there cannot be a doubt that the individuals who take upon them the disposal of these funds are bound to appropriate them so as to produce the greatest general improvement, where most required, and that no part of these funds shall go to themselves. It is generally understood that the best and most competent farmers, as regards skill, and capital, are appointed as Managing Committees, and the very circumstance of their being allowed to take the premiums offered by themselves, excites doubts and discouragements, with most other farmers; as the Committees have the appointment of the judges, and are themselves a sort of court of appeal in every case that may be disputed in the distribution of those premiums. We would strongly recommend that the Managing Committees of agricultural societies should, while acting in that capacity, forego all