

two bushels of your best wheat to pay it, but now cash can be had for anything the farmer raises. He can now get for a bushel of wheat two or three pounds of , and of a better kind too. We can easily calculate the changes that have taken place: fifteen years ago we had not a windmill worthy of the name, we have now twenty. The same length of time ago, we had the misfortune to break our plough at, we had to trudge off 15 miles to get a new one, and sometimes were considered particularly fortunate if we had not our journey for nothing: but now we have two extensive implement manufactories; fifteen years ago there was scarcely the chance of getting a common school education; now we can get a good education in our common schools, and if sons or daughters wish to get a step higher they have the advantages of a Grammar school, or some private Academy where all required accomplishments may be had.

ARLINGTON.—One hundred and thirty-five members; subscription, \$150; share of the grant, \$176; receipts at show, \$84; received, \$410. Paid balance due Treasurer from previous year, \$85.55; paid for agriculturist, \$54; paid in premiums at spring and fall shows, \$233.75; expenses, \$21; balance in treasurer's hands, \$6.46.

ELGIN.

COUNTY SOCIETY.—Fifty-five members; amount of subscription, \$55; balance on hand from previous year, \$667.63; received from presidents of two township societies, \$20; paid by township societies, \$183; legislative grant, \$599.96; total receipts, \$1824.64. Paid township societies, \$843; premiums, \$3.75; legal expenses, \$50; other general expenses, \$87.75; balance remaining in treasurer's hands, \$645.14.

In 1860, this County, which had heretofore contained but one County Society, organized a Society for each Electoral Division, East and West Elgin, under the Act, 20 Vic. c. 32.

Extract from Report.

The County of Elgin comprises seven townships, or some 450,000 acres; and is increasing in wealth and population, and development of agricultural skill; which is in a great measure attributable to the natural fertility and capabilities of the soil, partly to the impetus and encouragement

given to all agricultural pursuits for the past three or four years, by this parent agricultural Society and its several branches throughout the different Townships.

The great disparity heretofore existing between the price of manual labour and agricultural produce has been a great drawback to all farming operations and improvements; but the introduction, lately, of reaping and mowing machines, and in fact, of all the improved manual labour-saving machines of the present age, on a large scale in this section of the country, has so reduced farm labourers and mechanics' wages, as to render farming an agreeable and profitable undertaking now-a-days; and improved farms have consequently increased much in value. Some two years ago, when a good farm hand would during harvest time command from one dollar and a half to two dollars per diem, a 200 acre lot with house, barn, and driving sheds, and say 80 acres of clearance, could have been purchased in a good locality, convenient to markets, in this County, for about \$28 per acre; whereas now, when farm hands can be hired for one-half the amount, the same farm would bring at least \$40 per acre.

The soil is principally a rich loam, resting upon a heavy retentive stratum or subsoil, with here and there streaks or ridges of stiff clay. The surface is uneven or rolling, and consequently dry, but in some localities requires draining, and with moderate care and cultivation, all manner of root and grain crops grow luxuriantly. Wheat is, however, the staple crop, and some thousands of bushels are annually exported, but last year this crop suffered much both from the ravages of the midge and spring frost, say twenty-five per cent from the former cause, and at least thirty-five per cent from the latter, so that more than one half of the crop was destroyed in this way. The breadth sown with Wheat this year is very small in comparison with that of former years, and much of the land prepared will be sown with Spring Wheat.

Owing to the natural fertility of the soil, and an over-abundance of it, very few of our farmers as yet study the philosophy of tillage, or see the necessity of pursuing a regular system or rotation of crops, but exhaust the land by taking the same kind of crop year after year out of the same piece, and that too without supplying any kind of manure in return, while at the same time the barn yard