

fields rather than to owe it to strangers. * Grass is altogether the cheapest and the most natural food of every kind of cattle. The first object therefore should be the encouragement of the cultivation of the appropriate artificial grasses by awarding not a few dollars, but such sums of money as would be capable of exciting emulation and of overcoming prejudice, for the greatest number of acres of land turned into profitable pastures, and for the greatest number of every sort of cattle bred, reared and fed on estates in proportion to their extent.

Our climate requires certain modifications in regard to the winter keeping; this must again be the result of experiments encouraged and made upon a certain proportionable scale. Who is to make those experiments? Is it a poor ignorant countryman? We have no right and still less reason to expect it. In England all the experiments that have led to agricultural improvements have been made by rich and enlightened proprietors. Their success has spurred their neighbours to imitate them. Their communication to the public at large of the improving means has encouraged far and wide their adoption, and excited the emulation of others. But again, how was that communication universally diffused? Not immediately by them. There is in the Board of Agriculture established by law and supported by government a point to which all these communications center. There they are received, examined, appreciated, and thence that which is acknowledged to be some useful discovery is diffused thro' the country by means of a periodical pamphlet published under the sanction of the Board. The mass of experimental information thus diffused is accumulated, by the result of the labours and observations of a great number of local agricultural associations, now existing in almost every corner of the United Kingdom. Whatever might be the zeal and the talents possessed by the respectable citizens of Quebec who are at the head of an association for that purpose and in a manner acknowledged by the pecuniary support it receives from the Provincial Legislature, it would be unjust to require of them without fee or reward to bestow their whole time on duties of so great importance. It is an old maxim that every labour is worth its reward, but the scantiness of the present pecuniary provision does not allow such a reward.

It appears therefore that in order to promote the progress of agriculture in this province, the first step must be the establishment of a regular and permanent Board of Agriculture, allowing a proper and adequate salary to its necessary members and officers. The business of the Board under the immediate control of

* A friend has just been telling us that he had the honor a week or ten days ago, to descend from Montreal thither in a steam boat in company of about 100 pigs, fresh imported from our more industrious neighbours!