

**Agricultural Schools.**

We are of opinion that a portion of the Crown Lands might, with very great profit to the country, be appropriated by Government for the Establishment of Agricultural Seminaries of Learning, where both the practice and science of Agriculture might be taught the youth of our land. The wants of our country now demand that such Institutions should be established in various Districts of the Province; and, in our judgment, the most feasible plan that has been suggested for bringing about this desirable object is that of the Government granting a large block of land, which should be put in market, and the proceeds invested, to raise a fund to sustain such Institutions. A large and permanent fund might thus be raised, which would in process of time be amply sufficient to establish an Agricultural Seminary or College, in connexion with an experimental Farm in each of the Districts of the Province. Other modes of raising a fund, to bring about this desirable object, have been suggested, but we apprehend that some of them would, in practice, be found inoperative, from the fact, that the means would be inadequate to carry out such Institutions upon a respectable scale.

If the farmers of Canada were really awake to their own interests, they would establish respectable Educational Institutions, such as would be adapted to give a good, sound, and practical education to such of their sons as they intend to make Agriculturists, without waiting for the action of Government in the matter. The improved system of giving encouragement to Common Schools, that is now in process of being established in this Province, will unquestionably have a very important influence in raising the standard of education among our rural population; and the great majority of our farmers must, of course, look to this source, to educate their sons and daughters. But we are nevertheless main- taining, that the Common Schools, under ever so efficient management, cannot impart a finished education to a young farmer, who is desirous of

becoming thoroughly acquainted with the various departments of science that have a bearing upon Agriculture; and in no place can such an education be had so cheaply and efficiently as at an Agricultural College, where both the science and practice of husbandry will be taught, by competent Professors. Farmers' sons, who are designed for Agriculturists, if sent to College to obtain a liberal education, would scarcely turn their attention to farming, after having spent a few years in the society of young students, designed for the Learned Professions, unless, in connection with those Institutions, where the science and practice of Agriculture became a prominent part of the course of instruction taught in them. As scientific instruction, applicable to practical Agriculturists, has never been taught in our highest Seminaries of learning, consequently but few, if any, of our junior farmers have attended a regular course of Lectures at those Institutions; and the loss to the country, in this respect, is at this time very seriously felt. In the most thickly-settled and wealthy portions of our rural Districts, it is a rare thing to find a farmer who, by education and talent, is in every particular well-qualified to fill important posts of honour or emolument, that may be at the disposal of the Government and people of this Colony. This argument particularly applies with force, when reference is made to Canadians by birth and education; and this admission we make with a very great degree of reluctance. It is to be hoped that the Canadian people, whether by birth or adoption, will look to this matter; and, if no better method presents itself, to bring about the establishment of the Educational Institutions contemplated, the one of forming Joint Stock Companies, if placed under proper management, might be made effectual, in securing to the sons of Canadian Farmers, a sound practical education, such as would enable them to carry out their operations upon a more certain and profitable scale. An Agricultural College, with a suitable farm and apparatus, could not be commenced with any