

Any other information you may require I will be only too happy to furnish at any time.

And have now the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obdt. servant,

JOHN A. DONALDSON,
Government Agent.

Professor Lawson, Halifax.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS, }
ONTARIO, }

Toronto, April 9th, 1872.

MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. Donaldson has just handed me the enclosed memorandum. Baden is in the County of Waterloo on the Grand Trunk Railway. Mr Donaldson says that the machinery mentioned is of good workmanship, and amply sufficient for the purpose.

I mail you a copy of our new Daily, in which reference is made to the recent meeting of Flax-growers, who have formed themselves into an Association.

The season is very late—frost not yet out, but we have now warmer and moister weather, and the snow rapidly disappearing.

Yours very truly,

GEO. BUCKLAND.

PROFESSOR LAWSON.

P. S.—Thanks for the paper containing your Report. Your Board seems to have undergone considerable modifications of late. And it is pleasing to observe that many of your district societies are progressing. I will send you a copy of our Report as soon as we can get printers to finish it. The strike still continues—but cannot, I should think, last much longer.

MEMORANDUM.

Brake for preparing flax for	
scutching can be had at Baden	
for.....	\$200 00
Shaft with ten Scutchers costs.	200 00
Thra-her, Fanner, & Saw Duster	250 00
	\$650 00

A good hand should catch from 80 to 100 pounds of flax per diem.

JOHN A. DONALDSON.

THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The successful operation of agricultural organizations in adjoining Provinces and States cannot be without interest to our farmers. It is for this reason that we occasionally devote a portion of our limited space to their reports. The proceedings of the New York State Society at their recent meetings on 13th and 16th February show unusual activity, and we therefore give a brief summary of their more interesting work:—

BET SUGAR.

The Secretary presented a communication from Mr. King, C. E., assistant to

the Professor of Chemistry at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, in relation to the beet sugar, with samples of sugar made from the beet at that College, and requesting the aid of the society in procuring the growth of experimental crops of sugar beets at various places in the state, with a view of determining the adaptation of that industry to this state, and of having specimens of each crop grown sent to the said College for analysis.

VETERINARY SURGEON.

The Committee to which was referred the subject of the appointment of a veterinary surgeon, to be in the employment, or at the call of the society and its members, beg leave to report: that they would recommend the employment of a veterinary surgeon, to be subject to the call of the members of the society, and of the farmers of the state at large; that a sufficient sum should be guaranteed as gross income, from the society and from his practice, not to exceed \$1,500 a year; that a scale of prices should be fixed by the society which it should be understood that members and others are to pay; but, at the same time, no obligatory fees are to be collected, as the object is protection to the great stock interests of the state, and to make the society of more practical benefit to its members.

Which report was accepted; and, on motion, the committee was continued, and instructed to complete the details of plan, and to correspond with members of the profession and others with a view to the selection of a fit person to be employed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The season of 1871, as compared with that of 1870, was alike in the extreme and long continued drought in the State of New York, but different as regards temperature, which was unusually moderate and equable. The crop of wheat was of unusual excellence, both in quantity and quality; returns of forty bushels of white winter wheat per acre having been not unfrequent, and forty-five bushels being reported in one or two cases. Spring grains are, in most of the grain growing counties, reported as giving full average crops, even where there was least rain. Corn is, probably, under average; some of the best counties, as Monroe, Wyoming and Yates, reporting largely diminished yields. The hay crop is, in several counties, stated as better than the light growth of 1870, and in Cortland, as being large and of good quality; but the general tenor of the reports is, that the crop is light, though of excellent quality, and the price which it commands in almost all the districts from which returns have been received, indicates a decided deficiency. This is, however, doubtless due, in some measure, to

the fact that very little old hay was carried over from the previous year.

The effects of the drought, in spite of which the grain growers have, upon the whole, made satisfactory crops, have been most felt in the dairy districts of the State; and the diminished returns from this important branch of our agriculture must seriously impede progress, if not actually occasion distress in some counties whose marketable surplus consists chiefly of dairy products. Besides the drought which, beginning in May in a large portion of northern New York, may be said to have lasted through the growing season, there were, as an additional calamity, immense numbers of grasshoppers, which appeared so early as to inflict considerable damage upon the grass standing to be cut for hay, and afterwards devoured a large share of the grass of the pastures, besides injuring the late fields of spring grain and the corn when in the silk.

The occurrence of two successive years of drought and short hay crops, is an event which should teach the dairy farmer the wisdom of under-stocking, rather than overstocking his farm, and more especially his pastures. In fact, the evil of overstocking does not end with the year. In 1870, pastures became very short before the end of the haying season; and, in consequence, it became necessary to feed the aftermath very early; and, the pastures not recovering, cattle were obliged to be kept upon the meadows until late in the season; hence, perhaps, as much as from any other cause, the light hay crop of 1871. Again, in many dairies, the yield of milk became inconsiderable and unprofitable early in September, and many cheese factories ceased working in that month. With pastures less heavily stocked, a moderately remunerative yield might have, in many cases, been maintained, and the loss of the most profitable month to the butter makers would not have been incurred.

The evil effects of drought upon pastures, may be mitigated by the provision of green crops to be used for soiling; or at greater, though doubtless sometimes profitable expenditure, by feeding the cows with meal; but pasture itself, the readiest and best resource of the dairyman, can not be made or purchased at the time or need.

As further showing the similarity of the seasons of 1870 and 1871, it may be mentioned that the mean rainfall of the State in those years, during the seven months beginning with April and ending with October, as given in the reports from the Agricultural Department at Washington, was, in 1870, 23.05 inches; and in 1871, 23.58 inches; the difference in favor of 1871, being only .53 of an inch. The rainfall of the same months, in 1869, was 29.79 inches; being 6.21 inches in