

sent Report, will confine its own action to the furnishing of the rough draught of a measure, which your Committee think it their duty to recommend to be adopted by the Legislature, as the best means to be taken at present for the encouragement of Agriculture, in a country which, (we cannot repeat it too often.) nature has especially created for agricultural purposes.

Your Committee recommends, therefore, the appointment of two Superintendents of Agriculture for Lower Canada: one, for the united Districts of Quebec, Three Rivers, and Gaspé; the other, for the united Districts of Montreal and St. Francis; whose duties should be as follows:—

1. To visit their respective Districts once in the year.*

2. To draw up an Annual Report of such visit within their territorial limits, which Report should comprise, among other matters, a description of the different soils.—the fertilizing matters appropriate to each,—a description of the accidental changes to which the surface of each is subject,—of their natural aspect,—their condition in respect of drainage, clearing and cultivation,—the fertilizing matters which nature has provided in proximity to the hand of the cultivator, and the remedies which are applicable to the prevailing defects of the system.

3. To attend carefully to the proper organization and management of the Exhibitions hereafter mentioned; to audit the accounts of the different Societies of which they will, *ex officio*, be members; and the natural advisers, within the limits of their Districts.

4. To provide that there be one Society for Exhibition of Agricultural Products in each County; and in their Annual Reports, to give a detailed account of the affairs of each of their Societies, within the limits of their respective Districts.

5. To take care that each Common School is furnished with an Elementary Treatise on Agriculture.

6. In the course of their annual visitation, to give public lectures on Agriculture, at least one in each County.

7. As far as may be practicable, to be present at the several Agricultural Exhibitions of the County Societies.

The Superintendents will thus, it is plain, form the executive branch of the system recommended, and will, moreover, form the didactic body; the only one to be hoped for in the present state of affairs. The importance of such Exhibitions, as the Superintendents are to be bound to hold annually, is felt so forcibly in New Brunswick, that the Legislature of that Province, has considered it a duty to procure such an examination of its territory, to be made by the celebrated Professor Johnson, whose Report on that subject has given a new impulse to Agriculture.

It will be easily imagined, moreover, that the presence of the Superintendents, and their advice, will be powerful auxiliaries to those who aim at awakening the people from their apathy, and directing their steps in the road to improvement and reform. The Reports of the Superintendents will be the criterion of the state of Agriculture in the different Counties; and of the relative progress of different localities, in the production of grain and roots, in the rearing of cattle, and in the various other branches of Agricultural industry. These Superintendents will, moreover, be the natural counsellors of the different Societies; and their office will be one of reference, where every person may obtain useful and needful information; as, where to procure an implement perfect of its kind, an animal of an eligible breed, or seeds of a superior quality.

Without dilating on the importance of this preliminary means of forwarding the progress of Agriculture in Lower Canada, your Committee pass on to the second step, which is the organization of Agricultural Exhibitions, of the nature of those which now exist, but with important modifications. Taking into consideration the increase of expense caused by the creation of two offices, and the publication of an Elementary Treatise, as above recommended, your Committee propose to reduce to £1,000, the sum now granted for Agricultural Exhibitions; which sum shall be annually placed at the disposal of the two Superintendents, who shall meet at Quebec, to share that sum among the different Counties, in due proportion to the population and extent of land, owned in each County; the population being taken as five, and the number of acres of land as one. In order to become entitled to a share of this grant, each County must form an Agricultural Society, composed of at least twenty-five members, subscribers of at least five shillings each; such Society shall elect, annually, a Board of seven Directors, of whom one shall be Chairman and another Secretary, which last shall have the management of the business and the funds of the Society. These Societies shall be bound to hold one or two Exhibitions in the year, of produce and animals, according to the present custom in Lower Canada; at which Exhibitions, prizes shall be awarded to the best productions, in such manner as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, of which due notice shall be given in every Parish in the County. The prizes so awarded may be distributed in money, in books on Agriculture, in improved implements of field labor, or in superior kinds of seed. Counties which are of too great extent to derive the proposed advantages from a single Society, may form two, and share between them the sum belonging to the County, conditionally, that each Society shall consist of twenty-five members, at the least, in each division. Competition for the prizes awarded at these Exhibitions, should be open to all the inhabitants of the County, in which the Exhibition is held.

Whenever a Society, or the Board of Directors of a County, or of the Division of a County, may consider the system of Exhibitions ought to be changed for some other, and that the Government grant, and the subscriptions, forming the aggregate fund at their disposal, might be more beneficially employed by being applied to the establishment of Model Farms, or Agricultural Schools, or in any other way or manner whatever, they may appropriate the funds to such purposes as they may deem expedient, provided that notice thereof shall have been previously given to, and consultation thereupon previously had with, the Superintendent of their District.

Whenever it happens that a County Society is able, from the Government grant and its subscriptions, to form a fund amounting to £150 and more, such Society may cause Exhibitions to be held in each Parish, if they appear likely to be beneficial.

Every County Society, or County Division Society, should be bound to transmit to the Legislature every year, a Special Report of its proceedings, and of the state of Agriculture in the County; and to the Superintendent of the District, an account of the Exhibitions, and of the application of the funds.

In recommending that your Honorable House, should confer on the County Societies, the right of regulating and disposing of the funds entrusted to them, and grant them the greatest possible latitude in the choice of the means to be employed for the improvement and prosperity of Agriculture. Your Com-