

where they can be had, there cannot exist any serious obstacle to the introduction of a good system of husbandry, so far as regards climate and soil. All experienced farmers will come to this conclusion, and attribute the backward state of agriculture to the proper cause, and not to any defect in our climate or soil. Flax and hemp are other articles that might be profitably grown here for their seed and fibre, if there were mills to dress the fibre for exportation, or for home uses. We have for twenty years past endeavoured to recommend the cultivation of these plants, and, as a means of encouragement, that, by the Government, or by private enterprise, mills should be erected for preparing the fibre, but all to no purpose, and we fear it will be to no purpose now to bring the subject again before the public. The cost of erecting a mill, where there would be water power, would not, perhaps, much exceed one hundred pounds currency. A mill might be worked by horse power, similar to a thrashing mill, that we have no doubt would answer, and not cost more than a thrashing mill. Farmers will not cultivate these plants until they are certain to be able to dispose of the crop when grown and dried upon the field. If they were assured of this, we should soon have flax and hemp in abundance. We stated some time ago that in France, Holland, and Belgium, flax is purchased dried upon the field, at about £2 10s. to £3 sterling, the ton weight, after the seed is taken off by the farmer. We have been told that in the State of New York the flax is purchased on the same plan, when dried in the field, at about ten dollars the ton weight, the seed being taken off by the grower, and we understand the purchasers of this flax make a good profit of it. As to its being a profitable crop to the farmer, disposed of on these terms, there can be no doubt, and he has the seed besides for sale or feeding his cattle. What we would ask, is to prevent us in Canada having mills, and cultivating flax and hemp as they do in the neighbouring States? The soil and climate here

are more *suitable* for these plants than in any part of the Union. We have never yet seen an acre of land properly cultivated in Canada for producing good flax, but let us only cultivate for this crop as they do in Ireland, Holland and Belgium, and we shall grow as good crops as they do. Land requires *deep* tillage, and to be well pulverised and manured for flax or hemp. These are plants that will keep the land clean, and if properly cultivated, will answer all the purposes of root crops, because the land must be clean for them, as both are deep rooted plants, and both pulled out of the ground when harvesting. It is found that flax grown on soil properly cultivated, will push its roots into the soil half the length of the stem above the ground, and the stem is often more than three feet in length. We have introduced these subjects in this Report, as by that means many parties who do not receive the Journal may see what we submit, in newspapers that usually copy our Report. The subjects we refer to are certainly of importance to agriculture, although we may be in error in the view we take of them. Our arable lands require to be better cultivated, manured, and cleaned. If this cannot be generally and *profitably* accomplished by green or root crops, we must take other means to do so, and we beg to suggest the other means that are in our power, always with as much of root crops as we can manage profitably. Farmers will have time to think of our suggestions, and prepare to act upon them, or on better of their own. Changes are necessary in our system, in order to keep our land clean, and in a state of fertile production. There are many farms kept in a good state, but nine tenths of the lands of Lower Canada are not so kept, and it is certain that until they are better cultivated, and managed more judiciously, they cannot be very profitable to their owners, or add much to the wealth or prosperity of the country. Since our last Report there has been no change of consequence in the market prices of agricultural produce, and we