

Agricultural Journal

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

 LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

 MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1850.

What are the best means to adopt in order to promote the improvement of agriculture in Lower Canada *where its improvement is most required*. This is a question of importance with all true friends of the general improvement of Canadian agriculture, and the prosperity of the country. We have no doubt there is a diversity of opinion as to the best means, but by fair discussion, we may arrive at something like a just conclusion, and it would afford us much satisfaction to have this subject fairly discussed, not in a covert and under-hand manner, but in this Journal, or some other newspaper, where the public may be able to judge. We rejoice in believing that there is not at present a farmer's family in Lower Canada, that has not some member of the family capable of reading: If this be a fact that is capable of proof, which we have no doubt of, can there be any better means of producing a spirit for enquiry, and improvement, than by the circulation of a well conducted Agricultural Periodical amongst the people, that would suggest improvements, and report experiments, and the results of a good system of agriculture elsewhere? could this possibly have any other tendency amongst the rural population than a useful one? Could there be any other periodical or newspaper circulated amongst them that would do more good, and as little harm? We answer, N — we are prepared to sustain this reply. It may perhaps be imagined that the Lower Canada Agricultural Society have been wanting in their duty, in not having an Agricultural Exhibition annu-

ally. The County and District Societies have had their Exhibitions, and the country must have had the full benefit of all these Exhibitions for the promotion of Agricultural improvement. The Lower Canada Agricultural Society have directed their attention to other means of producing the improvement of husbandry, which neither the County or District Agricultural Societies have adopted, and thus made up what was wanting. We have the opportunity of observing that these means have been successful, to a reasonable extent, and to an infinitely greater extent, than could be produced by any Exhibition that was in their power. We have had many Exhibitions, but we should regret extremely were we to believe that the exertions of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, have not been productive of more usefulness to the rural population of this country, then all those Exhibitions put together. This may be considered as assuming a good deal but we are prepared to sustain our position by reference to respectable parties throughout the country, and by an extensive correspondence on this subject. All the good things that were to exhibit, have been exhibited, it may be presumed, and what useful purpose could it have served to have exhibited them again? We are not by any means unfriendly to a great Annual Agricultural Exhibition but on the contrary, would be very happy that the Lower Canada Agricultural Society would have the means to hold one regularly. We only state, that this Society have applied their funds for the time past, in the best manner possible, to advance Agricultural improvement in Lower Canada, and the Report of the Agricultural Committee of the Legislative Assembly last Session, will fully sustain us in this assumption. We do not pretend to say that all that was necessary, and possible to be done has been done, because there was not means. This Journal has advocated Agricultural Schools and Education, and Model-Farms;