

## AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

SINCE our last Report, the weather has continued open and favourable for agricultural operations. Up to this time we had scarcely any frost, and none to stop ploughing for an hour. Indeed we had some days in the latter end of October and beginning of November, that were unusually fine for the season of the year. Up to the 18th of this month, the ground was free from snow in the District of Montreal, and generally throughout Canada East. The cattle had abundant pasture in the fields, and in consequence of the fineness of the weather they did not require to be housed. The open season has allowed ploughing to proceed without interruption, though in some sections of the country, where the soil was strong clay, farmers complained that it was difficult to plough from being too dry. From our own observations and from report, ploughing has been retarded in consequence of the depressed state of agriculture, and the low price of produce. Farmers were unable to employ sufficient labour to do the fall work, and hence were prevented from keeping the plough constantly in operation. It might be advantageous that less land should be ploughed than usual, but we fear that if not ploughed now it will be in spring, and the same quantity of land still kept in arable culture.— There cannot exist a doubt that it would be profitable for us to lessen the quantity of our tillage, and cultivate in a better manner what we did keep in tillage. With a judicious system of cultivation, perfect drainage, and careful weeding of crops, a larger produce might be raised from half the quantity of land we have now in tillage, than we obtain at present from the whole, and we might allow the remaining half to repose in pasture, and recover its fertility. It is most extraordinary that farmers will persevere in tilling a large quantity of land, from which they scarcely obtain sufficient returns to pay for the labour in bringing new, and in some instances, inferior land into cultivation, profitless returns are often obtained by good farmers; but this is a necessary consequence until lands are improved, and can be properly cultivated. There is no excuse, however, for raising scanty and weedy crops on land of good quality, that is cleared and long in cultivation. We wish we could persuade farmers who have strong soils to adopt summer-fallowing, and try what improvement may be produced by it. We do not know any means that would be more in the power of every farmer, to effect the certain improvement of his land than by fallowing, and perhaps there is not in Canada East, one acre summer-fallowed, of every thousand acres in tillage. This is passing strange; and must be a convincing proof that the science and practice of agriculture, is very imperfectly understood by our farmers. We wish we could name even a few individuals, amongst the hundreds of thousands of our population, who had adopted some means to encourage the introduction of a better and more profitable system of agriculture. Seigniors and Censitaires—Patriots and Conservatives—have alike neglected to introduce any regular and general system for the amelioration of agriculture in Canada East.— Had agriculture been in the most flourishing condition of improvement and prosperity, it could

not have been more entirely left to itself. The fact is the more surprising, when we know that the produce of agriculture is the chief resource and dependence both of Seigniors and Censitaires—Patriots and Conservatives. We may be condemned for taking these liberties, but we are indifferent about what may be thought of us for advocating, in the strongest terms, the interests of agriculture. Any individual who thinks he can show cause, why agricultural improvement should not be encouraged or promoted, is at liberty to do so.

We have already reported, as accurately as was in our power, the produce of this year's crops, and the state they were secured in. We have nothing to add on that subject now. Our future anxiety will be—how we can dispose of our produce, whether to advantage or otherwise. We regret to say, we do not at present, anticipate remunerating prices for almost any produce we have to sell. The lowness of the prices, is a convincing proof of the capabilities of the country to yield large returns of beef, pork, mutton, wool, cheese, butter, and other articles, if the industry of the people was properly directed, protected, and encouraged.

Hay would not be selling for 15s. to 20s. the hundred bundles of 1,600 lbs., oats for 1s. the minut, and other grain in proportion, if the country was not capable of producing these articles in abundance. If it is, butchers' meat, cheese, butter, and wool may be manufactured from hay, grain, and roots. We import what we might produce, and have our own producers to languish in poverty. If this be true patriotism or sound policy, we confess we do not understand either one or the other. It is hardly possible to form an accurate opinion, at present, as to the expediency of stall feeding cattle this winter, with any prospect of profit or even remuneration. Produce is low, and likely to continue so, but it is equally low in the neighbouring States: and in spring, they may send here their stall-fed cattle and sheep, and reduce our market prices extremely low, even lower than in their own country, because if cattle are once brought here they must be sold, and they may be brought here to a much greater extent than would be necessary to meet the demand. Hence it is, that there must always be extreme fluctuation in the rate of prices, in all markets that are open to foreign supply. This we look upon as one of the greatest evils of our present system of free trade. What would our merchants think, when they imported goods from Britain, if they were met in the Montreal market with foreign goods of the same description, and to unlimited extent, imported free of duty? If they would not complain loudly, and have cause to do so, we do not understand their character. It will never pay to fatten cattle in winter, for exporting their beef, in a salted state, to England. Stall-fed cattle must be consumed here as fresh beef. It is only grass-fed cattle that will pay, exported in salted beef. We hope every exertion will be made to establish a trade to England, in salted beef and pork.

Cote St. Paul, 21st November, 1842.

EDUCATION.—The article on Education, referred to in the Index, page 181, owing to its length, is omitted.

An Act to regulate the Inspection of Flour and Meal, has been assented and become the law of the land; the requirements of which are very important to be understood. During the last few days, some of our friends have unknowingly violated this law, and suffered its penalty in the public market, which appeared to us very vexatious. When new Acts of such importance come into operation, some plan should be adopted to apprise the public of their requirements. The following Sections will be sufficient to inform the interested parties on the subject:

SEC. 10. "And be it enacted, That the said Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors so to be nominated and appointed, are severally hereby authorized and required to examine and inspect each and every barrel and half barrel of flour and meal, on application being made for that purpose, by the proprietor or possessor thereof, and to ascertain the respective qualities and conditions thereof, by boring the head of each barrel or half barrel and probing the contents to the whole depth of the cask, by an instrument not exceeding five-eighths of an inch in diameter within the gauge or bore of such instrument for that purpose, and after inspecting such flour or meal, the said Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors respectively, shall plug or cause to be plugged the hole bored in each barrel or half barrel for inspection: Provided always, that such inspection may be made either at the store, shop, or warehouse of such Inspector, which he is hereby required to keep in a convenient situation for that purpose, or at some store within the limits of the place for which the Inspectors shall be appointed respectively, at the option of the proprietor or possessor of such flour or meal.

SEC. 22. "And be it enacted, That it shall not hereafter be lawful within this Province to pack flour in barrels for sale of any other than the following weight, namely: half barrels containing ninety-eight pounds net, or barrels containing one hundred and ninety-six pounds net, avoirdupois weight, under the penalty of two shillings for each and every barrel or half barrel offered for sale or inspection or exported, and with regard to which the requirements of this section have not been complied with.

SEC. 23. "And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, each and every manufacturer and packer of flour and meal in this Province, shall provide himself with iron or metal brands or other instruments by which he shall brand, paint or mark, or cause to be branded, painted, or marked the initials of his christian name, and his surname at full length, and the place of packing, the quality and weight of the flour or meal therein contained, and the tare of the cask on one end of each, and every barrel or half barrel of flour or meal packed for sale in a plain and distinguishable manner, before delivery thereof, under the penalty of two shillings for each and every barrel or half barrel of flour or meal packed in this Province, and so delivered or offered for sale, inspection, or exportation with such brands or marks.

SEC. 24. "And be it enacted, That all flour to be hereafter packed in this Province for sale, shall be packed in good and strong barrels or half barrels of seasoned oak or ash timber, and made as nearly straight as may be, and the staves of such barrels shall be of the length of twenty seven inches from croo to croo, and of half barrel of the length of twenty-two inches from croo to croo, with heads of the same; the diameter of the heads of the barrels shall be from sixteen and a half inches to seventeen inches, and of half barrels from thirteen and a half to fourteen inches, and such barrels and half barrels shall be well seasoned and bound with at least ten wooden hoops, of which three shall be at each end, with a lining hoop within the chimney, the whole well secured by nails, under the penalty of two shillings for each and every cask offered for sale, or exported, which shall not be one of the foregoing description of barrels or half barrels."