

Agricultural Journal

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1849.

It may be the opinion of many that we have, and do, occupy too large a portion of this Journal in our endeavours to prove the necessity of adopting promptly, every means that would be most likely to promote the general improvement of Canadian husbandry, as the most certain mode of relief to the country in its present embarrassments, and gloomy prospects. We have adopted this course, because we are firmly persuaded that there is no remedy that can be relied upon for our relief, unless the augmentation of our own productions in quantity and value. There is nothing we can reckon upon, or call our own, but what we produce from our lands, and so far as the produce of these lands may give employment to Canadian manufactures. We can never make foreign trade or commerce profitable except by our own productions that we may have to exchange for our imports. If we have not a surplus produce to export, it is impossible that we can profit much by foreign trade or commerce; indeed we cannot have any foreign trade. Domestic manufactures may assist us to a certain extent, but it is the productions of agriculture we must chiefly rely upon to support our domestic manufactures, as well as every other business in the country. An improving and prosperous agriculture can do more for the general advantage of Canada than any other trade or business we can engage in. It is the most suitable to the situation and circumstances of the country, and to the habits of the population. We have no hesitation in stating that there would be much less difficulty in making the rural population most excellent farmers, than in instructing them in any other business or employment, and we appeal

to every friend of the country, whether it would not be more desirable to see the rural population good farmers, the lands judiciously cultivated, the cattle and sheep suitable, and well kept, and agriculture yielding abundant and profitable returns, than to divert their attention to other and more uncertain modes of obtaining their living. If we wish to see the rural population prosperous, contented, and happy, let us endeavour to secure this happy state to them by instructing them in the best systems of husbandry. Farmers may in many instances be obstinately attached to old modes of husbandry, but if superior modes are exhibited before them, and proved to be superior by their results, they will not reject their adoption more than any other class would refuse to adopt improvements. It is by Model Farms, that Canadian farmers can be best instructed, and encouraged to introduce good systems of agriculture, as they can see at these establishments the practice of good husbandry, and the results obtained from it. We do not believe that there is any country on earth, where the rural population might enjoy more of the conveniences and comforts of life than in this country, provided they were to make the most of their natural advantages. It may be replied to us, that the rural population are already contented and happy, but this will not excuse us from desiring that they should possess more ample means of comfort and happiness, when we know that it is possible these means might be vastly augmented. It appears to be the general desire of the human family to better their condition, and a very laudable desire it is, that we should possess as much of the comforts placed in our power by our Creator, as it would be possible for us to obtain by skill and industry. We believe that education enlarges these desires, and we are not of those who regret that it should have this effect, because education should also have the effect of assisting us in obtaining our reasonable desires, if our training and instruction are what they ought to be. The object of this reasoning is to remove any objections that may be offered to adopting prompt and effec-