

Provincial Journal.

APRIL, 1824.

This month has, as usual, been attended with striking and important changes, both in the aspect of nature; and in the pursuits of men. The disappearance of the snow, cessation of the continued frost, and the return of genial weather, has stirred up the Agriculturist from his winter inactivity. The disappearance of ice in our rivers and their becoming again the medium of communication, has excited the attention of the merchant, while the "busy plying" of boats, batteaus, and all the river craft, with the loading and unloading of the cargoes, has given to our aquatic scenery and to our ports the aspect of bustling commerce.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR APRIL, 1824, FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

From the northern situation of this part of the country, the operations of husbandry seldom take place before the middle of this month, and frequently only at the close of it. But from the rapid melting of the snow in the beginning of the month, then were great hopes that the seed time would be earlier this season than usual. Frequent rains however prevented its general commencement till near the 20th, since which the sowing of wheat has been nearly completed, and the ground has seldom been in better order to receive the seed.

The grass lands have a very favorable appearance, owing to the snow falling early in the autumn, which prevented the roots being injured by frosts. Fat Cattle are very scarce, owing to the deficiency of last year's crops—lean stock low in price, but milch-cows dear and in request. The imported short horned breed of cattle, from their handsome shape and large size are becoming of late the favourites of stock farmers. A cow of this description with her calf got by Eclipse, was sold for £15. The breed of sheep is rapidly improving, and every day points out the great necessity of attending more closely to those useful, but hitherto much neglected animals, for Agriculturists now begin to see clearly the urgent necessity of cloathing themselves from their own flocks, unless a foreign market be found for the surplus productions of the soil.

Those employed in the manufacture of maple sugar have found it one third less in quantity this season, than usual, from the rapid melting of the snow, and the want of frosty nights, which are requisite to make the trees run freely.

Such has been the rapid progress of vegetation, that at the close of the month, the woods were enameled with the early flowers, and the meadows clothed with the verdure of Spring.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR APRIL, 1824, FOR THE DISTRICT OF QUEBEC.

The season during the present month has been a week or ten days earlier than usual. There have been some very warm days and some slight rains at different times of the month. On the 25th the Thermometer stood above 70 degrees; the greater part of the day it was as high as 78 degrees. Many nights of hard frost however intervened. In the night immediately preceeding the warmest day above mentioned, ice was formed of nearly a quarter of an inch in thickness.

The winter's snow had generally disappeared from the greatest portions of the fields at the end of the third week of the month, but large quantities remained in drifts collected in situations sheltered from the winds; some wheat was put in the ground in favourable situations at the close of that week, and during the last week sowing has been fairly commenced.

Ploughing was interrupted last autumn by the early fall of snow at the end of October, and a good deal remains to be done. The ploughed fields are however in excellent condition for sowing, the early snow having protected the ground against the frosts entering further than is necessary for pulverising the surface. The meadows and pastures have come from under the snow green and promising, and the cattle will go to grass in good condition, there having been abundance of forage during the winter. The Clover and Timothy sown last year with the grain have as usual stood the winter well, and the fields of these grasses, in Hay last year, will give full pasture for cattle this year a fortnight earlier than the common pastures.