

Farmers will doubtless be fully prepared to commence work when the land is ready. It is a great advantage in agriculture, as in other matters, to be early in the field. The working season is short here, but, nevertheless, it affords sufficient opportunity generally to the active and industrious farmer to finish his various works in proper season. It will greatly facilitate the spring sowing and planting, to have the manure carried to the fields, where it will be required, and carefully piled there. It is frequently very difficult to cart manure in spring, the land being so wet and soft, and this retards the sowing and planting considerably. However prudent it may be to put off the time of sowing wheat until the latter end of May, there is no necessity to delay the sowing of any other crop. As we have repeatedly recommended, oats should be sown the moment the soil is in a fit state for the harrow; peas, beans, carrots, mangel-wurzel, parsnips, potatoes, and Swedish turnips, may all be sown before the first of May, if the weather is favorable and the land prepared for them. The application of salt for any of these crops will be found useful, at the rate of from five to six bushels to the acre. Unless the season is very favorable barley should not be sown until after the first of May, and we hope farmers will not neglect to sow a due proportion of this grain where the soil is suitable. If there is not Canadian consumption for it, there is every reasonable probability that there will be a good demand for it for the United States. At all events it is an excellent grain for farmers to grow to feed to cattle and pigs, but not in a raw state. It should be coarsely ground, and have boiled water put upon it, and be allowed to stand in a covered vessel, until nearly cold, before it is fed to cattle or pigs. It also answers well ground up with peas, beans, or oats, but the mixture should always have boiling water poured over it before it is made use of. In stall-feeding cattle, whatever quantity of roots the farmer may have, he will find the animals will become fat much sooner, and make better beef, by giving them a mash or two of ground, oats, barley,

beans, or Indian corn, daily. The quantity need not be large, but it is profitable to give some. The low price of hay and straw, and the high price, or, perhaps, we should say the remunerating price, of horses, butchers' meat, and good butter, may be an inducement to farmers to make some change in their system of management this year. There is no doubt that our market for horses, cattle, sheep, pork, and butter, is likely to improve, rather than get worse, notwithstanding the heavy duty that is payable on these products, on importation into the United States. Though extensive that country, the produce of her lands is insufficient to supply all the means she possesses of disposing of it, by the consumption of her own population, and by her commerce. When we came to Canada, there was a large importation of horses, beef, pork, mutton, cheese, butter, poultry, and other things to this country from the United States. The case is now exactly reversed, and we send all these articles to the United States, and there is every probability that this new market is likely to increase every day. This is an encouraging prospect to farmers, and it is very favorable also to the United States, to obtain so conveniently what they find it necessary or advantageous to purchase.

These circumstances are a convincing proof that our Agriculture is not retrograding. During the last shortly four years, the population of the province has more than doubled, and while with a small population we required to import a large portion of our food, with our increased population, and with a greatly diminished production of wheat, we now export a considerable quantity of the produce of agriculture. Indeed Lower Canada, considering the immense amount of loss the farmers have sustained by nearly the total failure of her principle crop wheat, for about fifteen years, have just cause of congratulation at their present condition, and at the prospect of been able to overcome, or, at least, remedy, in a considerable degree, by the introduction of new varieties of seed, the difficulties of producing wheat successfully. We have often thought that, per-