

M A Y.

SUMMARY.—Seasonable remarks—Winter and Spring wheat—Importance of winter wheat crop—How it might probably be risked in safety—General Drainage Bill—How to double the agricultural produce of Canada—Seasonable remarks continued—The garden—Trade prospects—How may the country become self-supporting?

This is the month of the Farmers' toil. During the winter months he should have matured his plans for the approaching season. He has decided on the course to be pursued in the cultivation, cropping, and management of every field. No doubt he may see fit to make many modifications in the carrying out of his pre-arranged system as the season advances, but this will not materially alter the scheme of operations. His stock will now be benefitting by his previous industry in storing up an ample supply of roots and fodder, and this will appear in the thriving and healthy condition at this urging season. Old hay should be steamed and salted to render it palatable; roots should be examined, and decayed ones removed, otherwise, by neglect, a great portion which might by their timely removal be saved, will become totally unfit for the use of stock, and only fit for being carted into the manure heap. The mouths of covered drains must be examined, and obstructions removed—ditches and furrows cleaned out, and channels made for the removal of all stagnant surface water without delay. But he should be careful not to commence ploughing till the ground has been tolerably dry, for, otherwise, he will be but preparing an unfavourable seed bed. We have in previous articles recommended attention to procuring abundant firewood and fencing timber to last till next fall, and attention to repairs as soon as the season will permit.

It is believed that winter sown wheats have suffered severely in many situations, from the sudden changes of temperature. Several march days resembled those of april and may. But in the latter portion of march we experienced cold north-westerly winds, which could not fail to prove injurious. We must be careful hereafter to change our seed frequently—always selecting the growth of different soils and climates, for, by neglecting this precaution, we have frequently been great sufferers. Spring wheat is now largely grown in the Upper Province, it is superseding the winter varieties—and they have been able to reckon on the product with considerable certainty. They resorted to this inferior crop from the great injuries sustained in late seasons by the attacks of insects and severe frosts. Winter wheat brings a higher price in the market, but on wet lands, especially, spring wheat is much more certain and profitable—although the returns for the latter crop would be largely increased by efficient drainage. The rolling of light soils, as early as possible, will be found a good remedy and preservative against the throwing out of the young plants. In cases where the crop has been irreparably injured, no time should be lost in ploughing the ground immediately, and sowing it with spring wheat, or some other crop.

Every means should be tried to raise fall wheat. The first requisite is to have the land thoroughly drained. But the growth of fall wheat, as a sure and abundant crop, would be of incalculable advantages in Lower-Canada. The soil best suited for it is a strong clay soil, thoroughly drained, as looser soils do not afford sufficient anchorage for the roots after severe frosts—the latter being very apt to be thrown out as the soil expands. But to succeed in growing this valuable crop, we must have thorough draining and deep ploughing; for in damp