

THE  
Canadian Agriculturist,

AND

JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. XII.

TORONTO, JANUARY 16, 1860.

No. 2.

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

Winter commenced with more than its wonted vigour, and with the short supply of hay afforded by last year's crop, there is too much reason to fear that the domesticated animals will, in consequence, suffer. Before the commencement of the rigorous weather many farmers had disposed of some of their stock, while others of a reflecting and prudential turn of mind would no doubt devise some means by which they might economise their scanty fodder, and thus render it in the largest degree practicably available for the sustenance of their herds and flocks.

With the risk of repeating ourselves on this subject, its pressing importance is such that we cannot forbear again referring to it. Much even now can be done by enlightened forethought and prudential arrangements. All kinds of stock, including horses and sheep, and even pigs, should as far as possible, *be kept dry and warm*. Most farmers have the means of doing this to a greater extent than is in general found to be the case. A little battenning, or even old cast off pieces of clothing, will, in some situations, do a great deal in stopping crevices between the boards of stables and

byres, thereby mitigating, if not wholly preventing, the baneful effects of cold draughts on animals. This should be among the farmer's first considerations. As to provender, it is not so much the amount, as the quality, and particularly the regularity and manner in which it is given that constitutes its economical value. For want of system and punctual attention, cattle with abundance of food sometimes do very badly. A little provender, especially if cut and mixed, when consisting of different substances, and, given with regularity three times a day, will keep stock in a more thriving condition than a much larger quantity given but once. And during a season like the present, especially, no farmer of any extent should be without a good straw cutter, and steaming apparatus, and if he could add a grain crusher it would be all the better. With these appliances, straw and haulm of all kinds, with roots, flax-seed, &c., can be so mixed and prepared as to render him, in a great degree, independent of hay. True it is, that such a system would require considerable labor and expense, and no less forethought and regular and persevering effort, in order to obtain the maximum advantages and success. The result, however, before the