

sive to keep, and require a large portion of land to support them, when exclusively fed on hay and oats. A working farm horse, fed throughout the year on hay and oats, the latter at the rate of three gallons per day, will consume the produce of seven acres—three acres for hay, and four for oats, at twenty-eight bushels to the acre, which is here rather above a general average. Farmers will find that this estimate is not too high, and hence those who keep a large number of horses, only for the work of the farm, will consume a large proportion of the produce for the support of horses alone. At any considerable distance from our cities, it would be much more profitable to keep oxen for ploughing than horses. Oxen would constantly be increasing in value until a certain age, and then they might be fattened, and replaced by a young set. There is no doubt that a large proportion of the produce of the land of Canada is consumed by horses alone. There is, perhaps, not less than from three to four hundred thousand horses in the Province, and if the latter number only, allowing five acres for each, it requires the produce of two million acres for the support of horses alone. We do not say that this proportion of the land is required for their general mode of keep, but we are convinced that over a million of acres of our land that is arable, is required to keep the horses at present in Canada. This is a serious drawback to the profits of agriculture.

The Turnpike act provides, that the Trustees should have it in their power to "commute the tolls on any road or portion thereof, with any person or persons, by taking a certain sum, either monthly or yearly, in lieu of such tolls." Now, we do not see the use or necessity of this provision, if the Trustees are never to act upon it, however unjust they know it to be, that person should be obliged to pay the same rate of tolls, when making use of only a few perches, a mile or two miles of the road, as those who use it for nine miles, and have the turnpike road made to their doors. The turnpike act has been now a sufficient period on trial, to know that the tolls might be safely and justly commuted, according to the act, with persons residing on or near the line of roads, in proportion to the distance travelled upon it. The only persons who had any concession made to them in respect to commutation of tolls, were the farmers residing on the Lower

Lachine road, or the River Side. These farmers, from the Race Course upwards, were allowed to pass for half the tolls paid by others. We conceive this matter requires the attention of the Government; the government, it is not to be presumed, have any desire that equal justice should not be administered to all under the provisions of this or any other act.

The French minister of agriculture and commerce has lately addressed a circular to the several departments of France, giving a full report of the prospects of food, for the people, for the ensuing eight or ten months. This report is taken from the statistical returns, annually supplied to each prefecture, respecting the results of the last crop, and must be very useful and interesting to the whole community of France. We have often urged the necessity of such statistical returns being annually made in Canada, but without any notice being given to our suggestions. A late number of the *Mark-Lane Express* says, in reference to this subject:—"The state of ignorance in which the country is placed in reference to that species of statistical information necessary to enable us to estimate the amount of food available for use, is disgraceful to the government, and cannot be adverted to too frequently. A matter of such vast importance should not be left to the energy of private individuals." We believe that statistical information might be obtained in Canada, at a trifling expense, now, in particular, through the Municipal Council. The interest that, above all others, is of the greatest importance to the government and people of Canada is neglected, and left to shift for itself. There has been a few thousand pounds given to Agricultural Societies, but we say without hesitation, that this money has not been generally applied in Lower Canada, to the greatest advantage, for producing the improvement of agriculture, where improvement is most required.

We beg to offer our sincere congratulations to our friends and subscribers on the commencement of a new year, and we hope the coming year may bring them all possible health, prosperity, and happiness. Though our hopes may not have been fully realized during the past year, yet we are convinced, that most of us have, upon the whole, much cause of gratitude to our Creator. We may have anxiously wished for many things,