

cities and towns situated on the main line. That from Toronto to Lake Huron, we learn, is already under contract, and active preparations will be commenced on the first opening of spring. It is impossible to foresee the innumerable benefits which a judicious system of railways, adapted to the wants of British America, will produce; population must rapidly increase, by affording additional facilities to immigration; the country will become opened up and settled, and the value of all kinds of property materially augmented. From this source alone, then, we may indulge high hopes of the future.

And now it will not be deemed presumptuous, if in conclusion, we ask the public to aid our humble efforts, in the cause of our country's advancement, by lending a helping hand in circulating the *Canadian Agriculturist*. The efficiency of our monthly sheet, must, in great measure, depend upon the degree of support given to it, both as to the amount of subscribers, and the communication of original matter from practical farmers and others. We require both kinds of aid. To our patrons of the past year, we tender our grateful acknowledgments; and hope for such an increased support for the present, as will enable us to make the *Agriculturist* a more efficient workman in the wide and important field which it seeks to cultivate. *Farmers, will you not both subscribe and write for your own paper?*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN LOWER CANADA.

(Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly.)

We have received from the Hon. H. Sherwood, M.P., a copy of the above Report; which has been prepared in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, passed last session, for the purpose of inquiry into the state of agriculture in Lower Canada, and into the best means of improving it.

This document consists of about 25 pages of the Committee's report, strictly so called, with an Appendix of upwards of one hundred pages, containing communications touching the various points of the inquiry, from several of the most intelligent and experienced farmers and others, in the Lower Province. These letters contain

a good deal of interesting information and useful suggestions, and they are evidently written by men practically conversant with the matters which they have taken in hand. We shall probably have something to say hereafter, on some points contained in these communications; but at present must confine ourselves to some of the principal recommendations in the Committee's report. There is a very interesting paper at the end of the Appendix, on the climate of Upper and Lower Canada, by Dr. Winder, which we hope to present to our readers entire, in a future number.

We have long had an impression that the agricultural as well as manufacturing capabilities both of Lower Canada and the other eastern Provinces of British America, have been very inadequately appreciated by the public in general; and the perusal of the above report, with those of Professor Johnston on New Brunswick and the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, our previous impressions have been deepened and confirmed. These extensive regions, it is true, are not so generally available for agricultural purposes, as the rich table lands of Upper Canada, (for the peninsula bordered by the three great lakes—Ontario, Erie, and Huron—is undoubtedly one of the finest agricultural districts in the world,) and the winters are both longer and severer than in the Upper Province. But from what we have seen and know of the soil and general geological character of Lower Canada, we form a very favourable estimate of its agricultural capabilities. Even the length and severity of the winters are by no means such awful drawbacks as most old countrymen, and not a few of us Upper Canadians, are apt to think. The climate is peculiarly healthy, and both it and the soil are admirably suited to the growth of the best varieties of the grasses, most of the cereals, and the root crops generally.

We were much pleased with the report which the indefatigable Secretary of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society gave of his visit to our late exhibition at Niagara, and with the candid manner in which he states his impression of the condition of our agriculture in the Upper Province. We are glad to observe that he returned from the observation of our progress and improvements, with a stronger hope and belief, that a similar advancement, may and will be achieved in Lower Canada. This is truly encouraging to one who wishes to take an enlarged view of the progress and capabilities and ultimate