

good flavoured potatoe. It is not unusual to class among the humbugs, many valuable roots and plants, before their qualities are properly tested by a regular system of cultivation.

I would recommend the following system for cultivating the Rohans, and if only your readers think proper to adopt it, I am satisfied they will not be disappointed in a crop. Lay out one acre of ground, or any given quantity; let it be well ploughed and harrowed, in fact made as mellow as possible, form it into drills three feet wide, and manure at the rate of fifty cart loads per acre, spread the manure in the drills, cut the potatoes into sets, containing two eyes each, and plant them on the top of the manure in the drills, thirteen inches apart, and cover them with the plough, and by all means have them planted as early in the month of May as possible. The after cultivation merely consists in keeping them clean and free from weeds, and earthing them once or twice as occasion may require, with the plough.—Wishing you success in your valuable publication. I am yours,

JAMES FLEMING.

Toronto, Jan'y 22nd, 1842.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—In spec'ing the Rohans in our classification of modern humbugs, we did so through the firm conviction that they were not what they were boasted to be—second to any, even pink eyes not excepted. Although these invaluable variety of potatoes, as they are termed by their advocates, have succeeded with some under particular circumstances; yet as a potatoe for general cultivation, we would in our humble opinion, consider them inferior to many other varieties. We think the majority of those who have given them a fair trial, will bear us out in this opinion.

As Conductors of a Public Periodical, we may at times err in our judgment, but we will with pleasure, at all times, insert contrary opinions, if they be supported by sound argument, and by persons of practical experience. Our object is to instruct, not to mislead.

From the Montreal Gazette

Mr. Evans' Report, On Agricultural Improvement.

On the cost of breeding and feeding cattle,
sheep and swine.

In my last communication, I stated that I would submit for consideration, what I estimated as the cost to the farmer of breeding, rearing, and fattening animals in this country, I shall begin with neat cattle.

The value of a calf, immediately at her birth, I set down at.....	£0 0 0
Milk for three months, in any situation should be worth five shillings a month.....	0 15 0
Pasturage, from the time the calf is able to eat grass, until the commencement of the following winter.....	0 5 0
Hay, roots, or other winter food, for the first winter, say one hundred and eighty days.....	1 0 0
Cost at the end of the first year from birth.....	£2 6 0
Second year, pasturage for the summer.....	0 10 0
Keep for second winter.....	1 5 0
Cost of the animal when two years old.....	£4 0 0
Third year, pasturage for the summer.....	0 12 6
Keep for the third winter.....	1 10 0
Cost of the animal when three years old.....	£6 2 6
Fourth year, pasturage for the summer.....	0 15 0
Cost of the animal when three and a half years old.....	£6 17 6
I have not charged for attendance, as I consider the manure made by the animal will pay	

for that, I would observe, that if the animal is a heifer, they generally produce a calf at two years old; when her cost amounts only to four pounds currency. In any case they do not exceed three years old, when they produce a calf, and begin to make some return for their keep, and the capital invested in them, in rearing them to that maturity. I do not see, that in any situation in Canada, however remote from market, if the animal has to be fed under cover, or in yards during the winter, that I would estimate their cost at less than I have set down for the several periods. Hence it will be perceived that a heifer of two years old, the earliest possible period that she can yield any return to the farmer, has cost him four pounds currency. And an ox kept to three years and a half old, the earliest possible period that he would be fit for the shambles, will have cost the farmer six pounds, seven shillings and six pence currency. In this estimate I have omitted any allowance for casualties, which would at least require ten per cent on agricultural animals. Interest on capital should also be allowed. As the quality of the animals will depend chiefly upon the breed and keep, I cannot pretend to estimate accurately their value when at maturity; or at the several periods above referred to. Under ordinary circumstances in Eastern Canada, I do not suppose that I could fairly estimate the weight of an ox of three years and a half old, at more than from five to six hundred pounds weight, of beef, hide, and tallow. Hence it will be easy to calculate and ascertain what price beef should bring to pay the Canadian farmer the first cost, interest on capital and a reasonable profit. It is perfectly clear, however, that the present prices in our markets will not refund the farmer his actual expenditure. In the present state of our agriculture, I doubt very much, if the average weight of Lower Canada oxen at three and a half years old, would exceed five hundred pounds at the utmost. If cattle are well kept at all times until at maturity, they may produce more weight of beef and tallow, but they will cost the farmer more than I have estimated for them. No farmer residing within convenient distance to market, can raise cattle at the estimate I have laid down for them. If oxen should be kept the fourth winter, and stall fed, they might pay better, but the number thus fed should find a home market, and that would be very limited, and in fact it cannot be counted upon with any degree of certainty under present circumstances. A farmer may expend a large amount in stall-feeding a lot of cattle, and when they are ready for the shambles, a lot of fat cattle are brought in from the United States, and the price may be reduced to what they cost him when put up from grass, or very nearly so. Hence it is, that none of our farmers can safely attempt to feed cattle for Canada markets, as there is no assurance to him of anything but loss. I do so.

Of the cost of raising horses, it is needless for me to make any estimate. The sale of horses depends a good deal upon fancy, and other accidental circumstances, and as the farmer will always require horses, they have to be raised at whatever cost.

It is scarcely necessary for me to attempt to estimate the cost to the farmer of raising sheep to maturity. I may observe, however, that it is only by the most careful management of sheep that they can pay the farmers in Canada. If a good produce of lambs are not annually raised in proportion to the number of the flock kept, it is impossible the keeping of sheep can remunerate the farmer. It requires a lamb, and fleece of good weight, to pay for the keep of a ewe, that is kept as she should be kept to insure profit.—While thousands of sheep are constantly coming in from the United States, sheep never will be generally and extensively kept in Canada, however necessary and advantageous they would be to Canadian agriculture. We have abundant proof that there is not anything in the climate or soil of Canada, that would prevent us raising and keeping the best of sheep, as we have several flocks of the finest and most valuable description of those animals in the neighbourhood of Montreal and in many other parts of the country.—The owners of these choice flocks may, I suppose, even under the present unfavourable circumstances, find ample remuneration, but it is because there are only a few, comparatively, of such choice flocks in the country. If good sheep were more generally to be found, and the free admission of foreign sheep to continue, no farmer

could keep sheep profitably, of whatever description.

Few experiments have been made in Canada on the feeding of swine, with a view to ascertain the actual cost of producing a certain quantity of pork. Swine, to a certain age, are chiefly fed on the offal of dairies, the kitchen, and on grass in summer. It costs something, however, to bring them to a age, that they are fit to put up to fatten. A good breed of pigs put up to fatten in fair condition, if fed on peas, (the very best food for making good pork), may increase in weight at the rate of about one pound or something over, for every gallon of peas they consume, and if fattened on other grain or vegetables, they will be found to increase in weight very nearly in proportion to the nutritive matters contained in the sort of grain or vegetables they are fed upon, compared with the nutriment in peas. In England, where dairies are kept, they generally keep one pig for every four cows, and they expect that each pig, will, during the summer, fed on the cheese whey and offal of the dairy increase in weight about 200 lbs., or about 50 lbs. for the waste of each cow. I suppose the same result would be obtained in Canada. From the nearest estimate I can make of the cost of feeding pork, from the period of putting swine up to fatten, I believe that every pound weight of flesh they give, will cost the farmer at least three pence, or at the rate of five dollars the 100 lbs. In most cases, it will cost much more, when there is not a good breed of swine, and when they are not judiciously attended to. Any individual who will purchase store pigs in our markets, and try the experiment of buying food for fattening them, will find that the pork fed, will cost him double what the farmer can sell for, or I should rather say, can obtain for it, in our markets. In England they expect that a bushel of barley will produce ten pounds of green bacon when first dried, provided the hogs are of a good breed, and easy to fatten.

It is much to be regretted that we have not the result of accurate experiments on the feeding of neat cattle, sheep, and swine in this country.—When such experiments would be made, they should be very carefully attended to throughout.—If this was not done, it would only lead us into error. At the commencement of the experiment, the animals, of whatever kind, should be weighed, and subsequently every month at least, during the time of feeding, and finally at the close of the experiment. Also, the food consumed daily, weekly, and monthly, the sort of food made use of, and whether raw, boiled, whole or ground.—The age, and breed of the animals should be noted, and whether male or female, or had produced young. Experiments might also be made on grass fed cattle of various breeds. It is by adopting such measures, that farmers will understand their business, and the value of various varieties of animals, and of the food they consume. I have seen many wonderful statements of what animals have been brought to, but not a title of information of the cost of bringing them to that great perfection. The farmers of Canada want profit more than show, and have not capital to expend, without some prospect of its being refunded to them.

I am sorry that I could not give more accurate information on the cost to the farmer of feeding pork. If I am found in error in any of my estimates, I shall be glad to be set right. My only object is to bring the subject fairly before the public, and with that view, I have made my estimates as accurately as was in my power, and without any intention to mislead.

In conclusion, I am happy to have it in my power to acknowledge the receipt of the first number of the *British American Cultivator*; having only received it last night, I had not an opportunity of reading the articles throughout; I have seen sufficient of it, however, to warrant me in recommending it to every farmer in British America, and wish the proprietors every possible success in their laudable undertaking. Such a paper was greatly wanted in Canada, and if the farmers desire their interests to be advocated fairly, and constantly attended to, they will support this paper, and give it a full and fair trial.

WM. EVANS,

Cote St. Paul, Dec. 31, 1841.

PRUDENCE.—Prudence is of more frequent use than any other intellectual quality; it is exerted on slight occasions, and called into action by the ordinary business of common life.