

To the Editor of the Farmer & Mechanic.

It was with much pleasure that I received your proposals for publishing an Agricultural paper in the province of Canada, as I believe there is not a paper devoted to that department in British North America. It has been to me matter of surprise that among all the papers published in our country not one was found devoted to the great interests of Agriculture, especially when it is so well known that the farmers constitute by far the largest portion of the community.

By some it has been thought that a paper solely devoted to agriculture and to the farming interests could not be supported in Canada. The reason assigned for this is, that the farmers are not a reading people. Is this true? Is it a fact that the people in Canada, on whom all others here depend for a subsistence—on whom devolves the principal burden of the country's improvement as well as the councils of the state, are an ignorant and non-reading people? It is no such thing. So far as my knowledge extends, there is not a class of men in Canada who read as much as the farmer, who at the same time labor as much. The commercial classes do perhaps take as many or more papers, but their principal object is, to know the rate of prices and the condition of stocks in market; not altogether for the purpose of reading to improve the mind.

Perhaps one principal reason why the farmer does not take more papers is, because there has not been one published, that has come to his knowledge, treating on those subjects about which he was immediately concerned or interested. Of late, however, being convinced of the importance of agricultural papers to the country, and determined at all events to have them, we have sent to the United States for several devoted to the business of agriculture, some hundreds of copies of which are now circulating among us; the benefit derived from which can scarcely be told. I would not be without one for ten times its cost. The hints which have been offered—the trials which have been made—the experiments which have been tried and published, together with all the theoretical and practical knowledge which are the results of much observation and long experience—when brought together, form the farmer's casket, and a treasury of available knowledge worth more annually to every industrious farmer than ten times its cost.

I much rejoice to learn that we are to be favored with a native production on agriculture: it is what we have long wanted, and I have anxiously looked for. Brother farmers, it is our duty now to arouse from the stupor and lethargy which has so long held us inactive, and make one united effort to extend the circulation of the "Canadian Farmer" as far as possible, and put the paper on a permanent footing. This is our part of the work: it is not only our duty but our interest.

This is avowedly an experiment, a laudable and praiseworthy experiment; and should it fail of success, there is no reason to hope that a second attempt will soon be made, and hundreds of pounds will be carried out of the country to obtain that which, by a little exertion, might be had at home. Who will make the first attempt? J. C. McDONALD.

Wood creek, July 3d, 1841.

PROPER TIME OF CUTTING WHEAT.

The period of maturity most proper in every respect for the cutting of wheat has long been a subject of discussion. So long as wheat was thrashed by hand, it was found necessary to let it ripen fully, or the loss in thrashing would exceed the gain from any other source; but since machines have been generally introduced, this difficulty has passed away, and the question placed on other grounds. It is now, how does early cutting affect the weight and quantity of grain and the quality of flour, as compared with that harvested at a later period? Many experiments have been made to test and settle this matter, but the best and most satisfactory we have seen, are those detailed in the last No. of the Q.

J. of Agriculture, made by Mr. HANNAM, of Yorkshire, an intelligent and able farmer. Mr. Hannam selected for his experiment a field of the old square headed red wheat, and on the 4th of August, 1840, cut a sheaf. Both straw and ears were green and full of sap. The grain was perfectly formed, but the chaff adhered firmly to it, and it was so soft and full of milk, that the slightest pressure reduced the whole to a pulp. The sheaf stood in the field a fortnight, when it was housed, and the same day, August 18th, another cut. In this the wheat was not ripe, but what is called "raw." The straw for a foot from the ground was yellow, and above that, though to appearance green, still was turning yellow. The grain, though still soft and mashed easily, was not near so full of fluid or milk as before. At the end of a fortnight this sheaf was housed, and September 1, or the same day, another was cut. This last sheaf was ripe, the straw uniformly yellow, but not so ripe as to have the heads break, or grain fall out, and at the end of a fortnight this was also housed. Each sheaf was carefully preserved, and finally thrashed and the chaff separated, by itself. The gross weight was ascertained by an accurate balance, as was that of a fixed measure, and an equal number of the grains. The result was as follows, the experiment of weighing being several times repeated to prevent error:

Time of cutting.	Gross produce.	Equal measure.	Equal No. of grains.
Aug. 4th, (very green),	576	568	19½
Aug. 18th, (raw),	736	580	23½
Sept. 1, (ripe),	650	570	22½

100 straws of an equal length were then selected from each of the bundles, and weighed as follows:

Green,	550
Raw,	475
Ripe,	450

To ascertain the actual value of each quality, samples of each were exhibited to an extensive wheat grower, and then put into the hands of a factor and miller, to know what they would give. The opinion of the grower and the miller was as below.

	Value per quarter by the wheat grower.	Value per quarter by the miller.
Green,	61s.	61s.
Raw,	64s.	63s.
Ripe,	62s.	62s.

It appears from these experiments that the "raw" wheat had the advantage over the "ripe" in every respect—

1st, weight of gross produce,	13 1-5 per cent.
2d, do. equal measure,	1 ½ " "
3d, do. equal number of grains,	2 1-5 " "
4th, in quality and value,	3 ½ " "
5th, in weight of straw,	5 " "

The "ripe" had the advantage over the "green" in every respect but that of the straw, in which the green had an advantage of 22 per cent.

Green,	£11 11 10
Raw,	13 7 3
Ripe,	12 17 3

Our readers will judge of these experiments for themselves; we must add, there are considerations of great weight in favor of cutting wheat before it is "dead ripe." These are, more time for securing the crop; less waste in harvesting from the shelling of the grain; and a better quality of the straw, a thing of no small consequence where it is as extensively used for feeding stock, as in our wheat growing districts. It is also the opinion of millers, we believe universally, that early cut grain makes far better flour than that which becomes fully ripe before cutting. It is probable the same facts would hold good of barley, rye, oats, &c., and it would seem desirable that farmers should ascertain these points, as small profits, or small losses, in the aggregate, are the things that make, or ruin, the cultivator of the soil.

There is a great waste by many in harvesting grain from using bad implements, not paying attention to putting it up properly in the field when cut, and performing all parts of the work in a slovenly and unfarmerlike manner. There is a deal of wheat and other grain, put into the barn or stack after rains, or before the straw or green matters the sheaves may contain are cured, in such a state that the central parts of the sheaf heat, mold, and become nearly rotten. The result is bad wheat, musty and poor flour, all which might be avoided by care in the several processes through which the crop passes.

ON GRAFTING.

WAX FOR GRAFTING.

Prepare your wax by melting seven parts of rosin, two of beeswax, and one of tallow together. Pour this when melted into cold water, say a pound at a time, and having rubbed your hand thoroughly with lard, press and work the wax in your hands till it is pliable, and the water forced out, it is then ready for use. Wax prepared in the above manner will remain on the trees three years and protect the stumps from the weather. If a larger proportion of beeswax or tallow are used, although the scions will grow, the wax will soon wash off and not protect the stump a sufficient length of time. The wax when used must be sufficiently warm to spread easily. I always spread it with my fingers, having first rubbed them with lard to prevent the wax from adhering to them. I cover the top of the stump, and the split on both sides as far as it extends; the wax on the top of the stump should be the thickness of a cent. It may be somewhat thinner on the sides. Great care should be used to make the cleft both air and water tight, and if once made so with the wax, it will remain through the year.

The time for grafting will depend much on the forwardness of the season. I think the best time is when the buds first begin to open. Scions will live set any time after the sap begins freely to circulate, and till the apples on the trees are as large as musket balls, yet those set late, not having the advantage of the whole season, will not grow as much the first year.

CORN.

This great staple article will require great attention. The thrifty farmer will see to it in season. All that is planted will not come up, and in many instances where it does not shoot up, it is cut off by accident or other causes. To guard against this, and fill up the gaps, I find transplanting preferable to re-planting; and there is no difficulty in this, as there is generally a surplus of plants. Great care should be observed in taking up the stalks for transplanting not to injure the roots, and to retain about them as much of the soil as possible. The after culture of corn requires very particular attention. The earth must be kept open or well pulverized, and free of weeds; as it is impossible to get two full crops, one of weeds and the other of grain, from the same ground at the same period. The culture, as it does not injure the lateral roots, and opens the earth for the action of the sun and air. Of late years I have followed the plan of planting my corn in rows, and I think it a decided improvement.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The children of the rich are much helped, whilst those of the poor have to help themselves; this weakens the energies of the former and strengthens those of the latter; depressing one and elevating the other; and this keeps the wheel of fortune always revolving.

KINGSTON MARKET.

August 17.

The Kingston Market is well supplied with all kinds of vegetables, of flesh meats and fruits.

The following are current prices.

Beef per cwt. fresh,	20s to 21s 3d
Mutton, per pound,	0 3d to 3½d
Veal, " "	0 3d " 3½d
Ham, " "	0 6d " 7d
Chickens, per pair,	1s " 1s 3
Eggs fresh, (scarce), per dozen,	0 9d " 10d
Potatoes, per barrel,	3s " 0 0
Apples, " "	12s " 15s 0
Pears, " "	25s " 0 0
Hay, per ton,	50s " 60s 0
Flour, per barrel fine,	27s " 28s 0
Superfine, per barrel,	30s " 31s 0
Oats, per bushel,	3s " 0 0