

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

AND

# TRANSACTIONS

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## Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

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There are several excellent English Agricultural books and periodicals at the rooms of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, in Montreal, from which selections might be made, translated into the French language, and circulated throughout the country, and to the local schools, with great advantage, we conceive, to the cause of Agricultural improvement. There are also many excellent French works. Of course, these selections should be made carefully, and with practical experience of the subject, as there are few foreign works on Agriculture from which selections can be made, without considerable modifications and explanations, to suit our different climate and circumstances. To copy any of these works, literally, however excellent instructions they contain, would be likely to lead our farmers into error, in many cases, and act as a discouragement to improvement, instead of encouragement. Doubtless, there is only one method of ploughing well, but the same form of ridges that would answer well in another country, would not be suitable here. There is only one mode of draining well, but the modes practiced in the temperate climates of Europe cannot be generally adopted here, without considerable modification, particularly as regards the depth of drains, and the careful construction of those that are covered. Sowing, planting, and harrowing may be done here as in England, so far as the mode of executing the work is concerned; but we cannot sow grain in drills without having our soil sufficiently pulverized by repeated ploughings. The mode of harvesting grain crops

might be the same here as in England, where the crops are clean and free from much grass and weeds; but where this is not the case, the Canadian mode of allowing the crop to remain a few days in the swarth, after cutting, before it is bound up, is the best, in ordinary seasons, as it allows the grass and weeds to wither and dry, and the grain will keep better, subsequently, when housed. In other countries, they stack most of the grain; and even, if there does happen to be any grass or weeds in the crop, which is seldom the case, the ends of the sheaf being exposed to the air, it is not likely to produce injury to the grain, as it would when put up in large quantities in a barn. The saving of hay must be conducted differently here from what it is in the old countries. It does not require so much exposure, or anything like the same time in curing. The management of cattle and sheep must also be different, and the food raised for their keep and fattening — turnips being the grand crop made use of for fattening in the British Isles. Here, we never can cultivate them advantageously to the same extent for that purpose, from the excessive rigour of our winter. There are many other circumstances which we might enumerate, that require to be perfectly understood, in order to make selections from foreign works, that shall be instructive and useful to Canadian farmers.

It appears, however, to be contrary to the object for which a library is collected, if all the information contained in this library is to remain unknown in the Society's rooms, except to the few persons who visit these rooms, and