

AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

AND

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

VOL. 2.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1849.

NO. 12.

We perceive by our late exchange papers that the Board of Education are about establishing Agricultural Schools and Model Farms, in every county in Ireland, and the reports of those already in existence are most encouraging, to carry out fully this plan for the amelioration of agriculture in that country. It is stated that where competent persons have been appointed as masters, the scholars have received a sufficient education, together with instruction in the art and practice of agriculture. The farms are in general small, much too small, we would suppose, for this country. The ordinary sized farms would, perhaps, answer here, but we should prefer them to be larger, where lands can be had so cheap, and they would always be increasing in value. It is time that some action should be taken in this matter in Canada. The plan is universally (we might say) approved of. We have written and published a great deal in this Journal on the subject, but that is all that has yet been done towards the establishment of what could not fail to prove beneficial to our country. Much is said about the want of funds for the purpose. We have from our first arrival in this country heard of the great value of the Jesuits' estates, that should have been appropriated to general education. Are not these estates yet forthcoming, and might not a portion of them be applied to the establishment of Agricultural Schools and Model Farms? We cannot understand why there should appear such a disinclination to have the rural population receive an education that would be connected with the business they were to be em-

ployed in for life. In a former number of this Journal we stated that the whole bent of the education of farmers' sons is in a contrary direction to the profession of their fathers, and that proposed for themselves to follow. It is not so with other professions. They have some school training to fit them for the practice of the future business they are to be employed in. A farmer's son, on the contrary, during the period he attends school, may have never seen even a book that had any reference to agriculture—and he may leave school as ignorant of all that relates to the business of his life, as if he had never been at school—in fact he comes home fit for any business rather than a farmer. It is time to put an end to such absurd teaching for farmers' sons, and we are firmly persuaded they should not attend any school where suitable agricultural books are not provided for their reading, whether the master knows anything of agriculture or not. To be obliged to do this would not unfit them for other business. There is a pressing necessity that youths should be instructed in such a way as may be the most useful to them in after life. We would think it an absurdity were we to have our children instructed only in the language and figures of the Chinese, although they might never see China or any of its inhabitants. We conceive it equally absurd to have the whole tendency of the education of the farmers' children directed to fit them for other occupations rather than their own. There are numerous publications on the subject of agriculture, that might be very properly introduced in schools, and would af-