

THE

# Canadian Agriculturist,

OR

JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. XIV.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 1, 1862.

No. 21.

## Hints for November.

The agricultural year in this part of the world may now be considered almost closed. What still remains to be done consists in finishing the getting up and storing away of root crops, a work that should now be completed without delay. Ploughing should be proceeded with as long as the ground continues unfrozen, and every effort made to give a finish to the operations of the farm before stern winter finally sets in. The severe and protracted drought of the spring and early portion of summer seemed at the time almost to annihilate the farmer's hopes, but in consequence of subsequent rains and genial temperature the result of his labors and care has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations. In many parts of the Province the crops in general were proved abundant, and in none has anything like a failure been experienced; a circumstance that imperatively calls for gratitude to the bountiful Giver of all good.

The farmer in this climate, whatever perseverance he may have exercised, always finds enough to do at this season to bring his operations to a proper and satisfactory conclusion by the time that the advent of winter actually takes place. Too many have not safely stored their roots or completed as much ploughing as is desirable before that imperious master—frost—puts a stop to most out of door operations. The ploughing deeply, and however roughly heavy land, so as to expose the largest amount of surface to the action of frost and snow, produces a vast benefit

on the soil in a chemical as well as mechanical point of view, and materially diminishes the labour of spring in procuring a suitable seed bed for next year's crops. On some soils autumnal ploughing will save at least twenty-five per cent of spring labour, besides the enriching of the land without any outlay to the farmer. The soils least benefitted by these means are such as are naturally loose and sandy, the particles of which will often run together before the time of spring seeding, and become almost as compact as though they had not been operated on with the plough.

Another subject demands the farmer's attention at this season, namely the scouring, when necessary, of surface drains. Before the setting in of winter all obstructions to be found in ditches and open furrows should be removed, that the large amount of water occasioned by the melting of the snow and the rains of spring may readily find an exit, and thus prevent the serious injury so often seen done both to the soil and the young crops by the action of stagnant water. Winter wheat is often seriously injured from negligence in this matter. At present, and in the nature of things it must in a new country continue so for some time to come, the surplus of our fields is often very irregular and uneven, and the water which accumulates in the depressions of our fields, proves highly detrimental to the cultivated crops. Under-draining and getting a smooth surface must necessarily be the work of time, involving too