

For two cars for conveying lumber from the Mill, \$100 per pair, or \$50 for each.

For extra head blocks, \$30 per pair.

For bands for propelling, 55 cts. per square foot.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

SINCE our last Report we have experienced the extremes of the lowest and highest temperature, that has been known to occur in a Canadian winter for many years past. On Monday the 2nd of January, we had it about 24 degrees below Zero; and for the last week, it has been warm enough for April, so much so that almost all the snow has disappeared from the fields, and the ice has become unsafe for passing upon in many places, were, previous to this thaw, there was firm bridges formed. In front of Montreal there is a channel open in the river, and the ice that is formed is very bad. Indeed it will require very cold weather to produce a good and safe communication to Laprairie this winter. These thaws are not favourable for this country, particularly at this season of the year. It interrupts all communication between the country and our markets, and between one section of the country and another. Unchangeable winter for four months, with a good covering of snow on the lands, will always be the most favourable sort of weather for Canada. Soft open winters, would not be the most suitable for the present circumstances of the country. We should not, therefore, repine at the severity of our climate, for if more moderate, it would not be so favourable for this country, until her population and wealth are much greater than at present. Neither our agriculture or commerce are in the most flourishing state of prosperity at this moment, nor do we see any great probability of improvement immediately in either. We are not in possession of what is required to make both prosperous—namely a large and valuable produce created in the country, which we could give in exchange or in payment of imported goods. It is useless to import goods if the country has not means of paying for them. The merchant imports goods and sells them on a credit, and these goods may be retailed out by country merchants to the inhabitants, but when the time of payment arrives, there is not wherewithal to discharge the debt. A few bushels of barley, oats, and peas, that a farmer may have to dispose of will not do much for him at present prices, and a part of what he receives for these he pays away for United States flour for his own food. All that the farmers of Eastern Canada have to dispose of now is consumed in the country. It is not as heretofore, consumed in manufacturing lumber for exportation. Where lumber is manufactured at present, the food consumed by the labourers is chiefly of foreign production. We do not say that our agriculturists are suffering more now by the depression in business, than other classes, but we say that the general depression has been produced, not by agriculturists, but by the neglect and mismanagement of those who had the charge of our interests in their hands. This country has suffered in consequence of not having produced wheat to any extent for the last seven or eight years, and not attempting to produce any substitute for wheat. This non-production has been the true

cause of all the evils now felt by all classes of this community—and no efforts have been made to remedy these evils. All that has been done was to resort to a foreign country—the United States—to purchase their produce when it could not be had here for exportation. But it is impossible that this trade could make up to this country the deficiency in the value of her own production. No: We take upon us to say that no business class of this community ever can be permanently prosperous, if we do not create annually a larger and more valuable produce than we do at present. The merchant who imports goods must pay for them, but if he sells them to Canadian consumers, it is only by a produce raised here they can be paid for to the merchant. If we refer back to the year of a large export of Canadian grown wheat, (we believe it was 1830 or 1831), we shall find it was one of general prosperity here with all classes; and we never experienced so prosperous a time since. We think it our duty when writing a report of this nature, to submit our humble views of the state of our agricultural affairs. If our views are incorrect, we would take pleasure in being set right and in acknowledging our error. If we could be instructed in any other business whereby we could obtain a more certain and easy subsistence than by agriculture, we have no particular inducement just now to continue in that business however partial we may have been to it. Low prices for produce, and high wages for the labourers who produce it, must be a very unprofitable business for the farmer. All that a farmer has to purchase is as high as in years past, while what he has to sell does not bring much more upon an average than half the price of the few years last past. We can say, from experience, that we have upon several occasions this winter and last fall, sold hay in the Montreal market for less money than it cost us to bring it to market, and pay the expense of weighing, turnpike, &c. This however was only when it remained over unsold to a second day, and when impossible to sell it the first day at any price. Were we to apply our hay or pasturage to fattening cattle for the Montreal market, we would incur just as much risk of losing the whole of our hay and pasturage, in consequence of our market being open to foreign supply from a country where they feed sheep for their wool and fat, and feed their hogs on the mutton. If we had our own markets secured to us, we could not complain of prices however low; but we are now placed in an unnatural position, by a free trade into the country, and a restricted trade out of the country—so far as regards the United States. Instruct the ignorant, and encourage and protect the producers of Canada, and if the general circumstances of the country will not soon improve, it is not fit for the residence of man. We only require to be secured in the possession of our natural advantages to insure us a more prosperous condition for every class. The experiment is, at least, deserving a fair trial. The great evil of our present position is, that we do not create any surplus produce in Eastern Canada, to enable us to purchase what we require of foreign production. The small amount of value that is raised is only to supply a part of our home consumption, and there is scarcely any part exported. We would have no objec-

tion to a home trade provided it was sufficient to answer our wants. There could not be any state better for this country than to be able to import largely, and pay for all these imports in cash if we could procure it. But as this is not possible, we cannot import largely and pay for our imports, unless we produce abundance and dispose of this produce to customers out of Canada. Every man may have his own way of accounting for the present depression in all branches of business and industry in Canada, but we humbly conceive the true cause of it is, the poverty of the country, in consequence of a deficient production, and until this is remedied, it is vain to expect much improvement in our affairs. It is by the produce of this country that the inhabitants are to become rich and prosperous, not by the produce of a foreign country. This matter is of more consequence to all classes than they are aware of. Farmers will have to give up purchasing imported goods, if they cannot pay for them. In that case they must adopt the plan of manufacturing for themselves from their own raw produce of wool, flax, &c. This must be the inevitable consequence, unless some change for the better soon takes place. We have some idea of the real state of the agricultural class generally at this moment throughout the country, and we believe that for many years past, their funds in cash have not been reduced so low as at present. How could it be otherwise, when United States beef is selling in our markets at one penny per pound; Sheep, at half a dollar the carcass, and other things in proportion; Oats from 10d. to 1s.; Barley, 2s. to 2s. 6d. and Peas at 1s. 8d. to 2s. per minute; Hay from 12s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. the 1,600 lbs.; and Straw from 5s. to 10s. the 1,200 lbs. That produce should be so low as these prices is not advantageous to any class of this community. We never would wish for very high prices, neither would we wish they should be so low as not fairly to refund the expenditure in their production. We have observed this year the great inconvenience of narrow snow roads. When a law was passed enforcing an alteration in the construction of winter carriages, the same law should have provided for winter roads of sufficient width. Twelve feet wide is the least they should be to afford accommodation. It has been almost impossible to travel upon the roads this year, with two horses abreast, in case of meeting other carriages: indeed, it is with great difficulty that single-horse carriages can pass each other, even upon some of our turnpike roads. When the law respecting winter carriages was before the Council, we took the liberty of suggesting the necessity of the law providing that the roads should be twelve feet wide; and we are now fully convinced that one law was as necessary for us as the other. It is as inconsistent to have narrow roads for our winter carriages as they are constructed now, as it would be to build a stable for a horse or ox that would have the door too small for either to enter. The old Canadian trains—which we have no desire to see again, were the only suitable carriage for narrow roads, as they might rub against each other without catching or breaking. Those who contract to keep the turnpike roads in order during the winter, should be compelled to track them and make them passable by one foot wide. This would be a good example for the country