

THE

# CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

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This number completes our journal for this year; and it is now for our friends and subscribers to show, by their support, whether they approve of the exertions we have made to make the journal useful, and give satisfaction. It would be incurring a needless expense to continue the publication, if it was not sufficiently supported by subscribers who would consider it worth reading and paying for. If we were properly supported, we could enlarge our journal, and make it much more useful. We have abundance of matter for a paper of double the size; and if we obtain encouragement, we promise that the publication shall be enlarged to thirty-two pages of the same size as the present number. As we stated in a former number, we have no desire to tax our friends for the support of this publication, unless it is considered useful, and likely to advance the improvement of Canadian agriculture. It is for this object we publish—but it is our subscribers and readers who are the best judges of the value of our publication for this purpose.

We have received the most satisfactory letters of approval and encouragement from many of the Roman Catholic clergymen throughout the Province, who assure us that our journal is likely to produce much good amongst the Canadian farmers. If we did not anticipate this result, we never would publish a line on agricultural improvement; and we now feel perfect confidence that we would be able to promote the object we have so much at heart, if we were supported. It is not party or individual interests that we ask for support in this undertaking, but upon the principle of being able to advance the general prosperity of Canada. If agricultural publications have proved useful in the British Isles, and the United States, they should be equally useful here; and we have it in our power to give selections from the best publications on this subject. We can appeal to our subscribers, that for the present year we have been most cautious in selecting only such articles as were likely to be useful, excluding all exaggerated statements, which would only tend to lead into error. If the production of the country was to be augmented a fourth, a third, or a half, annually, or to be doubled, which is quite possible, how vastly would the resources of the country be increased, for the purchase of British goods, for revenue—and all that was necessary for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants? We should consider our journal of very little value indeed, if it would not be the means of increasing the revenue alone, very many thousand pounds annually. If the means of the people are increased, there is a certainty they will buy and pay for goods that are subject to revenue.

It is on the ground of public usefulness, that we

would ask public support, and upon no other. The experiment is worth being made. There is no deficiency of intellect in the agriculturists of Canada, more than with the farmers of any other country, who are not sufficiently educated. It is impossible that men will long reject improvements proposed to them in reasonable and proper terms, if such improvements are likely to add to their means of convenience and comfort in their families. The deficient education of the agricultural class is an objection with many to the circulation of agricultural publications, under the impression that they could not be read or understood. To this objection we would reply, that there is not a country parish, and perhaps not a family, now in Canada, who have not some individuals who can read; and we have also the country schools, where these publications could be read and explained. If only two or three persons in each parish were to adopt improvements, and prove the utility and profit of such changes, it would induce others to adopt the same improvements. This matter has always been neglected, and now we blame the people because they are not so far advanced in agricultural improvement as in other countries.

If our Legislature will only take up the subject this Session, and adopt such measures for the encouragement of agricultural improvement, as will be the most judicious and best calculated to accomplish that object, they will have done more for the real good of the country than has been done for it in the last fifty Sessions of our Provincial Parliament. Whatever doubt may exist with regard to the good working of other laws that are untried, there can be none respecting the good that will result from instructing and encouraging the improvement of agriculture. It is not a political question between parties, but one which all agree should be advocated by all, and entitled to obtain general support. Our purpose would be to send a few numbers of our journal, in the French and English languages, into every parish in Eastern Canada, through the Clergy, for distribution, and to the country schools. We can offer no guarantee for our future conduct of this journal, except our past unpaid exertions in the same cause. We would now wish to be secured against loss for the future, until the publication could support itself, and we would further desire some remuneration that would enable us to devote more time and attention to the subject, in order that it should be equal to any other publication of the kind in North America. Montreal, the capital of British America, should be second to none in her encouragement of agricultural improvement.