

THE
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 1, 1845.

No 12.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The whole month of November has been unusually fine for the season of the year, and has given farmers ample opportunity of ploughing, draining, and completing their fall work. It has also saved a large quantity of forage, as cattle and sheep did not require, generally, much more than they were able to procure in the fields, the weather has been so very mild, and no check given to vegetation. This is a great advantage, as the quantity of hay was very short this year, and much of the straw has been damaged previous to, and in progress of harvesting. The large proportion of the potato crop that is lost, is a farther drawback on the farmer's means of supporting stock, and it is therefore a fortunate circumstance, that the weather was mild so long after the period of the commencement of winter, compared with the two last years. A few days or weeks, at this season of the year, that will admit of ploughing, and other field work to go on, is of great consequence to agriculturists, for the ensuing year, as it allows time to finish work, and execute it properly. When work is done in too great a hurry, it cannot be done perfectly or well. We hope farmers have adopted the method, where practicable, of ploughing in the manure this fall, in land intended for potatoes or carrots next spring. We know it is a good plan, provided the land is well drained. We regret the non-use of lime in Canadian agriculture, though we are not sure that it would prevent the disease in potatoes, as lime is seldom used in the cultivation of this crop. We would recommend, however, that it should be made use of next year, when the potatoes are planting, or before they are moulded. Even a few bushels to the acre, we believe, would have a good effect, and it would be sure to benefit the ensuing crop, whatever it might be, to a greater extent than the cost of the lime. The use of lime in connection with sufficient draining, would be a most beneficial improvement in Canadian agriculture, and is much

required. There are many situations in Canada that have limestone, and free, convenient to means of water communication, and in such situations, lime might be made cheaply, and conveyed to places where required for agriculture, at a price that would make it advantageous to farmers to purchase and use it. Marl of the very best quality, is also to be found in abundance in Canada, and, we have no doubt, it might be applied beneficially to some soils, and the expense would not be great. Farmers had sufficient time this fall to plough any land intended for summer fallow next year, and we hope they have not neglected this part of their work. Land intended for summer fallow, would be much better for being ploughed the fall previous, and not put off the first ploughing to the spring.

The present prospect of prices for agricultural produce is encouraging to farmers. We do not think very high prices desirable, but this year they are likely to be high, in consequence of foreign demand, and the general destruction of a large portion of the potato crop. Remunerating prices are necessary for farmers, and such prices they have not obtained here for many years past. It is a well established fact, that no portion of this community have been so poorly paid for their labour, and use of their capital, as farmers, but we hope it will be better in future, and that farmers will be remunerated in some proportion to other classes, and this will be the most powerful inducement to improvement, when there is a certainty of remuneration.

It must be evident to every reflecting mind, that remuneration is necessary to insure improvement going on. The lands of no country can never be completely cultivated and improved, till the price of every produce, which human industry is obliged to raise upon them, has got so high as to pay for the expense of complete improvement and cultivation. Here, there is no rent to be paid, but instead of rent, the interest of capital expended in the purchase, and clearing of the