

TIMBER DUTIES.

If Norway, and the Baltic were the same distance from us as North America, the proposed duties of Sir Robert Peel of 25s. on foreign and 1s. on Canadian timber, would, it cannot, afford a sufficient protection to our colonies; but as the distance to America is more than double, the freight being 40s., whilst it is 20s. from the Baltic only, the protective duty is thereby reduced to 1s.—a total prohibition of the use of Canadian produce and throwing out of employment our British shipping, the timber from the Baltic being now brought in foreign vessels, which go back in ballast only; so that the proposed measure would be a great boon to the foreigner.—*M. L. Express.*

The New Tariff, will have precisely the same effect upon other descriptions of Canadian produce. The duty on foreign produce is, by this Tariff, proposed to be so low, that there will not be any protection for the produce of British North America. England has flourished and improved above all other countries of the earth, under the protective system, and we very much doubt, if the free-trade system will improve her condition, or the condition of her colonies. If the free-trade system was completely established all over the earth, and the most perfectly free interchange of commodities allowed between all nations and people, it might answer very well, but as this will be impossible, while revenues have to be raised for the support of governments and states, we confess that we cannot perceive the reasonableness of offering free-trade to nations that are not disposed to reciprocate these advantages. England, with her extensive colonies in every part of the earth, might be more independent of other nations than any one of them ever can be of her. Her colonies might, possessing as they do, every diversity of soil and climate, yield every production that is necessary for the use of man, and might also furnish all the luxuries that habit or custom have now made necessary, provided they were encouraged and protected. We do not object to trade and commerce, but we are most decidedly opposed to any trade or commerce that would be injurious to the industry of British subjects wherever they are situated, or to the improvement of any portion of the widely extended British Empire.

We have attempted to establish a communication with "The Royal Agricultural Society of England," in order that we might enjoy the great advantage of ascertaining the improvements in the theory and practice of agriculture, published through the medium of that Society, and hence be enabled to give the most useful information on these subjects to the Subscribers to *The British American Cultivator*. From a Report of the proceedings of the Council of The Royal Agricultural Society, at their meeting of the 6th of April last, as published in *The Mark Lane Express*, we copy the following notice referring to our communication:—

"WILLIAM EVANS, Esq., of Montreal, Editor of 'The British American Cultivator,' a periodical work established for the improvement of Canadian Agriculture, and published monthly at Toronto, transmitted to the Society the two first parts of that publication, with a promise of the continued supply of the future parts of that work, as long as he was connected with its direction, expressing the interest which he felt on the subject of effecting such a communication with the Society, as would enable him to diffuse throughout that portion of the British dominions the improvements in agricultural theory and practice,

ascertained and published through the medium of the Society."

Our communication, with others, were referred to His Grace the Duke of Richmond, with a request that he would favour the Council with a report on the various topics to which they related.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

Though the snow disappeared at an early period this spring, the weather has not been very favourable for sowing up to this time. Except on lands well drained, and properly ploughed, the soil has not been in the very best condition for harrowing up to the 16th of May, and even at this date, a considerable proportion of the grain is not yet sown, and there is scarcely any of the potatoes planted. Wheat sowing has been put off very generally, until after the middle of May, in order that it might have a better chance of escaping injury from the fly. We believe there will be much more wheat sown this spring than for several years past. The farmers appear to hope that the fly will not be so numerous this year as usual, and we wish sincerely they may not be disappointed in this hope. Being unable to grow wheat for a few years past, in this part of Canada, has been a serious injury to farmers. The last winter was not so favourable for fall wheat as the previous winter. Fall wheat was generally exposed to the frost, in consequence of there being very little snow, and we find that our own fall wheat, though sown in the first week of September, is very much injured, and a large proportion of the plants completely destroyed. Our wheat was sown broadcast, and only harrowed in, which we believe to be a very defective mode of sowing, and would strongly recommend, sowing fall wheat in this part of Canada, on land prepared by summer fallowing, and that the seed should either be sown in drills, or covered lightly with the plough. By this means the roots of the plants would be more securely fixed in the soil, and would be better protected from the effects of severe frost, should there not be sufficient covering of snow to protect it. A protracted spring sowing time, is very unfavourable for this country; the ploughed land, unless well drained, if exposed to much wet in spring, runs into a mass of mud, and when sufficiently dry for harrowing, is not in a fit state to receive the seed until again ploughed. The fall ploughed land, should be perfectly drained, so that after the snow melted in spring, the water would run off, and the land be immediately fit for sowing. When the fall ploughed land remains over for weeks after the snow disappears, before it is sown, there will not be much chance of a crop, particularly in heavy clay lands, unless ploughed again previous to sowing. The roots of weeds being in the ploughed land, they commence sprouting before the grain is sown in spring, and generally keep a head of the cultivated crop, and hence our weedy and scanty crops of grain, that would be discreditable to any country. There are many good farmers in Canada, but there are not many arable fields drained according to English fashion. In our humble judgment, the want of perfect draining is the greatest defect in Canadian agriculture—and a perfect and profitable system of husbandry is impracticable without it.

If the weather is not more regularly favourable for sowing and planting than it has been hitherto, the work will not be finished before the end of June. Though we had not much rain, it

has been very frequent, and the soil has been constantly damp and cold. We have not had three warm sunny days since the commencement of spring.

The meadows do not appear to have suffered much injury during the past winter, notwithstanding their unusually light covering of snow. We seldom, however, see a very heavy crop of hay succeed a winter that had not much snow. Last year, at this time, provender for cattle was extremely scarce and dear—now it is abundant and can be purchased for one-fourth of the price. Every description of agricultural produce is low in our markets, and not likely to rise this summer. The supply must, of course, be abundant, when this is the case. Can it be otherwise, when we do not export any part of our produce, and when there is a large importation of foreign produce into a country that is almost exclusively agricultural. To a stranger that would hear that we possessed a most excellent soil, and had more than four acres in cultivation for each inhabitant in Canada, it would appear incredible that we did not raise food sufficient for our own people, and had to import a supply from a foreign nation. There certainly must be something amiss in our management or circumstances, that would allow such a state of things to be possible for a day.—We consider it our duty to bring this subject before the public on every opportunity, and we shall do so whether it will receive any attention or not. The farmers are not altogether so indifferent to their own interests, as to neglect improving the opportunities their situation and circumstances would afford them, if there was not some unsurmountable obstacle that checked and discouraged them. They are perfectly aware that there is no encouragement held out to them to expend labour or capital on crops or cattle, because the trifling markets they have are open to the competition of a foreign nation, that live under different laws and circumstances. A few of the trades in England are likely to be affected by Sir Robert Peel's new Tariff, and though these trades would still have very ample protection, yet they exclaim loudly against any modification in the existing law in favour of foreign manufactures. What are farmers but the manufacturers of the necessaries of existence, and why should it be unreasonable that they should wish for the same protection enjoyed by other classes.

We would strongly recommend the preparation of soil by careful summer fallowing, for the sowing of fall wheat. We do not believe it possible to prepare it so well and so cheaply, by any other process in the power of the Canadian farmer. It is by this means that the soil will be effectually loosed and pulverized. As we observed above, fall ploughed land, that is not properly drained, becomes hardened by the warm weather of spring and summer, and is not in a fit state to produce a full or profitable crop. The tender roots of plants, such as those of grain crops, cannot extend or extract sufficient nourishment in a clay soil that is hard, and baked by the heat of the sun. A properly managed summer fallow, is in the very best state of preparation to receive the seed, or ordinary seasons, and if the seed is put in well, and the land judiciously water furrowed in the fall, it will continue in the best state and will not become too hard. If summer fallow is allowed to remain over for a spring crop, it will be equally necessary that it should be perfectly well drained before the winter.—Farmers may object to the loss of land for a year by summer fallowing, but as there is not at present sufficient encouragement to grow green crops &c.