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## AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR APRIL.

The month of April has, throughout, been the most favourable we have ever seen in Canada for executing spring work, and as the fall was suitable for ploughing up to the end of November, farmers may have most of their grain sown now with the exception of wheat, which it would be unsafe to sow before the 20th of May, though, we believe, many have sown it already. The grass does not appear to have suffered any injury by frost this spring, notwithstanding that it was deprived of its covering of snow at a more early period than usual. The water produced by the thawing of the snow did not remain long upon the land, or become frozen upon the surface, and this, we believe, preserved the grass from injury. We have not an opportunity of reporting the state of fall-sown wheat, as we did not see any this spring. We would suppose that last winter would have been very favourable for fall-sown wheat, as the snow covered the land to a good depth from the 1st of December to the latter end of March, and from that period we have not had any severe frost to injure young wheat plants. We hope that farmers have availed themselves of the favourable opportunity for sowing their oats, barley, pease, beans, and potatoes, and have only the wheat to sow when the proper time arrives for sowing it. The land was very dry the latter end of April, but the delightful rain we had on the last day of the month produced a most beneficial change in the grass and crops in ground.

It is necessary that great caution should be observed this spring in the selection of potatoes for planting. Potatoes of a moderate size, planted whole, will, we believe, prove to be best for planting; and we would recommend that no fresh manure should be applied. New or grass land will be less liable to produce a diseased crop than land that has been long in tillage. We have seen many attempts to account for the potato disease, but not one that was satisfactory to us. Last year, as we already stated, our potatoes had scarcely any rot, and up to the period of securing them for the winter, (which was about the 1st November) we had not lost six bushels out of three acres. We then placed the whole crop, except about forty bushels kept for winter use, in a long pit, cut into a sand-bank, where we had kept them the previous year perfectly safe. On opening this pit about the 1st

of April, the potatoes were safe, except a very few. We had a few bags taken out of them, and allowed the remainder to remain in the pit, as the safest place to keep them for seed. On examining them again about the 21st of April, we found that nearly the whole had become diseased and useless, not ten bushels being safe. Of those we had kept in the cellar, very few became unsound: all were made use of. The potatoes in the pit appear to have kept safe, until the air was let in upon them when opened. When these potatoes were stored, we never had better, both in appearance and for use, and, notwithstanding, they have now been destroyed by the disease. Our own opinion is, that we have changed the natural qualities of the potatoes by our mode of cultivation of them, and brought a disease upon them in consequence, and that they are now liable to it in every situation, and under every circumstance. The smaller and harder the potato, the less liable they are to the rot. We found that what are known as the cup-potato were less affected than any other, but we cannot say that this is generally the case. Unless it is the will of Providence to remove this plague, it will have a great influence on the food of man, the potato was in so general use. There are substitutes that may be introduced, but we know of none to equal the potato as a vegetable root. Experiments, and further experience, may discover a remedy to check or cure the disease, but nothing likely to be effectual has yet been suggested by any of our learned professors, who have written or lectured on the subject. Indeed, we think it very probable, that potatoes cannot again be successfully cultivated in such vast quantities, but that we shall have to raise a few in gardens, as when they were first introduced from South America. The disease, we are convinced, is the same as that which attacked the seed after planting, which was known as the dry rot, and has now been going on increasing several years; we believe since 1832, the year the cholera first appeared in the British Isles. Carrots, parsnips, turnips, and some other roots may be raised here in perfection, and will, in some degree, be a substitute for potatoes. We would recommend that these roots be cultivated this year by every farmer. The loss of a crop of potatoes is so great to a farmer, that it is not well to risk the loss to any great extent. If we shall not be able to grow them, it will make a considerable