

WORK FOR APRIL.

As soon as the snow is off the ground, the fence should be attended to, before the cattle have an opportunity to destroy the grass and fall sown wheat. There has been much improvement made of late in fencing; but as most of the plans are too expensive for general introduction, we would for the present merely mention the following. Lay five rails high of common worm-fence; then select stakes, averaging two and a half or three inches in diameter, and drive or otherwise set them in the ground perpendicularly, to the depth of one foot, opposite the lap of the ends of the rails. Then take pieces of wood, fifteen inches long, six wide, and two thick—and bore holes in them with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch auger, at the distance which the stakes are apart, and fit one over each pair of stakes; and by raising the fence four rails higher between the stakes, it will be found to answer all the purposes of a common fence and have a more uniform and tasteful appearance—and will not be likely to get out of repair until the stakes decay, which will then merely require sharpening at the bottom, and may be driven in the ground without the necessity of removing the rails.

Wherever stagnant water lies on the land, means should be adopted to immediately remove it. Spring wheat should be sown as early as possible; turnips and potatoes are good preparatory crops for spring wheat—and to facilitate the period for sowing, the land should be ploughed in six yard ridges in the autumn—the seed may be sown in the spring without further preparation. We have frequently seen a yield of thirty-five bushels per acre from such management. We are firmly of the opinion, that if lands for spring wheat were summer-fallowed, and the same management adopted as for fall wheat—the last ploughing or seed furrow performed in the autumn, so that the seed might be sown in good season—that from this style of farming it would be more productive than winter wheat, and less liable to rust. Much of the winter wheat will, no doubt, be smothered, owing to the great depth of snow which has drawn the frost out of the ground. This cannot be discovered until the ground becomes quite dry, the leaves will have a mouldy appearance, and the roots may be easily removed. As soon as the farmer is convinced that the plants have received serious injury from the above, or any other cause, he should procure spring wheat and sow it at the rate of one bushel per acre, following the directions given on another page of this sheet.

April is a good month for getting out manure for the turnip and potatoe crop, which should be ploughed in early and allowed to ferment before the season for putting in the above crops. Oats and peas should be in the ground by the first of May, and barley should be sown just as the trees are coming out in leaf. The quantity of seed per acre for the above crops, should be from two and a half to three bushels, on lands which have been many years under the plough; and for new lands two bushels will be found sufficient. Land for peas should be ploughed in the autumn, and the seed covered with a light furrow in the spring—as they are the most troublesome species of grain to cover with a furrow.

If worms should attack any of the young plants, a bushel of salt per acre, sown broadcast,

will destroy them and facilitate the growth of the plant. Hemp and flax should be sown as early as the ground can be prepared, after the direction given under flax culture on another page.

Good ploughing is one of the most essential features of a skillful husbandman; and we trust that farmer's sons will pride themselves in having their horses well trained to perform this department. Horses while at the plough should be governed with single rope lines, and should be cross coupled, and be made to walk at least three feet asunder. We conceive some plain directions necessary on this head, and will endeavour in our next number to make ourselves understood, by giving all the details of what would constitute good ploughing. We strongly urge upon farmers the propriety of doing their work well; and if the hard times are likely to prevent improvements, and the labour and expenses of cultivation are to be curtailed—it would be found much better to allow some fields to remain uncultivated, than to undertake to cultivate much with little labour. Plaster and leached ashes should be applied to the land from the first to the 20th of May. To conclude, we say to farmers, one and all—if ever you worked hard and economized in your life, this is the time—drive your work rather than let it drive you, do every thing in a proper manner and in good season, then we will go bail for the consequences.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

TORONTO, APRIL 17th, 1843.

We may safely say that the past has been one of the most severe winters ever felt in Canada; and from present appearances, we would suppose, but little will be done on the land before the first of May. At this period last year, the Thrush and the Robin, were delighting us with their charming melodies.—The plough boy was merrily whistling after his well-trained pair of horses.—The gardener was preparing his salad beds and transplanting fruit trees; and the markets were even supplied with the early description of vegetables—and in fact all nature was rejoicing at the return of spring, when she might clothe herself in her rich and variegated costumes. We are told by some of the oldest settlers, that about 40 years ago, the winter was as long and severe as the present, and the snow was fully as deep as at this period; and notwithstanding grain and roots of every description ripened well. As one extreme generally follows another, we may hope that when summer comes, that it will be uninterrupted by frost.

This has been unquestionably a severe winter on live stock—and from common report, we would suppose that one-half of the horned cattle are dying off with sheer starvation. The common practice among most of Canadian farmers, is to provide nothing but straw for their cattle and sheep for winter food; and the cry which we hear so much about at present, is only an echo of the old story of hard winters and scarcity of food for stock. At the first of February, much stock were dying from the same cause, up to that period the winter was mild, and the fault must be attached to the owners of such stock. Suppose that human beings were to feed themselves upon the best which the country could produce during the summer months, and for the winter months should only provide as much good wheat bran as they would require to sustain nature.—As a natural consequence

they would be like the poor dumb brutes, before the first of February they would be on "the left," and five chances to one they would die off before the return of spring.

Let the farmers seed down one half their farms with cultivated grasses, and plan their business so that they will have good fat pastures for their stock through the summer months, and an abundance of excellent hay and roots for winter feed; and instead of making straw the sole dependence, use it copiously for bedding the stock, to keep them from freezing to death. If farming will not pay in this way it will not in any other;—we wish this fact to be strongly impressed on all our readers, for much of the success of the suggestions, which we will make in future, will depend upon the observance of this one rule.

No sympathy can be entertained by the wise and prudent to such improvident farmers, who allow their cattle to die for want of attention, unless it be sympathy for their cruel conduct towards their animals, and total ignorance of the laws which govern nature.

Since thrashing machines have come into general use, much of the best straw is wasted, which should not be the case. It would doubly pay to house straw if it were for no other purpose than for bedding for the stock; and besides twice the quantity of manure would be made, and one load thus made, would be worth two made from large masses of straw being thrown in the yard, without a proper admixture of animal manure.

One of the principle errors of the present mode of Canadian husbandry is this—it requires pretty much all that is raised in the summer to winter through a few head of cattle, and to sustain the inmates of the household in comfort—we may almost say idleness. If a species of employment could be introduced, from which the proceeds of the winter months, could be turned to as profitable an account as summer, the business of a farmer might then be made respectable. The dressing of hemp and flax would afford this employment; and we hope that immediate action will be taken on the subject, and that societies may be organized for the purpose of trying the experiment, and introducing the most improved method of preparing the fibre of these plants for the British market. Much in this way may be done the present year, if only men of influence and capital would study the best interests of the Province, and lead the way in the introduction of those improvements.

The late news is rather cheering, and we have reason to believe that a change for the better will soon be effected in the commercial and agricultural relations between this and the parent country; and we trust our farmers will be intelligent enough to avail themselves of every advantage, and use every possible means of making their honourable profession profitable and respectable.

ITALIAN SPRING WHEAT.—Colonel McLean, Post Master, Scarboro, sent us a sample of the above variety of wheat, which weighs upwards of sixty pounds per bushel, and yielded 25 bushels per acre. He informs us that he has a quantity for sale, which may be had at the low price of one dollar per bushel, a highly recommended farmers to purchase some of the above, as it could scarcely be distinguished from fall wheat, and is free from oats and other seeds.