

### NEW SOURCES OF WEALTH FOR CANADIAN HUSBANDMEN.

The period has now arrived, for establishing a character for the united province of Canada, which will enable her to benefit from the changes which have been lately effected, in her commercial relations with Britain. And the only thing that she requires to entitle her to the proud and enviable relations which she holds to the parent land, is that her sons, whether native or adopted, should engage their undivided attention to the cultivation of such products as the soil and climate of the country, as well as other favourable circumstances, are admirably adapted to afford.

If it were possible to induce the cultivators of the soil to read and think less about party and sectional questions, and study and inform their minds more on subjects directly connected with their own and their children's welfare, we would then hope that the instructions which are laid down through the columns of *The Cultivator*, would be productive of some benefit. As the abjectness and depravity, which we very much apprehend, have taken a deep root in the minds of many of the occupiers of the most fertile soils of the province, have been caused by influences, over which we have not the slightest controul, and which we have but little chance to redress,—under these circumstances we fear, that the task of effecting a radical change in the mode of managing the fertile soils of Canada, will be more than we can accomplish, unless the intelligent and patriotic engage their attention and influence with us, in placing the country in a healthy position.

Canada must either produce more articles for export or consume less of foreign manufactured goods,—the balance of trade, instead of being three to one against us, must be in our favour, or else we shall assuredly become bankrupt, and have to repudiate, which act alone should be sufficient to have our name struck out of the catalogue of civilized nations of the earth.

The course we would propose, would be to adopt, *such as our might*, the former method, and endeavour by every possible means to bring into requisition the vast and inexhaustible agricultural resources of the province.

The sooner Canada becomes densely populated, with a respectable class of English, Scotch, and Irish emigrants, the sooner will she become nationalized, and able to be of greater use to herself and her mother country.

To consummate so desirable an object, correct information relative to the capabilities of the country in providing the necessary accommodations for a population ten times as great as that which now occupies it, must be furnished through the leading journals of the province, which will most assuredly find its way to the firesides of the English peasant, farmer and landlord, and will tell more for the promotion of a healthy system of emigration, than all the laboured and far-fetched essays that could be published on the subject. The writer of this article, some months since, penned an article on the "growth and prosperity of Toronto," which made its appearance in one of the papers of this city, and as an evidence of the value that such information was prized, by the citizens who formerly emigrated from the British Isles, we would merely mention that the worthy Post Master of this city—Charles Percy, Esq., assured us that between four and five hundred copies of the sheet, containing the article alluded to, had been mailed, in separate parcels, to persons residing in Europe.

Unfortunately, the kind of information which occupies the news and political Journals of the day, is of the wrong stamp to induce men to leave their quiet firesides, to settle in a country, which is "divided against itself."—And these very journals are the only public prints that find their way into the parent countries. This colony is yet too new, and the spirits of the people are too much estranged from the right path, to warrant an ambitious and talented publisher to establish a magazine adapted to the circumstances of the country, and one which would be greeted in Britain by that portion of the population as have had their attention favourably drawn to Canada. As a means of supplying the want of such a journal, we would earnestly recommend that portion of the Canadian press, who have earned a character for publishing plain and unsophisticated facts, to engage a portion of their attention in collecting and publishing information, which would tend to atone, in a measure, for the blemishes which have checkered the past history of Canada, and which have brought on us many of the evils that have operated against the prosperity of the colony. We have no desire to request others to do anything we would not be willing to perform ourselves, and shall therefore endeavour to collect a few ideas together, on subjects applicable for intending emigrants, which will occupy at least two pages in each future number, commencing with the one for October. Indeed much of the information that will, in future, make its appearance through the columns of the *Cultivator*, will be of such a description that it should be placed in the hands of that class of emigrants, who intend to settle on land, the moment they arrive on our shore.

New sources of wealth must be presented to the view of Canadian farmers and the new settlers, in order to make much advancement in improving the condition of Canadian agriculture. The articles which would bring heavy profits to the producer, providing that a reasonable share of skill and capital were expended in their production, are flax, hemp, hops, tobacco, cheese, and butter. Instead of Canada being an importer of all these articles, she should produce them in sufficient abundance for the wants of her own population, and some tens of thousands of pounds worth of each beside, for exportation to England.

Without further expatiating on what Canada should do, and might do, if her population would only study their best interests, we shall for the present confine ourselves to a few practical suggestions on the cultivation of the above three first mentioned articles, which we consider are eminently calculated to prove sources of great wealth to this fine colony.

### CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

Flax may be raised on various soils, but the one most proper for this plant is a deep rich friable loam, neither too dry in summer, nor wet in autumn or spring—in short, the best soil that can be found, as the roots strike deep, and are said, by those who have had much experience, that they sink into the soil to a depth equal to half the length of the stem above ground. It is obvious then that flax requires not only a deep soil, but a porous subsoil as well, or one that is well drained. It is needless to add, after what has been said in former numbers of this journal, that large tracts of land in this country might be made to produce as much flax per acre, and of as good a quality, as the so much celebrated article grown in the neighbourhood of Courtray, in the Province of Belgium, without one-half of the cultivation which is expended in that country,—notwithstanding a less quantum of cultivation and care would be required in this, than in the country

just mentioned, owing to the virgin state of our soil, still the vast amount of labour that this crop would, in many cases, require, would tend to deter many from entering into the business. It would, therefore, be advisable for only those to engage, at present, in this branch of farming who have lands of the description just mentioned. On most farms there are certain fields that have been under grass for a number of years, and which have collected a great amount of vegetable and animal matter, which have become intimately mixed with the natural earth by absorption, and which is, in fact, an accumulation of humus. This is the best possible food to produce a good crop of flax. The most suitable period for ploughing such sward for this crop is in the early part of spring. The depth of the furrow should be proportioned to the depth of the soil, and the ground should be well ploughed, and the furrows so closely packed that there would be no possibility of the grass starting before the season for sowing the seed. Before the seed be sown, which should be about the first of May, or when the season would admit the twentieth of April would be preferable, the whole of the ground intended for flax should be so completely harrowed, that it would have the appearance of a well-prepared onion-bed. The seed is then sown at the rate of a bushel and a half per acre. Two bushels, in many cases, would not be too much, as the plants should be very abundant on the ground to prevent the fibre from becoming too coarse and grassy. The seed should be slightly covered with a bush-harrow, as more than an inch of earth over it would prevent its evenly vegetating.

An acre of good flax, in Flanders, is worth from £20 to £25, sterling, per acre, without including the seed, which is worth from £4 to £6 more, and the article is so much prized that merchants come out of France to buy it as it is pulled and tied in bundles. They have it steeped and dressed, at their own expense, by regular steepers and dressers. It should be remembered, however, that the article for which this high price is paid, is converted or manufactured into the finest qualities of bleached linens, and is worth, when prepared for the spinners, from £120 to £140, sterling, per ton.

It will require years of long experience for the Canadian population to arrive to the same degree of proficiency that the Flemish flax-grower has arrived to. The Canadian flax will therefore have to be converted into coarser fabrics. We have lately conversed with many of the German settlers residing in the Township of Markham and Vaughan, who are most willing to engage in the cultivation of flax and hemp, if a certain and profitable market could be established for the above article in their raw state. We shall do our utmost to open a market for the article, and shall give timely evidence of the success of our endeavours by advertisement through our columns.

The farmers in the township of Waterloo, Genesee county, State of New York, sowed last spring one thousand acres of flax, upon the recommendation of an individual who guaranteed to erect an oil mill, and pay one dollar a bushel for all the flax seed brought to his establishment, and eight dollars per ton for the flax, without any preparation, further than thrashing the seed; and we learn, by the *New Genesee Farmer*, that the business has proved a most profitable one to the farmers who engaged in it. Similar steps might be taken in this country, especially in such sections where the soil is too richly supplied with vegetable matter for autumn wheat,—and oil mills might be established, in a very short time, in every district of the province. The manufacturing of linseed oil is a branch of business that cannot