

seed, and does not appear in the crop at a distance, though it is there in abundance. Thistle and other weeds that are higher than the oats, are still to be seen in this crop, in peas, and by the road side and fences. We hope that a part of the oat crop will be manufactured into meal, for exportation next spring, as it is very probable the price in the British market will be sufficiently remunerating to those who may ship it for that country.

Peas have suffered by mildew, but we believe there will be a large crop of them notwithstanding.

We have not seen much rye this year, and cannot report the state of the crop. We believe it is likely to be injured by the fly as usual. Indian Corn has improved very much; but we cannot say whether the crop will ripen properly and prove a profitable one. It was very much retarded in its growth this year, by the cold and wet in May and June. On soils that are suitable for it the crop may still be good; and it should not be planted on any soil but that which would be suitable in any season.

Buck-wheat looks well and there is a considerable quantity sown. We before observed that the barley is a good crop and now safe. This crop fortunately escaped the disease of rust and mildew, as it was too far advanced towards maturity before the season of rust. All other grain crops have suffered in a greater or less degree from this disease, and it materially lessens their value.

The potatoe crop in the neighbourhood of Montreal is generally good; but we have observed that there are many failures, both from dry rot in the seed, and from insufficient draining. This season was not the most favourable for the cultivation of potatoes on clay lands, in consequence of the frequent rain during the time of ploughing them. The soil in the drills of such lands is now extremely hard, and not favourable for the production of a very large crop per acre. There will, however, be abundance for our wants.

The hay crop is abundantly sufficient for all our wants. A part was injured, but a large quantity is well got in. Had we the supply of our own markets with all the agricultural produce we could raise, we could convert some of our hay into beef and mutton; but that privilege is denied us. The consequence is that hay will scarcely pay for the labour of cutting, saving, and taking to market. The pastures have been better this year than usual. Dairy produce is abundant and at a moderate price. It should be a good season for fattening cattle and sheep, if we done much in that way; but there is no encouragement. We hope the time will come when we shall have a large proportion of our best lands applied to this purpose.

Fruit is scarce in this neighbourhood. The orchards suffered much in the spring from the ravages of the caterpillar, and also from night frosts.

Throughout the season, labourers have been to hire at more moderate wages than usual; but still too high in proportion to the farmer's means of paying them. The depression of agriculture, and scarcity of money, checked all improvements with farmers, and even prevented them executing works that were necessary. Other classes of this community will discover how necessary it is to their own success, that this country should yield an abundant and valuable production. No foreign produce brought into it will enrich it much, unless paid for by a produce raised here from our

own lands and industry. We are receiving a large supply of the most valuable commodity that could be sent to us from the British Isles, in able-bodied men, if we only employ them usefully—Would it not be the duty of every one to try all possible means, that they should be able to raise in Canada the bread and meat for their own food, and not be depending upon a foreign country for it? Any man who sees this fine country, must be astonished when he learns that it is not producing food for her own thin population.

Cote St. Paul, 26th August, 1842.

DRAINING.

This is the best and most convenient season in the year for draining and top-dressing grass land with compost manure. Unless draining is attended to now, it cannot be executed so well at any other time during this year. One man will do more work at draining at the proper season, than two men will do when the soil is too wet, and the days often wet and short. We have repeatedly stated that perfect drainage would effect more improvement in the soil here, than any other plan that could be adopted. Indeed it is impossible that any profitable improvement can be introduced in our agriculture without more perfect drainage. Much of the efficacy of drains will depend upon their proper formation. In every soil open drains should be well sloped, to prevent the sides falling in after frost. For all small drains, the width of the shovel will be sufficient at the bottom; but drains of two feet deep should be from four to five feet wide at the top, and those of two feet and a half to three feet deep should be from five to six feet, and perhaps wider at the top. In the middle of arable fields, it would be well to have drains so sloped, that the plough and horses could readily pass through them. These sort of drains look well, answer every necessary purpose, and are easy to keep in order.

FLAX.

Flax requires a great depth of soil, as the fine suckers of the plant are said to strike down to at least a third of their height above ground, where they can penetrate the soil. The manure should be put into the soil one year before the flax is sown. The ground should be fine moulded, and the seed put in with care, so that it be not covered on an average above three inches deep. The soil should be well drained, as stagnant water is very injurious to it. In the district of Courtrai, in Belgium, the flax is dried and kept over until the following spring before it is steeped, and this mode of management is said to improve the quality of the flax, and that the longer it is kept before it is steeped so much better the flax will be, provided it is kept safe and dry. The pus should be formed for steeping flax, three months before the flax is put into the water. The water in which flax has been steeped is said to be a good manure for top-dressing grass, and the husks of flax to be excellent feeding for cows—in fact the best of feeding. It was ascertained last year, by a Committee of the House of Commons, that 50,000 tons

of flax had been imported into Britain from foreign countries, at a cost of six millions pounds sterling. We have no doubt that flax might be produced in Canada by cultivating the land properly, as they do in Belgium for this crop. We have this year, seen crops of flax grown in Canada East, that were of middling quality, notwithstanding the soil was cultivated in the most slovenly manner possible, and not manured, or the weeds taken out of the crop. Indeed we never have seen, in this country, one acre of land properly cultivated for producing a good crop of flax. We have for many years, urged the expediency of encouraging the cultivation of flax, to make up, in some degree, for the loss of wheat, but no attention has been given to the matter—another proof, if any is wanted, how little the interests of agriculturists was regarded by our rulers, legislators, or men of influence in the country. The most unimportant political party question would attract attention, obtain consideration and discussion, while the most important interests of the country has been utterly neglected, as if they were undeserving the slightest consideration. All political parties have alike neglected our agriculture.

We copy an interesting paragraph from a communication which appeared in *The Mark Lane Express* of the 1st of August, relative to the weight of cattle in different degrees of fatness:—

“The gross weight alone is an imperfect test of condition—the heavier animals are not always the fatest, more the smaller ones invariably in a lean state; the weight of a carcass or quarters of animals, in different degrees of condition, exhibit considerable variation in relation to their weight alive; the carcass or quarters of oxen, for instance, are found to bear the following proportions to the gross weight:—

	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
A lean Ox,.....	46—the offal being	54
Half fat.....	54	46
Moderately fat.....	62	38
Extra fat.....	70	30

It is universally admitted that cattle ought not to be put to rich pastures or forcing food, in a lower state of condition, than that denominated half fat.”

CORN LAWS.—We wish to call the attention of parties, who are so fond of contending that the British farmer has considerable protection by the extra freight which foreign grain has to pay when imported into this country, to the fact, that there are at present in the Tyne three vessels with wheat, one from Bremen, at *sixpence* per quarter freight, another from Hamburg, at *ninepence* per quarter, and the other from Stettin at two shillings per quarter. Vessels, we are informed, are freighting from the ports in the Mediterranean at 4s. 6d. per quarter for wheat. Now, the majority of these rates are much below what the farmers in the northern counties in England pay before their grain gets to market. — *Newcastle Journal*.