

The Canadian Agricultural Journal.

MONTREAL, JULY 1, 1845.

Now is the time for the friends of the law of the last Session of our Provincial Legislature, for the encouragement of Agriculture, to support this law, and give it all possible chance of being useful to the country. As we before observed, all depends upon the manner in which the County Agricultural Societies will manage and apply the funds committed to their disposal. If they honestly intend to promote agricultural improvement where it is most required, and give instruction and encouragement to farmers, who are not sufficiently acquainted with the art of agriculture, the law will work well and beneficially; but if they will not act thus, and allow the funds of the Societies to be paid away in premiums to farmers who already know their business, and happen to be more fortunate than others in the possession of capital and other advantages, then the late law will prove as useless and unproductive of improvement as all former laws have been, and from the same cause. We have no interest to serve in giving this opinion, but it is one we have formed from giving much consideration to the subject. It was from knowing how difficult it is to find in Canada sixteen *skillful* farmers in each county, who will heartily devote themselves to promote the improvement of agriculture, free from all motives of self-interest, and give the full advantage of their superior skill to instruct those who require instruction, foregoing all advantage themselves. Because we know this cannot be expected, we urged upon the government the necessity which existed of instituting a Board of Agriculture, that would have the controul of all the monies granted for the encouragement of agricultural improvement—that would direct the manner of its distribution, and adopt general laws and regulations for all the local Societies, or receive their reports, and publish an annual journal of agriculture, and of their transactions, for distribution. If the general improvement of agriculture is desirable, and the public money granted to effect this improvement, we conceive this money should be applied to produce the improvement where it is required, and not where it is not required. We have no hesitation in

saying that the public money would be better applied to effect this purpose, under the controul and direction of a competent Board of Agriculture, than it is ever likely to be by any other plan. This would not take the power of all action out of the hands of county and local Societies; they, on the contrary, might be as useful as they were disposed to be. It would only exercise a wholesome controul and direction, and compel the application of the public money to the most useful purpose, and to effect the object for which alone the money was granted by the Legislature.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Since our last report, we have had several falls of rain, which produced a most beneficial effect upon the growing crops, and their appearance is now very promising, with the exception of the meadows, which are too far advanced towards maturity to improve much. They have also another drawback, from the large patches in almost every meadow that has the grass winter killed upon them. There has been severe injury done to the meadows in this way last winter and spring than for many years previously. From all these causes, we believe hay will be a very short crop this year. This season throughout, we have had high winds constantly, and we expected that this might have destroyed the wheat fly, as they cannot do any injury to crops when the wind is high. The evening of the 7th July, was the first calm interval we noticed from the period of the fly's first appearance, and we accordingly examined our barley and wheat fields to see if they were to be found. In the barley, which is coming into ear, they were very numerous indeed, and we found them also in the wheat, but fortunately it is not in ear, and therefore cannot be injured by them. The wheat is generally in a backward state, and we hope it may consequently escape the fly, but we believe that no change of weather will destroy them, and that the only check we have in our power is to starve them out, by sowing wheat at such periods, that it will not be in ear when they first appear, or having a variety of wheat that will be proof against their ravages—which may be had. The grain crops have a healthy appearance though more backward than usual. We have observed a large quantity of weeds