

such animals in the country, the breed might be brought up to any standard of size that would be thought necessary, by judicious management. It is by careful selection and judicious management, that other breeds of farm live stock have been brought to the great perfection they have attained in England. It is not actual size and height which gives strength to a horse, though size and height may be necessary for certain purposes. It is the form of the horse that indicates strength or the absence of that quality. I have frequently seen horses not of large size perform their work much better and with more apparent ease than larger horses. I do not advocate horses that are too small for their work, as a considerable portion of our present stock certainly are, from neglect in breeding and insufficient food. The pure Canadian breed of horses when I first came to this country was of moderate but sufficient size; strong, active, and hardy, well adapted to agricultural purposes. It is, however, difficult now to find any of this breed in its purity, and the crosses with other breeds have not generally been an improvement, either in form, strength, activity or endurance. There are exceptions, I believe, where the cross has been with imported English breeds of horses of very good quality, and of very similar form to that of a good Canadian horse. These crosses have succeeded very well, and have enlarged the size of our horses. The true cause, however, of deficiency of size, is actually mismanagement, both in breeding and feeding, so that there is scarcely a good specimen of Canadian horse now to be found. It must be a great loss to a country to have a numerous stock of horses not sufficiently strong for the work they have to perform. It is quite impossible that any breed of horses could be kept up to the proper standard of size, while there was so little attention given to selection for breeding, in either the male or the female; and the latter have, in numerous instances, been allowed to breed when only two years old. We could not expect any other result from such mismanagement, but a dwindled and inferior race of horses. Fortunately, it is in the farmer's power to adopt a remedy; first, by strictly confining all stallions, and not allowing them to go at large on any pretence; secondly not to breed from mares of inferior quality, nor allow mares to breed until of proper age; thirdly, to keep only such stallions as might be expected, from their excellence, to produce good, and perfectly sound progeny. If these simple rules were strictly observed, and horses supplied with suitable food from their birth, we should have quite a superior stock of horses to those we possess at present. Horses would be a very profitable stock to cultivate here, if judiciously managed and kept up to the required standard for general purposes. There is a constant demand and a fair price attainable for almost every description and size that we have now, and we should have a very much better market and higher prices, if our horses were what they might be. The pure Canadian breed of horses is highly prized in the neighboring States, but they complain that it is almost impossible now to procure any of the true breed. In Lower Canada there is every encouragement to cultivate a good description of horses, both for our own use, and for sale to foreign customers, who come to the farmer's doors to purchase them at a good price. If Canadian farmers residing at a considerable

distance from Montreal and Quebec were to give due attention to the breeding of horses to a reasonable extent, they would pay them, perhaps, as well as any stock they could raise; but, like all other farming live stock, the success and profit will depend upon the skill and good management bestowed upon their breeding and feeding. There are many Canadian farmers who understand the management of horses much better than I could inform them, and keep excellent horses, but it is not for such farmers that I submit these suggestions. I am perfectly aware that we have as good farmers in Lower Canada as can be found on this continent, and who farm as well in every department as can be desired. We have also some excellent live stock—horses, neat cattle, sheep and swine, and they are well managed and attended to. It is not, however, for agriculturists who understand their own business, and who are perfectly conscious of their skill in everything which belongs to their profession, that I would ever attempt to write on the subject of agriculture. I only write for those farmers who may think that some of my suggestions might be advantageously adopted, and would be an improvement of their present system of husbandry. I therefore request that skillful and practical agriculturists who may happen to read my communications will do me the justice to believe, that I do not pretend to write for their instruction; but rather to induce farmers who may not be so well qualified or instructed in their profession, to adopt the improvements that are manifestly required in their system of husbandry, and thus be upon a more equal footing with the most skillful agriculturalists, which they never can be while they practice a defective system of agriculture.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I believe it is very generally admitted that the arable lands of Lower Canada might very readily be made to produce on an average, over double the crops they do at present,—notwithstanding that we raise some excellent crops,—by a more judicious system of husbandry. There is not any doubt that the live stock of the country, though we may have a considerable proportion very good, is capable of improvement to fully the same extent on an average, so as to be worth double the amount they are worth in their present condition. It may be imagined, then, how vastly the property of agriculturists might be increased by the introduction of an improved system, that is quite possible. I have not in my power to give the exact numbers of our live stock at present, but supposing them to have increased within the last twenty years in the same proportion as our population have increased in the same period, our stock of horses would now be little short of 200,000, neat cattle 700,000, sheep from 800,000 to 900,000, and swine from 500,000 to 600,000, and perhaps there is from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 arpents of land in tillage, meadow, and pasture. If this estimate be nearly correct, and that almost all these live stock, and this great extent of arable land, are only producing now, half as much as they would be capable of producing annually under a better system of agriculture, should not this fact be sufficient to show that the necessary improvements should be introduced by all means that are possible. If we are satisfied that our system is defective, and that these defects are of such a nature as to be under our control, and capable of remedy, as they unquestionably are, there is no excuse for allowing

a defective system to continue. One of the greatest difficulties to farmers in a new country so extensive as Canada, was the want of easy access to market with their produce. Heretofore, this circumstance was felt to be a serious drawback, and exercised a very unfavorable influence on agriculture. Farmers had no encouragement to produce much in excess of the supply of their own wants in simple food and clothes, from the difficulty and expense of taking any surplus to market, and disposing of it. Now, this difficulty is to a great extent removed, and the means of rapid and cheap access to market is already very general, and likely to become more extended every day. The Reciprocity Treaty has given us the United States for a market, in addition to the markets we had before. It is almost impossible that our position could be more favorable and encouraging for the improvement of our agriculture. When I came to this country, we had neither canal, railroad, nor turnpike road, and only about half a dozen steamer on all the numerous rivers and waters of Lower Canada. Compare what we have been with our present proud position. We have the most splendid line of canals, completing an inland water communication, that is unequalled in the world, for more than a thousand miles from the sea, for sea-going ships and large steamers. We have over one thousand miles of railroad, and, I suppose, about five hundred miles more under contract, and all these roads are constructed, in the very best possible situations for affording accommodation and convenience to all classes and interests, and I have no doubt, from the high character of our country, railroads may be extended to answer all our requirements. We have turnpike roads introduced as an experiment where most required, and they may be extended by our Municipalities where considered to be necessary. We have numerous bridges over large rivers, where there was not one; and there is now constructing over the great River St. Lawrence—a bridge, that when completed, will be the greatest in the world. Our navigable rivers and inland seas are covered with steamers of all sorts and sizes. We have a weekly line of Mail steamers, long established between England and Halifax, and a contract is made for a similar line between England and Montreal to commence in spring. These advantages are all, or nearly all, calculated to act as an encouragement to our agriculture, provided the charges for transport are not too high, and I may say, that all these advantages have been introduced within the last twenty-five years. In addition to all these, our agriculture is represented by a Department in the Government and the Legislature have granted an aid of £250 annually to the Agricultural Societies of each county, on the favorable condition of the society subscribing the one-third of that amount amongst themselves for the same object. I enumerate the advantages which our agriculture has at present, and which they did not possess twenty-five years ago. There is another circumstance worthy of notice—that while the cost of transport of our produce to market has generally been greatly diminished, the price of our produce has been vastly increased. I must, however, admit that with all these advantages, farmers had some draw-back, to which they were not liable previous to the year 1835, I allude to the ravages of the wheat fly, and to the potato disease. The