

Agricultural Journal

AND
TRANSACTIONS
OF THE

LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1850.

We have seen several visitors from the United States to Canada this summer, and a few Canadians who have made tours in the United States, and all concur in opinion, as to the capabilities of Lower Canada for agriculture, that they are generally superior to any of the Eastern States of the Union, with the exception that our winters may be longer, and more severe than in some of these States. Of the correctness of this favourable estimation of Canada, there cannot be any doubt. The only draw-back that we have been liable to, is in the production of fall wheat, that we have not grown it to any extent. We have this year seen a most beautiful field of fall wheat grown by James Logan, Esq., in the immediate vicinity of Montreal. It was in every way a superior crop. It may be replied that last winter was very favourable for fall wheat, and that success in growing under such circumstances, can be no general rule. We believe that if land was well drained and properly prepared, the wheat sown in time (at latest, previous to the middle of September) sufficiently covered either in drills, or tightly ploughed in, that fall wheat might be grown in Lower Canada. The great danger is in the Spring by freezing and thawing alternately, that the plants are thrown out of the soil, if not well drained. They are, however, liable to the same injuries in the United States, but they sow early, on summer fallowed land, and the wheat has a firm root in the soil before the winter sets in. We cannot admit that our country is inferior to any in North

America, but on the contrary, there is no doubt, that the cultivated portions of it, are capable of yielding a larger produce of corn, and cattle, acre for acre, than any part of North America, notwithstanding the length and severity of our winters. If we are behind or deficient in our products, it is our own fault, and the remedy is in our own power. The country or its products, are not to be estimated as they appear at present, but as they might be. Objections are made to our cattle, and our pastures, as being very inferior, but that is certainly not through defect in the natural quality of the soil or climate, or the race of cattle. We might have most superior pastures here, equal, we believe, to those of any country, as the lands are generally productive of natural clover the first year they are left unploughed. If we had excellent pastures what would prevent us from having good meadows, and with both these, why not have good cattle and sheep? We have heard objections urged to our cattle because they are not very large frame and bone, standing very high with great horns, but this sort of stock, we humbly conceive, would not be the most suitable or profitable for this country, *under any circumstances*. Short legged, small boned cattle of moderate size, will ever be most suitable and profitable for this country, and probably for any country. We do not wish to be understood as advocating the expediency of keeping very small sized animals. We only propose that our animals should be of moderate size, well shaped, small bone, but of large carcass in proportion to bone, and not to be *chiefly* legs, bones and horns. We admit that there may be small sized animals very unsuitable for meat or dairy purposes, but these are not the sort of animals to choose for usefulness or profit. It is only by careful selection and attention in breeding, that useful animals can be obtained. It could not be expected that neat cattle or