

THE  
**Canadian Agriculturist,**

AND

JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

OF UPPER CANADA.

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VOL. XII.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1860.

No. 3.

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CONCENTRATED CATTLE FOODS

In a previous number we showed from very careful analysis made by Mr. Lawes, of a prepared cattle food that has been advertised in various shapes both in Europe and America, that it cost weight for weight, four or five times as much as the most nutritive of the ordinary kinds of stock foods on our farms. We perceive from recent English journals, that several others, in addition to Thorley & Henri, have commenced manufacturing and puffing other kinds of prepared cattle food, so that the business is evidently progressing, and must of course be profitable in most instances, no doubt in an enormous degree. That most of these productions are valuable, scarcely admits of a doubt; but the question to the farmer is, whether the value put upon them by the manufacturers is not excessive. It is not necessary to consider whether an excessive profit is made in manufacturing them, but whether as compared with other substances ordinarily used for feeding stock, they are not enormously dear. These preparations are made up of a variety of different kinds of ordinary food, among which Indian Corn and bean-meal appear to be the principal, mixed

with a small quantity of some aromatic seed—such as caraway, &c.,—for the purpose of giving the mixture an attractive flavor. These foods are sold in England at from forty to fifty pounds a ton, which is within a fourth of the price of the butchers' meat, which they are intended to produce. The materials of which they are composed are not worth more than a fourth of the price charged for these kinds of preparation.

The *North British Agriculturist*, published in Edinburgh, observes: "A comparatively new trade, cattle food, has been very active since 1858. Mixtures of carob beans, bean-meal, and of the meals of cereals, with a flavoring substance, such as coriander seed, have been vended at from thirty to fifty pounds a ton, while the feeding value may be in most cases taken at something like one half that of linseed cake, or five pounds!" Prof. Cameron, of Dublin, remarks: "This so called *concentrated* cattle food is sold for forty-two pounds a ton, while in reality it is not, at the utmost, worth seven pounds!" It is far less nutritious than either linseed-cake or rape-cake, though it is no doubt more palatable to cattle than the latter."

The following testimony of a very high