

do not see any probability of much change in prices during the winter. Now is the time to provide any seed required for sowing in spring, wheat in particular. Where any of the wheat formerly sown in Canada could be procured it would be well to try some next spring, if it could be sown early. New samples of the Black Sea wheat ought also be procured if possible, as there is no doubt this variety of wheat sown here for the few last years, is now subject to become rusted. We have observed that the straw of this wheat is now quite different from what it was the first two or three years it was sown here. The straw was then hard and wiry, and had a brownish tinge, but the last two years, we cannot perceive that there is any difference between it and that of any other variety of wheat. This matter is of great consequence to farmers and to the country, and should be attended to.

23rd February, 1850.

We are rejoiced to see that there is now a prospect of obtaining correct statistical returns of the state of agriculture in Canada. It is many years since we first brought this subject before the public, but in Lower Canada it was never acted upon hitherto, so as to produce the necessary information. If the returns are correctly made, we may be able to ascertain the true state of agriculture, the general system that prevails, and the results obtained from this system. We shall then see what improvements it is necessary to introduce for amelioration where required, and the best means for their introduction. The statistics of agriculture are more necessary by many degrees than those of trade and commerce, as agriculture is the basis of trade and commerce, without which neither can have any existence. Agriculture will, one time or other, be estimated at its proper value, however unwilling parties may be to admit this fact. Correct statistical returns of the agriculture of the country, will be of great value, and show what are the means we

possess for the support of trade and commerce. Our wood, the spontaneous produce of our forests, is valued highly by many as an article of export, but the expense of preparing, and transporting wood to shipping ports, is so very great that there is not much actual profit realized to the country, and perhaps the same amount of labour bestowed on the improvement of agriculture, would be more profitably employed. We admit, however, that we are not sufficiently acquainted with the cost of producing a load of timber, and bringing it to Quebec, to be able to judge as to what proportion the price it sells for there, bears to the cost previously. We have constantly heard of the uncertainty of the timber trade, and how frequently the labourers employed are not paid in full. If it is a fact that such losses are incurred, the trade cannot be advantageous. A ton of squared timber at Quebec, worth only from 3d. to 4½d. the foot, cannot leave any great profit to those employed in bringing it there; indeed we do not know how it can be brought there for the price. The shipping coming to Quebec must of course be a great advantage, but as to the profit of timber, we cannot so well understand it, if it really costs more before it arrives at Quebec than it sells for when there. There may be many causes producing these results, and the chief cause, perhaps, is, the glutting of the market with a larger supply than is required, and also with a large portion of timber of inferior quality. It should not be forgotten that the cost of transporting timber from Quebec to England is about double the amount of its selling price at Quebec, (when only from 3d. to 4½d. the foot,) and therefore inferior timber cannot sell for much, as it costs as much to take it to Europe as the best quality. It would improve the Timber trade if only that of a quality suitable for exporting was brought to Quebec, and of that quality only what is required annually. This is a subject that may be thought to have nothing to do with agriculture. It has, however, much to do with