

THE  
**Canadian Agriculturist,**

OR

JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. XII.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1860.

No. 24.

**The Close of the Year.**

The year 1860 will be a memorable one in many respects, throughout the world. The disturbed political condition of Europe and the East, involving changes of the greatest moment, as affecting the rights and liberties of the people, and the progress of civilization, will afford abundant material for an important chapter in the world's history. Our neighbors on the other side of the lines promise to contribute something in this direction. Let us hope, however, that the present excitement will speedily subside, and that a wise and moderate course will be pursued by those who govern public opinion, that the confederative Republic may be maintained in its unity and integrity. We, in Canada, must necessarily be affected by any excitement or troubles that may agitate our neighbors, since our commercial intercourse is every day increasing; and already our farmers here have suffered a reduction in prices from this cause, particularly in wheat. Commerce is a most sensitive thing; and its extension and prosperity essentially depend upon free intercourse and internal quiet among all nations; or in other words, upon peace and security throughout the world.

The year 1860 will be memorable in British America, and the United States, for a bountiful harvest, and a consequent revival of agriculture and commerce. While thankful to a gracious providence for this mark of Divine favor, it is most earnestly to be hoped, that our people will use the wisdom to use rightly, returning prosperity, by abstaining from rash speculations, and

the indulgence of an unreasonable desire of hastening to be rich; a mistake as disastrous in the light of a sound political economy, as it is inconsistent with the spirit of christian morals. Industry, intelligently, perseveringly and honestly pursued, will, in this country, be sure in due course, to meet a fair return; a condition of things the most favorable "to the greatest happiness of the greatest number."

The year 1860 will be memorable in the agricultural annals of the British Islands, and a large portion of Northern Europe, for an almost unprecedented decree of cold and wet, during nearly the whole of the spring, summer and autumnal months; and as a consequence, a harvest deficient in quantity, and very much deteriorated in quality. It is universally admitted, that so injurious and extraordinary a season has not occurred in that part of the world since the year 1816; and if draining, the enlargement of enclosures, and general improved culture had not been extensively introduced since that date, the result must have proved still more disastrous. In some situations the wheat has been so much injured as to be unfit for human food, and is being fed to cattle. Grain that was much sprouted in the field, and afterwards kiln-dried, is by such process imperfectly converted into malt; and in that state some of the English farmers consider it to be better adapted as food for stock. It is evident from the latest accounts received from Europe, that a large demand will continue for our best quality of wheat on this side the Atlantic, and that current rates, at least, will be maintained.