

# The Farmer's Journal

## TRANSACTIONS OF THE LOWER CANADA BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

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### The Farmer's Journal.

We publish an extra half sheet of the present number, so as to be able to lay part 2 of the Prize List of the Provincial Exhibition before our readers. We are happy to learn, that so far the arrangements at Quebec have proceeded in a most satisfactory manner, and the expectation is confidently entertained, that the Show will be in every respect worthy of the Province.

We hope to be able in our next to lay an account of all the arrangements before our readers.

There has been a slight decline in the prices of bread stuffs at home, which, of course, was reflected on this side of the Atlantic. These periodical fluctuations, however, appeared to us to be nothing, arising from merely speculative causes, and got up principally for the benefit of the Brokers.

The highest price for the best wheat is quoted, June 12, which is the date of the latest advices that have arrived, at 89s. The average for the last six weeks was 79s 2d against 44s 1d last year.

The highest average in modern times was 113s, which occurred in the year 1800. The distress then from dearness of food was most intense. But it must be observed that that was reckoned in a depreciated currency, for at that time the pound note of the Bank of England having been made a legal tender, was only worth fifteen shillings. Twenty-five per cent must, therefore, be deducted from the gross sum, leaving rather less than 85s. Another cause must also be taken

into consideration, at that time averages were entirely taken on the London deliveries. Those are notoriously of a very high quality, the country adjacent to London producing the best wheat in the kingdom, and it is of no use for the more distant counties to send any to the London markets, but the best that they have. Sir Robert Peel obtained the averages to be taken so as to include the whole of the country markets, and it was computed that this further brought the averages down five shillings a quarter below the old London averages, which for more than a century had regulated the duties. With this additional deduction, therefore, it will be seen that the prices of the famine year 1800, in which, from different causes, there was foreign importation, the prices very little exceeded those of 1854, during which we have had immense importations from all parts of the world; nevertheless, the suffering was much more intense in the former year, the rates of wages having been so high this, that there does not appear to be any suffering at all except what some workmen brought on themselves by strikes.

This is a subject which is not particularly interesting in Lower Canada, with the exception of a few holders in the cities who have access to the best information. Our own production of flour certainly does not exceed our wants, and many people think fall short of them. It is only, therefore, the limited extent to which we are importers that the topic is interesting to the country.

The present spring, succeeding a winter rather late in setting in, but still very long

and very cold, has not on the whole been a propitious one. The temperature in a general way has been low, with considerable fluctuations. In some parts of this extensive Province, there are complaints of want of rain, of which in no part have we had more than a sparing allowance. From some Parishes, we hear complaints, that there are severe and prejudicial night frosts. It is to be regretted that the different Agricultural Societies, or the individual members do not furnish us with periodical information upon this topic so interesting them. It is only by an extended basis of operation that the truth can be arrived at. For the same reason it would be gratifying to us and interesting to themselves if they would furnish us with periodical statements of the condition, progress and result of the crops? At present all we can say with any confidence is, that the grass crops in this neighbourhood look remarkably well, and the garden cultivation has been successful.

We copy to day from the *Agricultural Journal* of Upper Canada, a paper on the very interesting subject of offering premiums for Horticulture or what in England are called Cottage Gardens.

We entirely agree with the Revd. Mr. Bell that there ought not to be a limit to the *minimum* size of the garden, or at least that the limit ought to be very low. But we also think there ought to be a *maximum* limit, that the garden may not to be confused with the farm.

Canada, especially Lower Canada, is with the exception of a few wealthy persons who