## AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

ANI

## TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

## Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

VOL. 8.

MONTREAL, ATGUST, 1949.

30. B.

We have ever been of opinion that there is no trade or profession which requires more skill and information than that of the farmer. In any other business or profession there is generally only one particular study required; but a farmer has a vast variety of matters to understand before he can be acquainted with the most proper kind of crops for the various soils he may have to manage—the best method of draining sufficiently—the selection of suitable stock, and the proper management of them, and of their produce. All these are to be perfectly understood before farming can be practiced to the best advantage. The management of cattle requires much experience and skill to make them profitable. In the first place, each particular breed have their advocates, and then there is of en a difference of opinion as to the best mode of keeping and feeding. Some recommend confining cattle in yards and sheds, and feeding them on green food during the summer; others prefer keeping them at large on good pastures, and we agree with the latter, unless parties who have only small farms of a few acres, that may all be in excellent cultiva-Where the pastures are good, one acre will keep a cow very well for the summer, and this, we conceive, is the best and cheapest way to keep her. Pastures should have shade, by hedges or some large trees. In such a country as this, in a good pasture, properly watered, and having sufficient shade, we think that cattle will do much better than confined in yards or sheds, and we believe they will give a better and sweeter milk, and be in a more natural and healthy state. There are not many

experiments made here to ascertain what a good pasture may do for the summer. We have, however, ascertained that an acre of what we consider good pasture will keep a cow in ordinary seasons from May to September, when there should be after-grass to assist. The cattle to be of the middle size—a cross of the Canadian, with imported breeds, which we have found to be a most useful stock for any purpose, particularly the dairy. The management of stock with us is generally very defective, and cannot be profitable until there is a great change in that management in almost every respect. When there is a good pasture capable of supporting a full stock, they improve it very much, by the dropping of the cattle; but where the pastures are poor, and require from three to six acres to support a cow poorly, they do not improve much by the cattle manure. Fertile pastures become rapidly more fertile. Poor pastures kept very bare, and exposed to the great heat of our summers, take a long time to improve. On the contrary, when the pasture is good, and well covered with grass, they are not injured by the heat of ordinary seasons, and improve every year more than they would in any other state. Farmers are often deceived when they have expected lands to be greatly improved by pasturage that is constantly kept as bare as a public road. In such cases the very roots of the grass are dried up, and cannot extend or become large roots in soil that is as dry and hard as a brick. When the roots are large, and the surface covered with herbage, the soil cannot fail to improve rapidly. Summer fallow improves the soil by frequent