

From the most recent information the enterprise is proving very successful. In addition to the interesting communications which we have published from Col. E. W. Thomson, President of our Board of Agriculture, and one of the Commissioners of Canada to the International Show, we subjoin some extended remarks on the Canadian Agricultural Department from the Editor of the *North British Agriculturist*, of June 6th; which is the leading Agricultural Journal of Scotland:

Agriculturists in the United Kingdom have generally a very imperfect idea of the area of the various colonies usually classed under the term British American Colonies. By looking at the map of Canada, it will be seen that the greater portion of the colony is drained by the River St. Lawrence. This river with its tributaries, drains a superficial area of 400,000 square miles, of which 330,000 square miles belongs to Canada—the remaining portion being part of the Federal States. In Canada as well as in the other British American Colonies, man has obtained but an imperfect sway over the natural resources of the soil. Immense tracts in these regions are covered with forest trees, many of being of gigantic dimensions. The very limited extent under cultivation is one of the most remarkable features of the country, and is evidence that any number of emigrants which could by any possibility be drained from the population of Europe, would not greatly affect the capabilities of British North America to meet the existing demand for timber—the produce of these natural forests. We find from a paper recently read before the Society of Arts, London, by Mr. Henry Ashworth, the following statistical information:—

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.—Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland, Vancouver, British Columbia—

After acknowledging that he has received information from gentlemen connected with with Canada, he proceeds :—

In the Canadian Court there are between 30 and 40 different varieties of wheat, grown in a dozen or fifteen different counties, the most distant being separated from each other by about 900 miles—the St. Lawrence and the great chain of lakes furnishing water communication, the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways stretching their iron rails that distance from the north-east to the west through the country. During the latter part of the century, the alluvial deposits of strong clay bottoms along the St. Lawrence

and Richelieu rivers, in Eastern or Lower Canada, gave abundant crops of wheat to the then prosperous husbandman. Year after year these lands were ploughed up and sown, without manuring or enriching, with this same crop. Few cattle were kept, no rotation of crops observed, and the inevitable result followed—an impoverishment of the soil, which lessened produce; and this was followed by the scourges of the midge fly, weevil, &c., till the farmers of Richelieu who had revelled in abundance have become almost pauperised. Fortunately for them, a few model farmers, such as Mr. Dods, from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, who recently died much regretted, and Mr. James Logan, upon the Island of Montreal, and Major Campbell of St. Hilaire, on the Richelieu, have set to work in earnest to restore heart to the soil, and give an example of good culture. The manure which was at one time thrown into the rivers to get rid of it, or from the piles of which wooden barns and stables were removed to secure free entrance, is now returned to the soil. Subsoil ploughing is being resorted to, the previous cultivators having only scratched the surface. The need of rotation of crops is beginning to be understood, and Eastern or Lower Canada is again becoming a wheat producing country; but there the great length and severity of the winter renders autumn sown wheat an uncertain crop. Spring varieties are more generally sown, and among these the Black Sea and a variety brought into Canada from Glasgow, and known there as the Glasgow or Fife wheat, are most highly esteemed. Several samples of both are shown. There are 24 half bushel samples of spring wheat, average weight per bushel about 60 lbs.,—all are of superior quality. A specimen of large, coarse unnamed wheat is shown from a model farm in the north-eastern part of Canada, which seems to have been obtained from France or Algeria, bearing a marked resemblance to some samples shown in the French department. It is rather, however, in the other cereals, and especially legumes, oats, barley, peas and beans, that Eastern Canada appears to advantage, and these are reckoned there more certainly productive, and therefore profitable crops.

There are several varieties of barley shown, two-rowed, four-rowed, and naked barley. There are several beautiful bright samples, the weights of which are stated to be, two-rowed 58 lbs and four rowed 46 lbs per bushel. From the evidence before us, we should expect that Canada is capable of producing superior qualities of barley, adapted for the production of high hopped ales, such as are brewed at Burton-on Trent, by Bass and others. The oats, beans and peas are of various kinds, the whole of the samples being distinguished by a general excellence. Lower Canada shows some very good specimens of the maize or Indian corn, showing how much even a short summer, if dry and hot, can do to ripen this plant, which hates moist skies and loves the