

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

AND

## TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

### Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

VOL. 9. . MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1860. NO. 12.

With great pleasure, we give insertion to the communication of "A Ploughman," and we readily admit it to be the best written letter we have seen with this signature. We perfectly agree with our correspondent, except on two points, that is, the size of the furrow slice, and allowing a ploughman competitor at a Ploughing Match, to leave his plough, and arrange with his hands and feet, defects in his ploughing. We have no objection to offering advice to the ploughman, as to his work, when he comes to the head-land; although, such advice, unless coming from his employers, might not in all cases be judicious, and possibly would confuse the man. We agree with our correspondent, that establishing a scale is not of so much consequence, provided the furrow slice shall not be cut at a *less depth* than 5 inches, or a *greater width* than 8 inches, for this depth, but we do not think that a furrow slice of 6 inches deep and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, will make the best seed bed, or handsomest ploughing. We conceive that when the slice is cut off this size, it must necessarily stand too much upon the edge, and will allow the seed, when sowing, to go down between the slices, and hence, be buried too deeply. We should prefer that one slice lapped over the other, the one-third of its width, or about 3 inches at least, when ploughing grass-land. Doubtless the more minute the division of the soil, by the action of ploughing, the better, provided the furrow slice lies properly, and so as to check the growth of grass—but when the depth and width of the slice are

not in proportion, we have never, in our experience, found the ploughing to come up to our humble ideas of perfection. Of course, we only refer to ploughing swarth, or grass land, not to fallows, or land that has been in tillage the year previous. When ploughmen are allowed to quit their plough, and delay their time, (as they did at the last County of Montreal Ploughing Match,) in settling the furrow slice, they can never accomplish their work in the space of time, that would entitle them to receive a prize. But, independent of this, we humbly conceive the practice to be very objectionable, where men come forward as practiced ploughmen, and where the land is generally selected as the most easy to plough in the country, as it was at Mrs. Mills' farm. We offer these objections to the communication of our correspondent, whom we have not the pleasure of knowing, with the greatest deference because from the manner he writes, we are satisfied he must understand his subject better than we can pretend to do—and we can assure him it affords us much satisfaction that his general views on this subject, are so much in accordance with our own. May we hope that as he can write so well, and to the purpose, that he will often favor us on any agricultural subject. If we should at any time differ from him, we shall certainly state upon what grounds and in the least offensive manner possible. We give our correspondent credit for being a gentleman as well as "A Ploughman," and shall treat him as such, should he favor us again.