

powered to abolish all differential duties (additional duties imposed upon foreign goods in favour of British manufactures) when ever they shall see fit to do so. Thus, it will be our own fault if we don't get rid of this difficulty. The Navigation Laws, by means of which a few ship owners monopolize the River St. Lawrence, and oblige us to pay twice as much as it is worth to get our flour and produce to Quebec, in addition to delays, high rates of insurance, and a hundred other evils growing out of the monopoly, can never be maintained in their present state. However important it may be to keep the "right arm of the nation" in full and vigorous action, we can see no good reason why our brains should be knocked out in order to support, and make room for its gymnastic exercises. The disastrous effect which the continuance of these laws will have upon Canadian industry—upon our very existence as a colony, will certainly excite the attention of the British Parliament and their abolition, so far as the St. Lawrence is concerned, must follow.

The great importance of promptly introducing into our country every real improvement in that art "in the prosecution of which," says Professor Johnston "nine-tenths of the fixed capital of all civilized nations is embarked—and probably two hundred millions of men, expend their daily toil" has very forcibly impressed itself upon our minds in view of the circumstances hinted at in the foregoing remarks. Canada is almost an exclusively agricultural country, and any thing which affects her in this branch of her industry is of vital consequence and demands our most earnest attention. But of the numerous publications and newspapers published in the country, how many are devoted to the interests of agriculture? True, there is now and then an extract, and sometimes an editorial remark bearing upon the subject, but the remark will be generally found to have a political aspect, and to be introduced to illustrate a political argument. Politics form the predominant subject, and party the paramount object. Now, although we cannot go so far as to hold that in a free country politics should be wholly neglected, and party altogether condemned, yet, we think that that, which is first in importance, should be first in place; that we should in plain words, look out for our bread, before we sit down to wrangle about theories of government. Among our neighbours, every State has its agricultural paper. In some of the States there are half-a-dozen confined to the advocacy of the farmer's interests—to the diffusion of useful knowledge—the collection and explanation of every fact and every theory which may be discovered or suggested by practical men, or scientific men in any part of the world, and that promises to increase the farmer's profits and lighten his toil. They are made the vehicles of thought—of discussion—of suggestion—of inquiry among the farmers themselves. A spirit of emulation is thus excited—experiments are tried, inventions are sought out, and their success and usefulness immediately made known to the whole community. Is it not plain that such practices, and such influences will make any country go ahead? Here, we have but one paper that pretends to be exclusively devoted to the interests of agriculture, and that only makes its appearance once a month, reminding us that it is still alive. Why is this? Have we not intelligence enough in the country to support a journal, issuing once a fortnight, and conducted with some reference to the state of the country; including the whole range of subjects, and presenting the information upon each, which should be familiar to both the young and old of our agricultural population? We think there is; we know there are men among us, engaged in farming, who, in point of education and scientific knowledge would not suffer by comparison with the farmers of any country, their observations and experience if made known to the public through such a medium as our paper will afford, would be of infinite value. There are other old farmers scattered over the country who, from a long experience of their own, and from what they have gathered up, by carefully noting the causes of the success of other experienced men, possess a fund of most useful knowledge, the withholding of which will not enrich, nor the giving impoverish them, whilst their neighbours and indeed the whole country would be incalculably benefited by its general diffusion.

We have determined to do our part towards the elevation and improvement of both the moral and physical condition of our countrymen. We expect the encouragement and assistance of all who are animated by a desire like that which fills our own breast, viz: to see the people of Canada,

a prosperous, and a happy people. We expect to be favourably noticed by the Press, at least by that portion of it, which is really disinterested in its patriotism. With regard to ourselves, the particular individuals of the genus homo, indicated by the editorial monosyllable, it will perhaps be expected that something be said. The following may suffice. The "we" is used with grammatical propriety, for we are plural in number. One is a Canadian in the fullest sense of the word. His parents are both Canadians. His paternal grandfather, was an U. E. Loyalist who emigrated to Canada at the evacuation of New York by the British in 1783. His early days were spent on a farm; for some time he has been engaged in the study of the law, and he flatters himself he has a right to speak to his countrymen—to labour for their good, and that he has the means and ability to contribute in some measure to their improvement. Another, is by birth an Englishman, who was also brought up on a farm. He has made Canada his home, and expects never to leave it. He has been during his residence here connected with the Press, and in that situation, obliged to make himself acquainted with the country, its wants, and its resources. His attention will chiefly be given to the news department, and miscellaneous subjects. The other is like the first, a Canadian; he is engaged in the cultivation of his own farm, in one of the oldest settled townships of Upper Canada. His contributions will be of a practical character, and it is hoped, useful and interesting.

But we trust we shall not be allowed to fight the battle alone; we confidently expect that a host will rally to our assistance. We raise our standard. See! on its waving folds appear, in gilded capitals the inspiring words—"CANADA, OUR COUNTRY, OUR HOME." It floats proudly in the air. Shall it be borne aloft in triumph, or shall it sink feebly to the earth? Hark! is that an echo? "It shall not sink!" We hear the encouraging sound, and it nerves us to the struggle. For one year from this day, if a kind providence will give us life and health we shall, even without assistance, maintain our position. By economical arrangement we shall be able, with one hundred pounds, and no more support than is accorded to the worst of newspapers, to live for that period. If at the end of a year we find that we have been mistaken in supposing that Canada was far enough advanced to sustain such an enterprise, we will withdraw from the field, without any regrets for having made the attempt, or for having sacrificed our money, and our best efforts to promote its success.

(See Prospectus, on the last page.)

WHEAT GROWING.

We find in a respectable American Journal, some remarks on this subject which may prove useful to Canadian Farmers. The writer is a resident of Tennessee, a State which lies pretty well South, and of course there is some difference between their climate and ours. But if the "freezes and thaws" to which they are subject during the winter have suggested a particular mode of treatment which experience approves, and if our winters (especially the present) are found to resemble theirs in this respect, reason would dictate that the causes or remedies which they apply with success, may have the same effect here. At any rate, common prudence will suggest the propriety of making a fair trial. It is too late to take any advantage of the suggestion for the present crop, but such observations may be made upon this year's wheat fields, as will show its usefulness for the next year. Our climate has evidently undergone permanent changes. We need no longer depend upon our fields being covered with a thick blanket of snow for three or four months of the year. Corresponding changes will therefore be required in our methods of cultivation:—

"In the first place the land is to be thoroughly broken to a considerable depth—this will always require a good two horse plough; secondly, the clods should be reduced by a heavy iron tooth harrow, and, thirdly, the grain should be ploughed in, with small shovels, or bull tongues. At the north, the concluding operation is to brush or harrow; but it will not answer so well here. I have fully tested this matter by experiment. The surface may be left smooth at the north because when the cold weather comes on, the soil freezes, and, generally, receives its snow coating, and remains so; but here, we have at least a hundred freezes and thaws through the winter and spring, and when the land is perfectly smooth, nine times out of ten, most

of the plants are lifted from the soil and left to perish, in the sun and cold winds. The proper plan is to leave the surface as irregular as a small plough can make it.

"Preparation of Seed.—This is an important item. As to varieties, my experience is, there is an early variety, called May wheat, and another kind, called late wheat; but all the varieties of early wheat, in a few years, become the same, or nearly so, and so of the late kinds. The main point is to select full, plump, sound grains of seed. A good crop cannot be raised from half perished seed. A good mode of preparing is, to put the wheat into tubs of salt water, and as the light heartless grains rise to the top by stirring, let them be removed, and while wet, roll the sound wheat in lime, plaster of paris, or in the absence of these, ashes, till the grains are fully coated. This instruction is for such practical farmers as have no means of acquiring science. Doubtless, there are chemical preparations, which the merely practical man will not undertake—that would be of the greatest service.

"Quantity to the acre.—In the best wheat growing districts, the usual quantity is from 1 3/4 to 2 bushels per acre; but in the south the grain is much smaller, and one bushel is the general allowance. This depends however, very much upon the quality of the soil, and its production. Good land, so prepared that plants can occupy all the space, will support a heavier crop. On such soil, it is probable, from a bushel and a fourth to a bushel and a half might be risked."

From the character of the present winter, thus far exhibited, we should advise our farmers who have not already got them, to provide themselves with Rollers, by a proper use of which in the Spring, the greatest benefit may be derived. With all good Farmers the Roller is an indispensable implement.

EXPERIMENT TO PREVENT THE POTATOE ROT.

The following paragraph, which professes to give the successful result of an experiment to prevent the Potatoe rot, we take from the Leeds (England) Mercury. It appears to be one of those cases in which the result is more easily obtained than the method of the operation discovered. Any of our farmers can repeat the experiment without exposing themselves to the risk of loss: should the potatoes fail, a crop of turnips will be secured. This plan seems to afford the only security against loss in attempting to raise a crop of potatoes, now that the disease has become so general. We have heard of some instances, however, in which the turnips also were affected:—

"An experiment has been made upon a farm in South Lancashire in the growing of roots, which might, if successfully followed, serve to counteract the injurious effects of the failure of the potatoe crop, both as regards the farmers and the public. The land occupied by this experiment was 3 acres 1 rood and 83 yards. It was sown in alternate drills, at a distance of 30 inches between each—first a drill of potatoes (cups as they are called,) and then a drill of Swedish turnips, so that the potatoe tops in one drill did not come in contact with those of the next drill of the same root. The potatoes and the turnips thus grew together till about the middle of last month (October,) when the potatoes which had been partially attacked by the prevailing disease were dug up and sent to the Manchester market, where they were sold at 12s 6d per load of 3 bushels, but the turnips remain in the ground, and are growing vigorously, each drill having now twice the accustomed room for nourishment and growth. The quantity of potatoes produced proved to be 684 loads of large, 10 loads of small, and 5 loads of decayed potatoes, which sold for £44 4s. The turnips, as above stated, are still in the ground, but from their appearance the crop may be easily estimated at 20 tons, value 27s per ton (£71 4s.)—the yield of cup potatoes, on an average of years, is 60 loads per acre, and the average price in the Manchester market 4s per load, so that if the whole field had been set with potatoes before, the quantity produced would have been 200 loads at 5s.—£50; excess of produce in money this year over an average of years, £21 4s. Independently of this gain in money, we have

here a practical security against the future failure of the potatoe crop, or of having that failure made up by the two crops united. It may be proper to add that the manure used in the cultivation of this field was 6 cwt. of guano per acre, sown in drill, of the value of 6s per cwt., and that the soil is reclaimed pent earth, which abounds to so great an extent in Lancashire and in most of the Irish provinces. As this favourable result is principally attributable to the separation of the potatoe drills from each other, we see no reason to doubt that, under this system of husbandry, the result would be equally favorable on any land suitable for the growth of these valuable roots. The risk of an experiment is very inconsiderable, and we recommend its adoption, to a certain extent at least, so long as the country shall suffer under the visitation of the loss of one of the most important articles of food for the People."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following is an extract of a letter from a young Canadian Farmer, to whom we communicated our intention of establishing a paper like that which the reader now holds in his hand, and whose opinion of the plan we proposed, and whose assistance, if he approved it, we solicited. He has promised to contribute to our columns, and since he appears to understand so well the defects which are likely to pervade the reports and suggestions of local correspondents from inattention to important particulars, we may reasonably expect that what he gives us, will be free from such objections. His suggestion as to the advantage of having a practical Farmer connected with our enterprise, will be, in a great measure, carried out by himself. We intend to make our paper the most useful of any which a Farmer can take, if not for his own improvement, yet for the improvement of his children, and we do not hesitate to say, we shall be able to make it so. All we ask is a moderate degree of support from the public, in return for which, we promise that before the year is ended every Subscriber can say with truth, he has "value received":—

"My impression is, (though far from undervaluing the advantages of various local Correspondents) that to depend entirely on comparatively disinterested persons for local information, would be an evil fraught with many and serious disadvantages. Byron's words would be too often exemplified:—

"'Tis pleasant sure to see ones name in print,
A Book's a Book, altho' there's nothing in't."

How many, for the sake of "figuring" in the columns of the Canada Farmer, would affect to show the result of an experiment, without giving due consideration to the peculiar advantages or disadvantages afforded by the locality in which such experiment was made. It might be in the vicinity of a lake, or "remote in the country;" on a hill or in a valley: or, perhaps, what is equally essential, the particular ingredients of the soil and various fluctuations of the weather, during the trial of such experiment, would be overlooked. Now, it does not require a moments reflection to perceive, that to reverse any of the circumstances alluded to, the result might be very materially altered. And unless proper attention be paid to these things, what confidence could be placed in the reports of local agricultural experiments. I would beg to suggest the propriety of uniting your efforts with an intelligent, clever, and practical Farmer, some where in the vicinity of Toronto: one who has a good farm of considerable extent, a portion of which he will set apart for experimenting in. He might also pay particular attention to the progress and results of experiments made by many sensible farmers, but who were incapable of reporting thereon.

"There is one thing with which your letter is saturated throughout—perhaps I admire it more, because we find so few who manifest such a feeling; I mean your anxiety to "see Canadians advancing in intelligence and moral worth." I most heartily respond to the noble and patriotic sentiment, and would ever hold dear the friendship of one who cherishes a feeling so laudable; the want of which is the chief cause of so much perversion of talent.

"I most sincerely hope that the Canada Farmer may be a lasting credit to its founders, by elevating the general standard of morals in Canada, and imparting to popular sentiment a tone of purity. Establish it on a permanent and healthy basis: conduct it with energy and care, and it will diffuse throughout the agricultural community a degree of intelligence that will remove the barriers in the way of improvement—brighten native talent, and aid the rural sons of Canada in aspiring to the first honors that a virtuous ambition can desire.

"Yours, &c.

D. R."