

Ed. Russell

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### AGRICULTURE.

#### The Agriculture of Canada East, and Canada West compared.

We have been at the Agricultural exhibition which took place at Niagara on the 18th, 19th and 20th of September last, and were highly gratified at having an opportunity of seeing an exhibition of numerous specimens of the Agricultural and industrial productions of Western Canada. These specimens were very creditable to that fine portion of the Province, and affording ample proof of the capabilities of the country, and of the skill and industry of its inhabitants to make the most of their advantages. The exhibition of neat cattle, sheep and swine, was good. Of the first there were several varieties, Durham, Devon, Hereford, Ayrshire, and what was termed "grade cattle." There were several specimens, both male and female, of each of these breeds, proving that Western Canada has already at her disposal the means of improving the stock of neat cattle. The sheep were excellent, and of the most approved breeds, including Leinster, South Down, Merinos and mixed breeds. The swine were of many breeds and crosses, but upon the whole were very good. When good breeds of neat cattle, sheep and swine are already in the country, there cannot exist any difficulty of improving the stock of the country, and in a very short period, particularly as regards sheep and swine, that increase so rapidly. The horses, although of large size, were not of that description that we would prefer for agricultural purposes. A sufficient size, and strength, may be combined in horses, with lightness, and activity. The great heavy horses that are employed in England in the waggon and dray, are not the most suitable for Canada. Smart, active horses, of moderate size, will answer best for almost every purpose on a farm. What is known as the "Canadian horse," of Lower Canada, when of sufficient size, cannot be excelled for agricultural purposes, by any horses we have ever seen on this continent. They are strong, active, and enduring, not so liable to diseases as other breeds of horses, indeed they appear to be the breed exactly suited for farmer in Canada, so far as we are capable of judging. The samples of wheat exhibited were excellent, but of other grain we did not see any that were of extra quality. The specimens of roots and vegetables, were of fair quality, but certainly not equal to samples we have seen in Eastern Canada. Of fruits, with the exception of peaches, we have no doubt that we can show as good, the produce of Lower Canada, as any exhibited at Niagara. There was a good show of Agricultural Implements manufactured in Upper Canada, and from the United States. Those manufactured in Canada were generally superior to those from the United States. It is most desirable that such manufactures should be encouraged by every farmer in the country, who should not purchase a single implement of foreign manufacture, if they could be had, and of home manufacture and of a fair price. We hope that the implement makers of Lower Canada will be able to enter into an honourable competition with those of Upper Canada, at the great exhibition in October next, and that they will not be classed second to them in any article they exhibit. The exhibition of domestic manufactures was very creditable, particularly in the article of blankets. We do not recollect ever to have seen better blankets than two lots of those exhibited at Niagara. They were of fine wool, heavy, and of beautiful texture, colour, and softness of feel. No country could produce a better article in the shape of blankets, and we hope that when articles of such a superior description can be manufactured from Canadian wool, they will be preferred to foreign manufactures.

Some superior cheese was exhibited, one weighed about 300 lbs, made by a Mr. Ranney from the milk of 65 cows for two days' milking. We had the pleasure of conversing with this intelligent farmer, who appears to understand perfectly the economy of the dairy. He informed us that he made about 150 lbs. of cheese daily, from the milk of 65 cows—a very fair produce. In the article of cheese we maintain, however, that Lower Canada produces some as good as any we have seen in Upper Canada, and in butter the lower section of the Province is fully equal to the upper, in good samples, though not perhaps in its general produce; but this inferiority, whenever it exists, is altogether in its mis-management of the dairy, and can be remedied by any farmer who adopts the means that are in his power constantly. We learned from dairy farmers that cows of mixed breed, not over large, were considered best for dairy purposes, and produced the most milk, cheese, and butter during the year. We had an opportunity of seeing the ploughing match. The horses, harness, and implements were good, and the work was generally well

executed. The furrow slice was of good proportion in depth and width, so essential to good ploughing. Ploughing Matches are a very useful part of Agricultural Exhibitions, as good ploughing is so necessary in all good systems of husbandry. A very correct idea may be formed of the state of Agriculture from the manner in which ploughing is executed, and if well executed at ploughing matches, it shows that there are good ploughmen in the country, who can show a good example, and prove the advantage of good ploughing. The favourable results from good ploughing are the best recommendation to its general adoption. The principal object of our visit at Niagara, was to see the Agricultural and Industrial productions of Western Canada, and endeavour to compare them with those of Eastern Canada, and report the result for the consideration of readers of this Journal, to form their own conclusions. We regret we had not time to see more of the country, as well as the Exhibition, but upon the whole we hope we have it in our power to submit a report that may be useful, so far as to help to reconcile the farmers of Lower Canada to their own position and circumstances, and to convince them that in neither are they much inferior to their brother farmers of Upper Canada. The staple produce of Upper Canada appears to be wheat, and the chief object of the farmer, so far as we could learn, is to produce large quantities of this article. This is the best thing they can do, and accordingly cultivate well and judiciously for this crop, the seed for which was sown in the fall. We hear constantly of the fine wheat produced in Upper Canada, and what an advantage it is to the farmer in that section of the Province over the farmer of Lower Canada. This matter, however, is not properly considered. If superior crops of wheat are produced in Upper Canada the cultivation is superior, and the expense is much greater than is incurred in Lower Canada. Summer fallow, with manure, is the general preparation in Upper Canada, and this requires two year's use of the land. In Lower Canada, on the contrary, the soil is generally only once ploughed in the Fall without manure, and the seed sown in the Spring. The crop in Upper Canada may be much larger than in Lower Canada, but the expense is also much greater in producing the crop—This extra expense of two years' employment of the land, with three or four ploughings, if summer fallowed properly, and the manure, if applied, which it frequently is, reduces the profit of even of a large crop very considerably, and we have little doubt that a fair spring crop raised in Lower Canada, if not seriously injured by the wheat fly, would leave as much actual profit to the farmer as is obtained upon an average crop of fall wheat in Upper Canada. There is a further item to be considered, that wheat sells generally for a higher price in Lower than in Upper Canada, in consequence of the expense of transport to a shipping port.—There has been a great drawback to farmers in Lower Canada for the last 15 or sixteen years, which has generally checked their progress, and which the Upper Canada farmers were not subject to. The ravages of the wheat fly in Lower Canada prevented the cultivation of wheat in any great degree, while the farmers of Upper Canada continued to grow wheat successfully at that time, with scarcely any injury from the fly.

This has produced a great difference in the circumstances of the two sections of the Province. The loss sustained in the Lower Section by the wheat fly cannot be much short of eight million pounds currency, and perhaps a larger amount. We readily admit that we should prefer the mode of growing wheat in Upper Canada, as it secures a better cultivation of the land, and must necessarily produce a better condition of the soil subsequently. As to actual profit, however, should we be able to raise spring crops of wheat in Lower Canada, as we now hope we may, by proper precaution, we have no doubt whatever, that they would be as profitable as the Fall sown wheat of Upper Canada. We are further almost certain that we could grow fall wheat in Lower Canada, by preparing the soil by summer fallowing, sowing in time and in drills. The sowing in drills might be done without a regular wheat drill. The land after receiving the last ploughing, should be harrowed, and then with a very light plough or with an iron plough with the mould board taken off, and with one horse, shallow drills might be made along the ridges, about 10 inches apart, the seed might then be sown broad cast, harrowed with a light harrow length-wise, which would bring almost all the seed into the drills. The land should not receive much harrowing after the seed is sown, but allow the intervals between the drills of wheat to be higher than the drills. By this means there is a shelter for the young plant, and in the spring the soil is wasting down as a sort of dressing to the wheat in the drills, and thus preventing the plant from being raised out of the soil by the action of thawing and freezing. The land should be

left as dry as possible, by furrow and other draining.—Barley, oats, peas potatoes, and other root crops, hay, and pasture may be produced fully as good in Lower as in Upper Canada. Fruits, (with the exception of peaches) and vegetables of every description, are as good, if not better, with us than in the upper section of the Province. We have heard it asserted that the beef, mutton, and veal of Western Canada are better than in Eastern Canada.—We visited the market of Toronto, and did not see any proof of this being the case. Perhaps we have more of inferior meat in our markets than is to be seen in those of Upper Canada, but we certainly have as good beef, mutton, veal, and lamb, in Montreal, as we have seen in any part of Canada; and if we have any that is inferior, it is the fault of the farmers who do not pay due attention to their feeding, and is not attributable to any inferiority in the soil or climate of Lower Canada, more than of Upper Canada. The fowls with us are much better than any we have seen in any other part of North America.

We have thus fully submitted our humble ideas of the relative capabilities and productions of Upper and Lower Canada. We had not sufficient opportunity of seeing the country to compare the general quality of the lands with those of Lower Canada, or the general system of farming. There may be some of the lands of Upper Canada superior to those of Lower Canada, but we did not happen to see any of them. The general system of farming may also be better than our general system, and we are sure it is, and is more calculated to keep the soil in a constant state of fertility, but we unquestionably have some as good farmers in Lower as in Upper Canada. There is another circumstance in favour of the Upper Section of the Province, that a large proportion of emigrants coming to Canada with capital and other means settle in Upper Canada, and commence farming at once with ample means to carry it on successfully, while very few of them remain in Lower Canada. These are very great advantages to a new country. The most skilful of emigrant farmers and farm labourers also proceed to Upper Canada at once. All these causes act in favour of one section of the Province above the other. We cannot speak of the general quality of domestic animals compared with ours, but we believe those of Upper Canada are superior, from more careful management. Swine, particularly of a good breed, are more general there than here. We take upon us to state distinctly, that every defect in our state and circumstances is capable of remedy, if we choose to adopt it. There is another circumstance which is highly favourable to Upper Canada, and that is, the most respectable of the community take a lively interest in agricultural affairs, and regard agriculture as the basis of their prosperity. This we could readily perceive at the great dinner at Niagara, as well as from conversations with gentlemen we happened to meet with. The farmers, also, appear to take a greater interest in their business, and in what would promote its improvement and prosperity than with us.

We must not omit to state that farmers, as a class, are much better educated in Upper than in Lower Canada, and this circumstance has a most favourable influence upon the husbandry of the former country. An educated man is more ready to receive and adopt improvements proposed to his notice than an uneducated man, who has generally a prejudice against any changes, and a high opinion of his own skill in agriculture.

Upon the whole our visit to Upper Canada has by no means diminished our estimation of the capabilities of Lower Canada, as compared with any part of North America, that we have seen, and we have no doubt that Lower Canada might be made as abundant in agricultural products as Upper Canada, or the neighbouring States. The means that are necessary for the improvement of the Country, are in the power of the Legislature and the people, and we deny that the climate or soil of Lower Canada are unfavourable for successful agriculture.

[Agricultural Journal.]

**A SECRET FOR A FARMER'S WIFE.**—While the milking of your cows is going on, let your pans be placed in a kettle of boiling water. Strain the milk into one of the pans taken hot from the kettle, and cover the same with another of the hot pans; and proceed in like manner with the whole mess of milk, and you will find that you will have double the quantity of good rich cream, and get double the quantity of sweet and delicious butter. This was given by a farmer friend. Try it, dairy women, and write us the result, will you?

**SALTING STOCK.**—Stock of all kinds are the better for receiving salt once or twice a week. To your horses, if you mix with their food a handful of ashes, finely sifted, once a week, their health will be improved.