

stumps, and was not disturbed by the plow.

The fox-tail glories in a dry year, and sprang up the moment the heat set in; but the fire-weed was king of all, it has a long straight root like flax or hemp, and will succeed in the hardest ground and driest season. One old north Briton had a clearance of this description in which he dragged in 6 bushels of oats and 5 bushels of wheat, and I believe the drag had some wooden teeth in it. The wheat barely headed out; the oats which were not sowed quite so soon only came to the third leaf. He would not believe there was anything wrong in the way it was put in. The time, the soil, the climate, and the government were the cause of the whole disappointment. Neither flax, turnips, nor root crops had any charms for him, he could not live on such things himself. Could he not feed pigs or sheep with them? Well, he might do that, but where were the pigs and sheep, and besides, he said, there was nobody in the settlement grew any of them, and no one in the old country ever did it but the gentry, and of course he could not presume to do any thing of the kind.

This I am sorry to say is the feeling, if these are not the expressions of the majority of our settlers in this county.

Our best farmers are not the best educated men we have. They are men who by never ceasing toil accumulate some ready money, whereby they are able to take the advantage of those that are less cautious, and are quite so industrious. They are not obliged to sell their goods when everybody else is pressed by his creditors. By this means they obtain a position which they can easily hold among a people so very careless. The best educated men we have are Merchants, Millers, Mechanics, Lawyers, Commissioners, Clerks of Division Courts and Bailiffs. Some of these are doing very well, others very indifferently, especially those that gave too good credit or commenced business on borrowed capital. When any of these gentry try trading and of course succeed no better than they did at their store-keeping, the "unwashed" takes the liberty of saying that *learning* cannot make a farmer without labor.

Generally speaking, the system of farming established here is superficial. Bushels and acres are the order of the day. The man that has the largest clearance, or the largest summer mow, and the greatest number of cattle, is considered the best farmer. It is true that when the land is fresh and a crop of turnips

succeeded by a crop of wheat, and then seeded down, a man can do very well, for by the time he has enough cleared the stumps will be coming out of what he cleared first, and then he begins to summer fallow. This system does well where land is plenty, and a man has plenty of help within himself; but, say what you will of the summer fallowing system, there are two years lost for one crop, when by dividing the labor there could be a crop obtained every year. Of this mode of cultivation 20 bushels of fall wheat are obtained as an average, whereas by a course of root and green crops you may expect 40 bushels.

Trenching is the only mode of cultivation that surpasses all others yet adopted. In no country is it more necessary than in Canada, and in no county can it be more beneficial than in the County of Bruce. The guiding principle in agriculture should be to make clay land as much like sand as possible, and the sandy land like clay. Every one knows that river flats which are made from alluvial deposit are the richest lands in existence. Now I cannot see why a deposit made by the hand of man, would not be as good as that made by the overflow of a river. It is well known that river flats don't need draining, neither would our heaviest clays if they were once trenched and the water never to rise above the trenched ground. The rain or snow that falls on land never hardens it if it can soak through it and pass off. It is when it soaks and bakes under the heat of the sun, and no loosening matter mixed in the subsoil, that it becomes hard. It is the numerous ingredients of which they are composed that make those flats so mellow and so dry.

You may take equal quantities of sand, marl, peat, or black muck, lime, clay, stable manure, mix up all together and you have as good an alluvial deposit as ever was made.

The novelty of spade husbandry is the only thing that makes me so diffident in introducing it. I say and say it without fear of contradiction, that the County of Bruce is the best agricultural County in Canada, and for the same reason it should receive the best cultivation. The old idea of holding large farms under surface tillage is too much the practice in this County still, and the sooner the people are convinced of the fallacy of it the better. There are hundreds in the County of Bruce that hold one and two hundred acres that will never till twenty of it in their