

September should see the sowing of fall-wheat completed. One thing is certain: if, on good land, well manured, 6 pecks of seed is found sufficient in the first week of September, at least double that quantity should be sown in October. On the poorer chalk soils of Southern England, the regular seeding is three bushels, and it is not found to be too much. It is a pity that our "Bureaux of Industry" seem to neglect the teachings of long experience as evinced by the universal practice of successful farmers in Britain. The quantity of seed sown in this and the other eastern provinces on poor land, out of condition too, is absurdly small. If some of our farmers would try an extra bushel of oats to the "arpent" this spring, to begin with, they would see how wrong their usual practice has been.

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"Potatoes."—This crop has not yielded any too well in Quebec, but it is some years since those we have eaten have been so floury and of such fine flavour.

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The "root-crop" has not turned out well, as the constant rains of early summer prevented the weeds from being cut up properly; they lay on the ground and took root again in many instances. Sowing turnips and other roots "on the flat" is a very good plan, where the land is clean and dry, but where the land is likely to be foul—especially when the dung used has not been well heated,—and damp, sowing on the drill is far better; the hoes, both horse and hand, can be used earlier, and the land in the line of plants can be cut up deeper.

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The Ontario people are complaining bitterly of the damage done to the "pea" by weevils. Cannot this horror be destroyed in some way? The pea is too valuable a crop to be lost, particularly since it is next to impossible to make firm bacon without it.

A Mr. Peart has been lecturing in Eastern Ontario on farming in general. We borrow a short passage from the "Ottawa Valley Journal."

#### NITROGEN.

"Compare a crop of clover," said Mr. Peart, "with a crop of wheat as it affects the fertility of the soil. If you plough under a crop of clover that will produce two tons to the acre, you add to your land exactly 90 pounds of nitrogen. This nitrogen is appropriated from the free nitrogen of the air, and costs the farmer nothing. The wheat has not the power to do this. Nitrogen is worth, in the commercial world, when you go to buy it in the shape of a fertilizer, about 18 cents per pound. You have here then a gain of \$16.20 per acre. Take a crop of wheat on the other hand, and you remove from your soil two pounds of nitrogen for every bushel of wheat and the straw which accompanies it. At twenty bushels to the acre you, therefore, take from your land forty pounds which, at 18 cents, amounts to \$7.20."

"You have as a balance against this twenty bushels of wheat at the market price. This is the foundation principle of what is known as the "Norfolk Rotation," so popular in the old country. It is a four years rotation with roots, barley, clover and wheat, in the order named. Many English farmers, by following this rotation, have not only retained the fertility of their farms, but have actually increased it, although in constant cultivation for hundreds of years."

All very well, except the last statement that "many English farmers by following this rotation, etc.;" for very few farmers in England sow clover every fourth year, as the majority found, more than sixty years ago, that the sowing of that very valuable crop more frequently than once in eight years invariably ended in its refusal to grow at all. It is really provoking to see how the farmers in the States persist in assigning the failure of clover, so frequently noted in the reports, to any but the real course, viz., its too frequent repetition on the same land.