

drained the rain does not pass through it, but remains upon and in the soil, until evaporated by the sun and wind, leaving the soil so hard as to prevent all the good effects of the fertilizing qualities of rain to the crops. This renders the soil impervious to air and dews also—so that rain, dews and air, are comparatively of little use to growing plants on ill drained soils. This is not a theory of the fancy, but a certain fact, that can be proved by a reference to crops growing upon drained and undrained soils.

We are fully persuaded that there is not a greater defect in Canadian husbandry than the insufficient draining of the soil. Its ill effects are perceptible in all directions, from the commencement of the Spring to the end of the Fallploughing. In the sowing of the seed—in the growing of the crops—in the harvesting, and in the ploughing of the land in the Fall, all exhibit unquestionable proofs that the lands were not in the best state for working in proper season, or producing good crops. This may not apply to every quality of soil, but it will to much the largest proportion of the lands of Lower Canada.

The long protracted cold weather in May, has been severely felt by many farmers who had not provided themselves with sufficient winter keep for stock; and we have been told that in many instances the thatch of barns has been taken off to feed the cattle. It may be imagined what nutriment poor animals find in old straw that has been exposed as thatch for many years on buildings. One of the worst features of cattle keeping in Canada is—that very many farmers make no adequate provision for cattle either in summer or winter. In the summer they have to subsist in the best way they can, in ranging over land that was in tillage the year previous, and not sown with any kind of grass seeds or clover, or upon some wild wooded pasture. In winter, they have to live, if they can, on straw, or in fact upon what should be only considered waste fit for

making manure; such is not the proper mode of keeping cattle with any hope of profit to their owners. Straw might certainly be made use of for cattle, if they also were supplied with a portion of hay or roots, but without this, it is absurd to keep cattle in our cold winters on straw alone. It appears as if farmers only kept cattle to consume what would otherwise be waste. In the British Isles, the *very best* of the lands are kept for the pasturage of cattle and sheep, and the best of the produce, with the exception of wheat and barley, is given to them in winter. They are, in these countries, considered the most valuable appendages of the farm, and regarded as the best paying part of the products. Our system is altogether faulty in Canada. We have had constant opportunities of seeing hay sold in the Montreal market for much less than its cost to the farmer. Indeed, for more than half the time we have been in the country, hay has been sold for so low a price, that the purchasers have not paid the farmer the price it cost to cut, cure, and take it to market, so that the land upon which the hay was grown, was in reality the property of the man who bought the hay, instead of the farmer. Under a better system this could never occur, and particularly if the farmer was in circumstances to keep over some of the hay of a plentiful season for a year of short crops, as they do in England. Under a judicious system of husbandry, cattle and corn, hay and pasture, are kept in due proportion to each other; hay is never sold at a very low price, while cattle, perhaps, are half starved upon straw; nor could hay be sold at a very high price if the large surplus of one season was kept over to supply the deficiency of another season; this would be more favourable for all parties, to seller and buyer. There is no excuse for farmers to be short of provender for cattle, when, by a little care, abundance might be grown on lands that are now left waste. When the season was too far advanced to grow a crop of grain that would be