

hollow. This the owner cut a drain through about 18 inches deep, levelled all the knolls, took out all the stumps he could, plowed it deep and planted potatoes in it in 1857, in 1858 it was fit to receive the seed two weeks before any plowed land he had, and when the land that had been plowed and not drained was hard and dry this was soft and mellow. He sowed a bushel of Glasgow wheat on the piece and got 35 bushels off it (there was not quite an acre in it). Of 4 bushels sown on land tilled in the usual way, he had not 40 and that of an inferior sample. The plow is a useful implement when the ground is fit for it, but the spade and grub-hoe have preceeded them in all countries that we have any history of, and in no country are these more necessary than in the County of Bruce. It is a lamentable fact that there is no tool made of iron or steel the native American hates with more intensity than the spade, and the immigrant very soon imitates him, either through false pride or carelessness. It is true the spade is very little used in the old country except for draining, and in the construction of railways, &c. But in this country it should go along with the axe. The first thing a man should do in clearing a piece of land, whether it is one acre, five acres or fifty, is to remove all obstructions to the water lying on it or that may lie on it, for such will be the case where there is marl or clay bottom, or subsoil. At least such is the case in the Townships bordering on lake Huron in the County of Bruce. Next to this should be the digging down the knolls. With a proper spade, a man can level an acre per day. In the underbrushing care should be taken to pile it on these raw spots, for two reasons; first, to enable the frost to enter and pulverize, which it would not do if the snow fell evenly and slowly on it; secondly, the burning of the loose clay and the ashes from the brush enriches those spots, so that the crop will be as good the first year as it will be in any other part of the field, which is not generally the case when they are dug cold and raw, in the spring after the land is cleared. Perhaps, this is the reason why it is not practised more. I know I did five acres one year in that manner and it far exceeded my expectations.

To the man that is determined to keep in the old track, or as near it as possible, I would advise him to try this far, and I will warrant him a satisfactory return, it is but a slight reform and might lead to great results.

But to him that would "reform it all together," I would say *come to the trenching at once*. It is a bold proposition certainly, and one I would not like to make in a large crowd of spade-haters, still I will maintain that had each householder in the County of Bruce one acre of trenched ground down with parsnips, carrots and mangel wurzel, from the second year of his being on his lot, such a heading as "Destitution in the County of Bruce" would never have been seen in the columns of a newspaper, to the disgrace of our magnificent County. But you will say it was the case all over the Province. I say I have not the least doubt of it, and from the very same causes too. The spring of 1858 was comparatively fine, that is, the month of April was dry and cold, but the fodder being all used, and no feed in the bush or pasture, the cattle were not able to work. When the feed did come it was raining every day. Those that did not get their crops in in April did not get them in in June, and the result was they might as well not have put in any, for our "twelve good men and true" that ever were sworn could tell whether fire-weed, fox-tail timothy or wheat bore the greatest proportion to the whole bulk. Notwithstanding this deficiency, if the "Fathers" of the municipalities had taken the precaution of ascertaining how much was in each Township, and how much would be required, the distress would not have been so severely felt, and the borrowing of that large sum from the government would have been avoided. This could have been done by the different collectors, for at the time they were going round each rate payer knew how much he had and how much he should want. Such a measure I believe was proposed to some of them, but it was met with "pooh, pooh!" that was always the way the people were grumbling, they would be plenty sold yet, they would engage.

They were right in one respect, there was plenty sold out of the back Townships at taken away east for 75 cents per bushel, but if there was, it had to be brought back again for \$2.00 per bushel.

I forgot to state in the proper place that from the middle of June 1858 the heat was oppressive, the ground was absolutely baked, and that that was sown latest suffered most. Here the early sowing shewed superiority for it had well covered the ground and caused it to retain the moisture. In this manner the timothy that was close to