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THE ECONOMY OF FARM YARD
MANURES.

In a country like Canada the farmer must look chiefly to his own farm-yard for keeping up the fertility of his fields, and the increase of his crops. He is not in a condition to go largely into the market for purchasing foreign manures; and if he were so, it is doubtful whether such importations would prove profitable. There are two vital points which should ever command his attention: first, to pursue such a system of cropping as will not unnecessarily weaken the stamina of the soil, and secondly, carefully to collect all sorts of organic substances on the farm, with earthy and mineral matters, to form a mineral compost, and to pay constant attention to the preservation of the manure made in the stables and yards of the homestead. It is too much the fashion now-a-days to look abroad for the means of manuring the land, while materials close at home are neglected,—and which are sometimes a positive nuisance,—that may with a little care and trouble, and without much expense, be made into a compost, and thus largely minister to the growth of future crops.

On farms that have not been exhausted

ed manures ought not to be necessary, except, perhaps, for the raising of root crops, a department of Canadian agriculture that profitably admits of both improvement and extension. When guano, crushed bones, superphosphate of lime, can be got of *good quality* at a moderate price, every improving farmer should more or less avail himself of them for this purpose. And here *quality* of culture, rather than *extent*, should be the primary consideration. By a liberal and judicious system of management, as many turnips, for instance, may be grown upon a single acre, as under a contrary course will be ordinarily produced from two or three. The cost per bushel, therefore, will be found much in favor of high culture. The chief value of root crops consists in their enabling the farmer to sustain a large number of animals in better condition than he otherwise could, and thus adding to his manure heap, on which he must mainly depend for increased returns of hay and grain.

The *dung heap*, therefore, must be considered the Canadian Farmer's sheet anchor, and nothing should be left undone to increase its quantity and improve its quality. The former can only be accomplished by keeping the arable portion of the farm in good heart, thereby producing