

contributions. I have often thought from my acquaintance in England with the extraordinary productiveness of Lucern, and my own knowledge of the fact, that it has been long successfully raised by Col. Delater of the Falls, and my own limited experiments, that it may be cultivated in this part of Canada. I will venture to forward the annexed article upon it, not an original one, but from high authority.

I am, sir,

A LONG POINT FARMER.

*Lucern*, or *Medicago Sativa*, is a plant which will not bear superabundant moisture, and its cultivation is therefore restricted to dry soils;—but where it thrives, its growth is so rapid and luxuriant, that no other known plant can be compared to it. In good deep loams, or sandy soil on a substratum of loam, Lucern is the most profitable of all green crops; when properly managed, the quantity of cattle which can be kept in good condition on an acre of lucern, during the whole season, exceeds belief. It is no sooner mown than it pushes out fresh shoots; and wonderful as the growth of clover sometimes is in a field which has been lately mown, that of lucern is far more rapid. Where a few tufts of lucern happen to be, they will rise a foot above the surface, while the grass and clover which were sown at the same time, are only a few inches high.

Lucern sown in a soil suited to it, will last for many years, shooting its roots downwards for nourishment, till they are altogether out of the reach of drought. In the driest and most sultry weather, when every blade of grass droops for want of moisture, lucern holds up its stem fresh and green as in a genial spring. The only enemies of this plant are a wet subsoil and a foul surface. The first is often incurable; the latter can be avoided by good cultivation.

It is useless to sow lucern upon very poor sands or gravel, or on wet clays. The best and deepest loam must be chosen, rather light than heavy, but with a good portion of vegetable earth equally dispersed through it. If the ground has been trenched with a subsoil plough, so much the better; and if the surface is covered with some inferior earth from the subsoil, it will be no detriment to the crop, for it will prevent grass and weeds from springing up, and save much weeding. The lucern will soon strike below it. It is not a bad practice to cover the lucern field with

a coat of ashes, to keep down the weeds, where this can be done easily.

The soil in which it is intended to sow lucern seed should be well prepared. It should be highly manured for the two or three preceding crops, and deeply ploughed if not trenched: It should be perfectly clean, and for this purpose two successive crops of turnips are most effectual. In the month of April, or earlier if the season admits, the land having been ploughed flat and well harrowed, a very small quantity of barley, not above a bushel to the acre, may be sown or drilled into the ground, and at the same time from thirty to forty pounds of lucern seed sown broad-cast, and both harrowed in and lightly rolled. If the land will not bear to be laid flat without winter furrows, it will be useless to sow lucern in it. As the crop comes up it must be carefully weeded: no expense must be spared to do this effectually, for success depends upon it.—When the barley is cut, care should be taken to cradle it low, to prevent the stubble from interfering with the growth of the lucern plant, or if it is very strong, should be hoed out or removed with a light harrow, and if kept free during the first year, there will be little difficulty with it afterwards, when the roots have become strong; at all events it must be kept as free from weeds as possible. It must not be fed off with sheep, as they would bite too near the crown of the plant; it should always be cut as soon as the flower is formed. The second year it will be fit to cut very early, and in a favourable season it may be cut four or five times. After each cutting it is desirable to draw heavy harrows or a cultivator over the land—this process will not injure the plants even if it divide the crown of the root; but it will destroy grass and weeds. Liquid manure, consisting of the urine of cattle or the draining of dunghills, is often spread over the lucern immediately after it has been mown, and greatly invigorates the next growth; but if the land is a deep rich soil this is unnecessary.

The lucern will grow and thrive from seven to twelve years, when it will begin to wear out, and in spite of weeding the grass will get the upper hand of it. It should then be ploughed up, and all the roots carefully collected and laid in a heap with dung and lime to rot, and a course of regular tillage succeed. The sown land should not be sown again with lucern in less than ten or twelve years, and only then after a regular course