

quently it is inconvenient to plough up old meadows for the purpose of improving the quality and quantity of the grass upon them, and farmers are desirous to be able to accomplish this object without ploughing them. There is a possibility of doing this in many instances, particularly where there is not much moss amongst the grass; but where the moss is considerable, it is scarcely possible to improve the herbage for producing good meadow, without a regular course of tillage. Draining, and the application of a heavy dressing of lime, would have a good effect; and by repeating this dressing it would probably banish the moss altogether, but it would not restore it to good meadow without sowing fresh grass-seed upon it. We have endeavoured to improve old meadows by top-dressing with compost or other manure, harrowing the land well, sowing timothy and clover seed upon it, and then hush-harrowing or rolling it. We have found this method to answer a very good purpose, and the herbage to be greatly improved by it for meadow. This should be done as early as possible in the spring, when the snow disappears, to give the grass-seeds a fair chance of coming up before the drought and heat of summer commence. Lands that have been top-dressed the previous fall would be in the best state of preparation for sowing the grass-seeds in the early spring, after being well harrowed. In case the land is not top-dressed until spring, it is difficult to do the work sufficiently early at that season, without cutting up the surface by the horses and cart-wheels. By attention to opportunities in the mornings and evenings, while the surface would happen to be frozen, a farmer might be able to top-dress a considerable quantity of land without injury and in good time. This work would be more readily accomplished provided the manure was taken from the farm yard to the field in the winter, and placed in heaps in the most convenient situations. Meadows once properly laid down, and well stocked with the plants of timothy and clover,

might be kept in good condition for several years, by a light top-dressing of compost or other manure, every second or third year. We have ever been persuaded, from observation and our own experience, that top-dressing meadows was one of the most profitable modes of applying manure to the soil. It greatly augments the quantity of provender for stock, without the expense and uncertainty of grain or root crops, and the land is kept in good condition for breaking up at any time the farmer may see it his advantage to do so. Meadows sufficiently drained of superfluous moisture, and kept sufficiently manured, are not apt to become foul with weeds or inferior grass plants. In all good systems of husbandry, good meadows and good pastures are considered much the most valuable portions of the farm. Indeed all improvements are made with a view of laying down lands in good condition for meadow and pasture, but we regret it is not always so in Canada.

As regards meadows, we can have them as productive here as in any other country, and as to the quality of the hay made from timothy, there is not any to equal it, that we have ever seen. At the market of Montreal, the greater part of the hay exposed for sale, is superior for every purpose, to any we have seen on this continent, or in any other country. When we know this to be the fact, we cannot consistently find fault with our soil or climate, because a good quality of hay, produced in abundance, is a certain indication of a good soil and climate for agriculture. When there is good hay, there may be good pasture, and when both are good and abundant, what is to prevent us from having a numerous stock of good cattle and sheep? and when we have those, why should we not have good crops? It is quite possible to raise good crops of roots and grain, on poor soil, by manure and cultivation—but it is not so easy to bring these soils to become good pastures and meadow. Good pastures and meadows are great advantages in all countries, and