

perate until it will bear other crops, and as soon as it will again bear grain, it is made to do so.

Thus the changes are rung until the stumps are all out, and the fields are reduced to level surfaces. Then the same system is pursued, varied by occasional naked fallows, to kill the weeds which this system engenders. Then grain crops again until the land will bear no more; then rest, and so on round and round the cycle. As a rule, Canadian, and generally American farmers, do not make one-fourth of the manure that is produced on an English farm. The want of manure keeps the straw short, and the hay crops light, and so it goes on until the farm falls into the hands of a farmer who understands his business, when the old system is quickly reversed and amended.

Now each time that a bad farmer (one of the old sort who cleared up the land from the forest) finds his crops fail he does not blame himself and his own want of knowledge, but he blames the land, and looks back with envy to the glorious crops he used to get off the newly cleared forest when he had only to sow, and scratch in the seed with a drag, to ensure a bounteous harvest.

Besides this cause of discontent, the family has in the meantime grown to manhood and womanhood, they must be provided for (for no young Canadian ever thinks of doing as his father did and commencing upon nothing), the attachment in the family is strong, and the father reasons thus: "If, instead of this cleared farm on which I live, I could again go on to new land I could purchase enough wild land for all my sons, I could have them around me, they would help me to clear up a place for myself, and all would help one another to clear up their several farms as they are wanted, and as my sons marry and settle." To do this, however, requires capital—the only capital the man has is the cleared farm, and the extra stock not required on a new place,—he sells the old homestead, buys a forest tract, and once more goes into the forest to carve out a new home.

This is the reason why so many cleared farms can always be purchased, and can be had at prices so low that they are well worth the money.

Now all these farms though they have been so ill used, at once spring into renewed fertility by good farming, the soil is good, it has never been deeply cultivated, there is a new farm (so to speak) lying under the old one, and it only wants to be brought to the surface by an inch at a time, to give new life to the injured but not worn out soil, thus gradually deepening cultivation with a proper and scientific rotation of crops, and sufficient capital to enable the new occupant to keep stock in proper quantity, and in five years the original occupant wont know his own place.

It is this elasticity, so to speak, that characterizes the soils of Canada, and of Ontario in particular; one year will see them apparently incapable of producing even moderate crops, and two or three years of good farming will put them into a state exuberant fertility.

In England, Ireland and Scotland, no man will

farm without he possesses a certain sum equal to £5 to £8 per acre. No landlord will accept a tenant who cannot prove himself to have sufficient capital to do justice to the land—but in Canada, not one half nor indeed one quarter and often not one-tenth of these amounts are possessed by the ordinary farmer of the country. If he has his seed, his team of horses, or oxen, his plough tackle, two or three cows, a few pigs, and perhaps six sheep, he thinks himself well off, and he does not hesitate to go into debt for the other necessaries of life, depending on the country merchant for his supplies and on the results of the coming harvest to pay the merchant's bill. Of course, all this is very bad, but it is the reason why Canada in general and Ontario in particular, holds out such favorable opportunities for the old country farmer, with moderate skill and tolerable capital, who can purchase the cleared farm and at once put it under a better course of husbandry; and good husbandry in Canada as everywhere else, ensures success.

The great bugbear as to Canada, in England, is our winter. People say—look at the reports of the weather how dreadfully cold,—and then the whole country is for months covered with snow. Well, it is these two facts that render the climate of Canada so favourable to its inhabitants. The frost and snow make good roads, such roads as an old country man cannot imagine. The snow enables the farmer to use sleighs instead of wheeled vehicles; and nothing in Canada is so dreaded as a black winter, when there is but little snow.

Two horses on good sleighing, will carry with ease and at a fast trot, loads which they could not go out of a walk with on a wheeled vehicle. The horses love the snow, and seem to delight in travelling over it. The frost and snow enable people to break a road any and everywhere, across a swamp, a marsh, and even across a lake; the travel can be conducted in the winter with greater ease than it can be conducted on the best and most level Macadamized road. Winter is the time for getting together all heavy materials, for collecting rails for fencing, for moving stones, bricks and timber for building; and as the other occupations of the farm are suspended, the season is fully available for all these purposes. The best farmers will have large barns and cattle-houses constructed, and in them are fed and confined throughout the winter the entire stock of the farm. Where this is the case, manure accumulates, and some of our best farmers make a point of using the snow roads for carrying out the manure so made to distant parts of the farm, unapproachable at other times during spring and fall with heavy loads.

The health of the Canadians during winter is proverbial, warmly housed, well fed, warmly clad and with good means of locomotion; the winter becomes the most enjoyable portion of the year. Fuel is plenty and cheap, and suffering from the season is unknown amongst the classes of ordinary Canadian farmers.

Let us now compare the situation of farmers of moderate capital in England with the same