

If it had been, it doubtless would not have yielded more than 20 bushels per acre. Between each ploughing, the land was harrowed lengthwise and crosswise of the furrow, by which means the most perfect state of tilth was produced. Two pecks of seed should be sown per acre; and it is useless to sow this crop upon land unless it be rich, and in a high state of cultivation.

CULTIVATION OF OATS.

There are few crops so easily cultivated as oats, yet, to get a large yield, it requires that the land should be in the highest state of fertility. This crop is usually grown for the purposes of provender, for which it is peculiarly adapted for horses. Of late years an increased demand and value have been imparted to this grain, through the establishment of a great number of oat mills. A small proportion of the product of those establishments is exported to England, but the great bulk is consumed by the home population, thus taking the place of wheat flour. In many points of view, oatmeal is a more nutritious article of diet than wheat flour, and as the crop is much more easily cultivated than wheat, its consumption, as an article of food for man is a matter of much importance to the country. The oat crop may be very considerably increased, without materially lessening the amount of wheat grown in the province; and, therefore, whether it be consumed at home, or is exported, it is so much real gain to the country. If 100,000 barrels of oatmeal-flour be manufactured and consumed in the country, it is obvious that it would be a means of increasing the exports of wheat flour 100,000 barrels, and would thus enrich the country, by providing a means for paying for the imports at the rate of £100,000 per annum. If a saving of this kind can be made, and, besides, an equal quantity of oatmeal exported; both of which are quite practicable, this crop would then become on the list of exports, of third rate importance. Much of the low sterile lands of the country, that is quite too rich and wet for winter wheat, would grow most abundant crops of oats; and if lands like these were much more extensively brought into cultivation, and sowed down with the culti-

vated grasses, and occasionally broken up and sown with two or more successive crops, and the oats converted into oatmeal, a much greater quantity might by that means be produced than what was supposed might be done in the foregoing calculation.

On land that is well-adapted for wheat and clover, it would be very unwise to sow a greater quantity of oats than would be sufficient to supply the horses and other stock on the farm. When oats are sown as provender upon land that is not in a high state of fertility, it is an excellent practice to sow about twenty-five per cent. of the quantity of seed with peas. The peas, having broad leaves, will extract much of their food from the atmosphere; and, besides, they will shade the ground, to a considerable extent, and thereby tend to increase, rather than lessen, the yield of oats. From ten to twelve bushels of a very superior quality of peas may be grown per acre among the oats, without seriously affecting the average product of the latter crop, which may be separated from the oats by the use of riddles for the purpose, or they may be ground together, and consumed as food for stock. The average yield of oats, in the best cultivated districts, does not exceed forty bushels per acre; and if the whole wheat crop of the country were taken into the calculation, it is highly probable that the average, extending over a number of years, would not exceed thirty bushels per acre. During a period of eight or ten years, the cash value of oats does not exceed one shilling and threepence per bushel, at which average the crop is worth only about £2 per acre, which will scarcely pay the rent and cost of cultivation. Those farmers, however, who cultivate this crop with a view of making a paying one, are not satisfied with a less average than fifty bushels per acre; and by such farmers who cultivate their land upon correct principles, from seventy to eighty bushels per acre are, in favourable years for vegetation, produced. The heaviest crop of oats of which we have any knowledge were grown upon a ten acre field, which had been in pasturage upwards of twenty years from