

circumstances of the country. The process was too often slovenly conducted, so as to preclude the full benefits of the fallow, either in the extirpation of weeds, or the proper deepening and weathering of the soil by which, especially in dry lands, several insoluble manuring substances are brought into a fluid state so as to be available to the wants of the growing plant. It was a good practice to plough the ground deeply in the fall, to allow it to lie in a rough state through winter, exposing as large a surface as possible to the joint influences of the air and frost. The summer working should be deep and thorough, for in fallowing, as in most other agricultural operations the old adage holds true, that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

With regard to the long and keenly mooted question, whether the naked fallow ought to enter at all into the modern courses of an advancing husbandry, he (Professor B.) was of opinion that it had hitherto been too extensively and indiscriminately practised, and that upon all the lighter descriptions of soil, it might be beneficially dispensed with. On the clays, however, the fallow in some shape or other will always be found necessary every few years. It is the most effectual means of cleaning, loosening, and sweetening the soil, and has always been regarded as the mainstay of the clay-land farmer. It should, however, be resorted to only as a necessity, and not as occupying invariably any given year in a course of rotation. It is doubtless an expensive practice; involving the loss of a year's produce, and it adds nothing to the soil. When produce is low in price, the first crop after naked fallow seldom if ever pays expenses; but its benefits are usually felt through the whole subsequent course of the rotation. Fallowing acts upon the soil chemically as well as mechanically, and is a certain means, as all experience testifies, of bringing into activity the latent elements of fertility. Clays to which the practice of fallowing is chiefly restricted, always contain a greater or lesser amount of insoluble silicates of alumina and the alkalies. By repeated cultivation these manuring substances are exposed to the action of air and moisture, and as the soil becomes mechanically disintegrated, they combine in a solvent state, and become available as food for cultivated crops. As underdraining and thorough cultivation advance, naked fallows, even on the heavier soils, will become less frequent, and the growth of root-crops and row culture extended. This is evidently the natural tendency of a scientific and progressively advancing course of agriculture.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his agreement in the main with the statements and reasonings of Professor Buckland. The chief question to be decided was whether fallowing pays. He was of opinion that it did not; except occasionally on the heavy soils, infested with weeds. In the Township of York, except upon the stiffest lands, the naked fallow ought to be discarded.

Mr. LEE was of opinion that the summer fallow upon most of the soils of York Township was unnecessary. His farm was generally light, upon his peaty land he raised excellent oats, and found that fall wheat did better after a crop than a summer fallow. He highly approved of the row culture of root crops.

Mr. PALMER expressed himself decidedly in favor of extending and improving the cultivation of turnips, mangolds and especially carrots; and thought that we should look more to the quality of our cultivation than to its mere extent.

Mr. CHERRIMAN remarked that the summer fallow could not be altogether got rid of in this country, even on the lighter soils, as weeds were so remarkably quick in growth. The first thing was to keep the ground clean.

Mr. PLATER strongly argued for the necessity and utility of fallowing on the stiffer soils. His farm mainly consisted of a clay sub-soil, and although he could produce root crops, they could not be got off in sufficient time for fall wheat. He could usually get a heavy crop off the latter after a bare fallow.

Mr. ALCHIN, of Paris, said that on the light soils of the Counties of Brant and Dumfries the naked fallow was not generally necessary.

Mr. SAMPSON thought that the first step in good husbandry was deep and thorough working of the land, and that consequently improved implements were of primary necessity. He was an advocate of fallows; but they should be well done. In the State of New York exhausted arable land had been restored by deep ploughing and keeping down the weeds.

Although there was some difference of opinion in the meeting, it was obvious that nearly all were in favor of dispensing with bare fallows on the lighter soils. After a vote of thanks to Professor Buckland for his opening address, the Club adjourned.

GUELPH FARMERS' CLUB.

An adjourned Meeting of the Farmers' Club was held at the British Hotel, Guelph Friday week; Col. Salders in the Chair.

The subject for discussion was that of "Manures," introduced by Mr Charles Davidson, as follows:—

MR PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with a request, made at the latest meeting of the Farmers' Club, that I would introduce the subject of MANURES, and their application: I am sorry it should have fallen upon me to bring before you a subject of such importance, for I freely confess I have neither the ability nor the experience necessary to do it justice, as I consider it one of the fundamental roots in the science and practice of Agriculture; and as you are mostly all aware that my calling has been other than that of a Farmer, for the last fifteen years, you will bear with me in the remarks I am about to make, as they are those chiefly drawn from my own experience, and that generally adopted in the West of Scotland, previous to my leaving it; and which, at the time, was considered best adapted to give satisfactory results.

But, as I have before remarked, I consider that, to do justice to such a subject, the aid of the practical Agriculturist, in collecting, making, and applying the various articles which may be brought under the head of Manures, and their adaptation to the different soils; as, since the science of Chemistry has been applied to Agricultural purposes on an extensive scale, and the services of competent chemists secured to almost every Agricultural association in Britain, to aid and instruct the members thereof in ascertaining the wants of the different descriptions of soils within the bounds of such association, many errors have been rectified, and great improvements made.

I will, however, leave that part of the subject to be treated of by practical farmers; and not such as I—who may be termed a theoretical one—and will, therefore proceed to examine what may be understood as a Manure; and in answer thereto, I would state that I consider whatever is added to the soil to increase its fertility, and cause a great increase of