

carefully watch the growth of all sorts of burs through the summer and pull them up, and spare no pains nor distance to place them in a situation where they can do no harm, so that I may venture to say my sheep are kept free from them. I extend this labour and precaution not only to the fields but to my wood lands, as far as my sheep and cattle are allowed to range. The whole time occupied in the summer season does not cost more than two or three days of my own labour. The next point to observe in having a well handled lot of wool, is to keep the sheep in good condition by giving them plenty of feed, and by never housing them in close pens winter or summer, and by clipping off all dirty tag locks when they make their first appearance.

In my travels about the country, I have been astonished to see the prevailing carelessness among farmers in allowing burs to grow in front of their own farms, in the fields and sometimes to the very front of their dwellings. Of course in such cases, sheep, cattle, and horses are completely covered with this pest to the tidy farmers, and the wool is not only uncomfortable to the sheep, but is of but little value and is very destructive of machinery in its manufacture; and all this results from the want of two or three days work of some useless old man or little boy, annually bestowed to this department of farming.

Now for a few remarks on the crops:—I have been during the past season, through nearly all parts of the Gore District. Some portions of the crop is abundant; oats far exceeds the usual average; hay rather short on clay lands, but abundant where plastered; barley good; potatoes middling; wheat, the ready money article and great staple, very variable, in some places full and good, and in others much hurt from early drought and late rains. The earliest sown is the best both of winter and summer wheat, and great complaints of smut in many places. In the early part of last December I passed through West Flamboro', Puslench, and Guelph townships; part of this route is thinly settled. The rear of Puslench is of a very fine quality of land, so is the approaches to the town of Guelph excellent. Farms in this vicinity are of the first quality, although there was rather a falling off in the crops the last season both in quantity and quality, owing perhaps to the heavy frosts which were prevalent in the early part of last summer. After passing through rather a rough part of the country and bad roads, I arrived at the beautifully situated and pleasant and flourishing town of Guelph 27 miles from Dundas, and 30 from Wellington Square.

On my return I passed through a corner of Eramosa, and through Nasaguawa and Nelson's to Wellington Square. Some parts of the route are beautiful, some rough, and

bad roads as in Flamboro' and Puslench, and the same complaints about the wheat crops.

With regard to smut, I got rid of it after trying every other experiment, by changing the seed, which I procured from a soil different from mine and of farmers who never grew smut, chess, or cockle. I change my seed as above every two years, and the result is that I am never troubled with any of the calamities mentioned in the foregoing remarks.

The farmers not only complain of the falling short in their calculations respecting the yield of their crops, but they only obtain one-half the price for their wheat, flour, beef, pork, wool, mutton, butter, cheese or any thing else their farms may produce, in consequence of the carelessness practiced in the routine of the management of their farms and crops.

Whoever will be at the trouble to investigate the matter, will find that although the country is amply supplied with provisions of every description, and a considerable quantity to spare, that the amount of several important articles of agricultural productions are diminishing rather than increasing. There is such a rage for American wheat by Canadian millers, and our markets are so completely glutted with American beef, pork, mutton, cheese, and every other United States agricultural production, that the farmers are obliged to desist growing those products for the market, to the same extent that they formerly did, owing to the fact that the great disparity between the prices of labour and the products from the farm, would not admit of hiring labourers.

The Gore District is abundantly well stocked with horned cattle, swine, and sheep, and might have exported this present season three times the amount of salted provisions, had the prices been such as would have remunerated the producer.

With respect to sheep, the country is full of them, so that the manufacturers are entirely over stocked with wool. There was a sale of three hundred sheep in this township last fall, which was advertised long before the sale, and they sold upon credit at 2-4 to 4-4½ per head: notwithstanding this, I am safe in saying, that there has passed up to the Gore District during the last three months of 1842, not less than 4,000 sheep purchased in the United States. In Hamilton market mutton has been sold out of farmers waggons at from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 10d. per quarter, and beef has been actually sold at from 6s. to 9s. per 100 lbs., so that beef, mutton, and cheese are sold generally in our markets at prices much lower than the duties which the Canadian farmers would have to pay, before they could get the same description of articles admitted into the United States market.

The American Government protects their farmers against all foreign competition, and we are comparatively neglected by the speculating jobbers who stand at the head of our government: and to make the matter still worse, it is said the Banks discount very little, and how can they when they have to meet the mercantile trade and the provision market. It is thought that the Currency Law has had some share in bringing about the general depression; let that be as it may, so long as the interests of a few speculators are made paramount to the interests of the many farmers and other producers, so long will British America be unable to supply the British markets with provisions, in exchange for the heavy importations of British manufactured goods which arrive at our shores yearly.

I am, Sir,

Yours' respectfully,

JOHN WILSON.

SALT FLEET, 30th Jan, 1843.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.  
SIR,

As the season for planting that useful root the potatoe, is fast approaching, I beg leave to offer a few simple but hope not inappropriate remarks on the culture of that inestimable vegetable—those remarks having been acquired from actual experience. I shall now and at all other times confine myself to real facts. In the spring of 1840, I purchased at Toronto, two pounds of Rohan potatoes for fifteenpence. I planted them on the 4th of June in new land, which yielded 160 lbs. of very large potatoes. On the following year 1841, I prepared a small plot of new land equal to 17 perches, (i. e.) one perch over a tenth of a statute acre, which I also planted about the same time with similar seed, and produced 55½ bushels of very large potatoes. Last year owing to the cold spring frosts and subsequently summer drought, I had not so heavy a crop. I shall now state my mode of cultivation:—I first prepared the land by a very good harrowing; then put in the seed after the manner of planting Indian corn, but opening the ground something deeper. In each hill, which are to be three feet apart, I drop three sets, which are to be immediately covered in, and so to remain until the plants are sufficiently high to receive partial earthing, which done, a second and last earthing is performed, when the plants are sufficiently matured for that purpose. This plan I consider the most judicious as regards the bulk of crop and improvement of the soil: it also destroys all weeds. I now recommend the Rohan potatoe for extensive planting, being the most prolific I have ever met with, and from a year or two's planting in this climate becomes acclimated and an excellent potatoe for table use.

Should you deem the above worthy a place in your widely circulated and excellent journal insert it.

I remain, truly your's,

EDMUND RYALL.

Oro, February 18th, 1843.