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Reports, Discussions, &c.

EAST ZORRA FARMER'S CLUB.

A meeting of the East Zorra Farmer's Club was held at Donaldson's Hotel, 12th line, on Thursday the 5th of January, when the subject of Cultivation of Crops was introduced.

Present: Messrs. Bishop, Cooke, Thwaites, G. Smith, Robinson, Barnes, Shadwicke, Milman, Dale, Turner (Chairman), and many others.

Mr. DALE read as follows:—

In giving my friends a few hints, I propose to remark as follows: I think our attention ought to be to try and raise as much wheat as possible to the acre. First, I prefer the ground intended for summer fallow to be ploughed in the fall, and if not ploughed in the fall, it ought to be ploughed as early in the Spring as possible before seeding commences, and as soon as seeding is over, and the ground perfectly dry, cross plough it, and then drag and cultivate it well, and try to keep it the right colour, that is not to let it grow green with weeds, and before you start to plough for seed search out all the dung from your food-yards and buildings, and circulate it all over the ground. Then plough it up for seed, for if the ground be a low wet heavy sort of soil it ought to be ploughed in ridges from 9 to 12 feet each, and then watch your season; I think the best time is from the 5th to the 12th of September, and as soon as sown take your plough and one horse, and plough every furrow, and then take your spade and search all the low parts where you think any water might stand, and dig two inches below the furrow, so as to allow all the water to run off. Then look to the fences round that field and see that they are all right. Second, let the field intended for oats after pasture, clover or stubble, be ploughed with care nine inches broad and five inches deep, much depends on this work being well executed, for a bad ploughman causes serious loss to his employer. Keep your furrows

all open, and lay your land as dry as possible, and as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry to bear the horses, sow your seed and be sure to drag it well in and then roll it, you will find it greatly benefitted by that, for it keeps the moisture in the ground a great deal better, and makes it smoother for reaping; water furrow also, and look to the low pieces, and use the spade freely; and then look round that field and see if there are not a few rails wanted. Thirdly, for Barley. It ought to be sown on ground where turnips and potatoes were raised the previous year, and ploughed in the spring, and the same preparations as before mentioned for oats. For Peas I prefer them to be sown on ground where wheat was raised the previous year, and the ground ought to be ploughed in the fall and spring too, and sown as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry for the drag to work freely, and roll them the same as the rest. There is one thing I would advise you all to do, that is to prepare two or three acres of ground for tares, and let the ground for these be well manured and near your homestead, and you will find them very profitable to mow for your horses and pigs, for I think it is abominable waste to turn draught horses to feed in a pasture, one acre of red clover and two acres of tares mown and consumed in your stables and yards, will keep more horses for five months than twelve acres of your best pasture. You will also have a benefit in the increase of your farm-yard manure, which will much more than pay for the trouble of mowing and draining. The best time for sowing these is as early in the spring as possible; two bushels to the acre, and increase the quantity of seed as the season advances. For clover; there are several methods of sowing this, but the surest is to sow it and harrow it in at the time you sow your grain; I mean, to give it a light harrowing once over, and I think it always grows the best with wheat or barley, for oats are apt to get too stout and smother them out altogether.

For potatoes, the ground ought to be ploughed three or four times over, and well dragged each time so as to get it as mellow as possible. There are several methods of planting those, but I pre