

from a field of about eighteen acres, and the country papers are often found to contain statements, in which name, lot and concession are mentioned, where fifty bushels of excellent wheat are harvested to the acre. Instances can be mentioned by the thousand of such yields as 30 to 35 bushels to the acre, and for barley, peas, and oats, there is no country that will and does produce per acre more of these so-called coarse grains. It is not the fault of the land or climate—it is simply want of knowledge, capital, and above all, the low prices of produce, combined with the high cost of labour, deterring the Canadian husbandman from the necessary draining, and the heavy expenditure for manures that the English agriculturist so freely lavishes his money on. These are causes that render wheat growing here more precarious and less profitable than in the mother country. The fact that we see those heavy occasional yields so often quoted, and at the same time well know that the average yield often does not exceed one-half or one-third of those quantities, is due to many causes, not at all the fault of Canada generally, or the climate or soil, or its want of adaptation to wheat culture. If a man come to Canada with capital and commence farming, first purchasing the land, then clearing it, and after waiting for many years for the stumps to decay, thinks that he can, with nothing but hired labour, make farming pay 20 or 50 per cent. on the outlay, he will find his mistake. Under the same circumstances and disadvantages, no enterprise would, probably, be remunerative. The pioneer portion is for the man of no capital, comparatively speaking, except his hands and health.

The comparison between prices in Canada and England is of itself conclusive. In Canada the price of wheat averages about \$1 per bushel of late, say within 12 years. In England, the price will certainly average \$1 50; whilst farm labour in Canada has averaged nearly 80 cents a day, and in England probably not 40c.

In Canada we used to complain most grievously of injuries from rust, and I have often seen whole fields that would have yielded 40 bushels per acre entirely destroyed by it. This was caused by peculiarities not here necessary to enlarge on, but they have of late years been so modified that rust is but little felt or dreaded, and generally the wet dripping season that causes rust is so bountiful in sections not subject to it, that it has ceased to be dreaded to any great extent. Twelve years since we could grow the most productive qualities of wheat, such as Soules, White China, and others, from which forty bushels per acre could with good farming be often obtained. Now, and of late years, we have been compelled to sow such wheat as will ripen in July instead of August, and thereby escape the dreaded ravages of the midge, notwithstanding our certain knowledge that

the crop will not exceed one-half of other varieties. We are now so certain in some sections of destruction by midge to the above best and most productive wheats, that we consider it advisable to throw away one half by sowing unproductive sorts, and thereby secure half a crop.

Canada is in no way to blame for this. When I first came here there was no midge, nor for many years afterwards was the first imported. In many portions of the earlier injured parts of Canada, such as the frontier townships on Lake Ontario, a most sensible decrease in the midge and its ravages is now felt. Many are again growing Soules wheat, and are consequently obtaining once more heavy yields, and no doubt whatever exists that the parasite that Providence usually causes to accompany all such plagues has begun to assert its powers, and that we are feeling the benefits therefrom.

But all these drawbacks are not due to Canada's ceasing to have the power of producing wheat, nor are they due to its so-called rigorous climate. They are more properly due to the importation from other countries, along with emigration, of evils originating and prevailing elsewhere. If we were to take any one township, and average the loss occasioned by the midge, it would be most striking. There are in many townships fully more than five hundred homesteads. On an average, in each township of such a size, there would be grown about fifteen or twenty acres of wheat to each farm. We will say only fifteen acres, which is below the average, and we will take the yield of Soules wheat, or White China, at an average, with good farming, and other advantages, at the old yield of 30 bushels an acre, and compare it with our present yield of spring and various sorts of wheat now sown to escape the midge, at say one-half, or 15 bushels per acre:—

500 homesteads of 15 acres each,	7,500 acres
area of wheat, at 40 bushels per acre,	
old yield, 225,000 bushels, at \$1 per	
bushel.....	\$225,000

for our former yield, at present average prices. This yield could now be easily obtained generally, were it not for the necessity of sowing wheat that will ripen either in July, before the midge can destroy it, or in September, after its ravages are over.

Now, we will just divide the quantity obtained by half, and allow that these wheats are of the same quality with those formerly sown (which is really not the case), and at 15 bushels per acre each township just loses \$112,500, which divided amongst the 500 farmers, would be the snug sum of about \$228 each dead loss by midge alone, as all other expenses are the same. In fact, the real loss would be a great deal more; as, were the \$222 received each year by every farmer in excess of his present receipt's, he would be enabled to add to his farm all the modern improvements and machinery, which in a

few years would enable him by force of capital to add greatly to his producing powers.

The price of labour in Canada can never be much lessened, for the reason so often quoted, and well known, namely, that almost any able bodied man, rather than accept low wages, will go to the woods, and by hard work and some increased privation, for a few years, make a home for himself, and, in addition, lay the foundation of a love of home in the hearts of his sons—and thus the labour of the whole family is lost as labour to those who hire.

It is quite probable that, with the increasing quantity of gold brought into circulation, and the consequent increased value of the bushel of wheat, combined with the certain increased demand from the United States, Canadian produce will in a few years attain a much higher value, whereas the cost of production will continue about the same, or under favourable circumstances of good roads, and increased facilities of culture, may even be lessened to such an extent as to afford better prospects for the Canadian agriculturist. But let not emigrants adopt the erroneous idea that the natural wheat-producing properties of Canada are gradually lessening. The fact is not so, as will be fully proved before the commencement of 1880, when the advance of civilization and means derived therefrom will have more than doubled its present capabilities.

Ditching and Draining.

These important items in farm management cannot be too frequently placed before the farming community. Many are deterred from underdraining on account of the heavy expense, although it may be safely affirmed that the entire expense of underdraining land is always returned to the farmer in the three following crops, and often in the first.

Tiles are, of course, the best means with which to form the water way, but tiles are so expensive that they are comparatively little used. Good serviceable drains can be made either with lumber, sawed for the purpose into five and six inch widths, or even with brush and poles; in either case, however, the expense of the drains is heavy, and what has its effect also, the work is hard and disagreeable, and where the labour of a farm depends on the farmer himself or on the members of his family, it is difficult to get work of that nature performed; then again, to dig drains properly is a trade, and requires considerable experience and special tools, and rather than purchase the necessary tools the farmer often loses ten times the value of them in a single season.

Draining cannot be recommended too strongly, but where draining cannot be done, ditching can, and this is the second best thing. Few farms require ditches of more than two feet deep from the adjoining level, and where ditches are not deeper than that, the entire work can be done with the plough and the