

Mr. Gibson, of Markham, gives a long evidence on his system of farming, without once using the words woods, trees or forests. He seems well satisfied with both system and results. He says he found the farm in a bad state with stumps and frog ponds. Query. Did the trees have the ponds for the sake of the music? However that may be, Mr. Gibson has come to farm and the stumps must go, and the ponds be drained; the frogs apparently not taken into account at all. When, after 13 years of labour, in 1860 he has the land ready to commence a seven years' *rota* of cropping, or eight years, including the summer fallow which he ploughs five times, harrows five and grubs three, puts on 105 loads of manure, some salt, and sows with fall wheat. Yield of wheat, 40 bushels per acre of extra quality. Then follows barley, three years grass, peas, and last, oats. This is a ten acre field. Total profit for the seven crops, \$874.50, after allowing for rent, manure and labour, \$1,170.50; total proceeds for the seven crops, \$2,045.00. A thorough summer fallow, Mr. Gibson says, is the basis of this profit, and that "this rotation keeps the land perfectly clean and free from rubbish, while a great many farms are overrun with thistles, and there is an act upon the statute book to keep them from spreading; but this is a better means of getting rid of them than any statute."

Mr. Phipps says: "When the woods are gone the land will not yield so rich nor so easily produce a return. To farm will be a labour more and more slavish, for the farmer will be working against nature. He will have interrupted the course of the means by which she aids him in his toil, moisture being retained in the forest's bed in millions of tons for the benefit of both field and forest in a drier time."

In the north of Illinois, west of Rock River, is a piece of country known by some as the garden of the world. When settled about fifty years ago it was a treeless prairie, but had a very rich and natural drained soil; so much so, that cellars have no need for drains, and running streams are few and far between. If these underground channels were caused by forests, they are remaining open a long, long time. For the first thirty years they used to grow wheat, when it commenced to not do so well, and kept getting worse, until, when I was there in 1881, they had for some time quit it altogether. I felt a little surprised when along with a farmer, and he stopped at a store to get some flour to take home. He had 120 acres as beautiful land as I ever saw, and had produced no want of wind-brakes by planting osage, orange and willow hedges. Now, here we have the very opposite to Ontario from beginning to end, with the same results, if not worse, in respect to the failing of crops. Here the wire agent can come around and say: "Those wind-brakes of yours will never do; you used to grow good wheat before you had; get rid of them; build wire fences, and let the air have its free course; you are working against nature."