

Backwoodsman's Department.

The business of chopping, clearing, and bringing forest land into cultivation, may be performed in a variety of ways, to suit the taste of the owner or the circumstances of the case, these methods will in their turn receive attention at our hands. In the course of our remarks we purpose to point out the errors that many fall into in their practices of cropping land recently cleared from the forest; and also to lay down a series of plans by which every Canadian pioneer or Backwoodsman may glean some hints worthy of practice.

In the present number we shall suppose an individual has purchased 200 acres of hard-timbered land in "the Queen's Bush" or some other locality equally propitious for agricultural pursuits, which cost 10s. per acre, or £100 for the lot. The owner of this lot should be in possession of at least £100 in cash in order to make a successful and easy beginning on his bush farm. Not less than 15 acres should be chopped, cleared, fenced, and sowed with fall wheat before a house or any other preparations for a home for his family be made. This quantity of ground may be properly cleared and cropped for £4 per acre, and as the average crop upon new land may be safely put down at 25 bushels per acre, it will be seen that the first crop will pay the entire expense of bringing the land into cultivation, and harvesting and marketing the produce. The ground should be seeded down with clover and timothy, with the first crop, and in that state be allowed to remain until the process of chopping and clearing be completed, which would require eight years at the rate of clearing 20 acres per annum. In addition to the 15 acres that should be chopped, cleared, and sowed annually with fall wheat, if the land be adapted to that crop, there should be at least other five acres cleared for spring wheat and root crops. No land is so well adapted for grassing as new land; the herbage being sweeter and more abundant than upon old land, it therefore appears an unwise practice to disturb land covered with stumps and roots, with a plough, until they have become sufficiently decayed to be easily removed. Besides, whilst the business of chopping, clearing, and fencing the farm is in progress, no other employment should be allowed to interfere with their seasonable operations, and where the whole farm is annually cropped with grains,

nothing is done in season, and the obvious result of such a course, is poverty and bankruptcy.

The business of stock-growing, especially that of horned cattle, may be engaged in with a certainty of success, after the lapse of the first year. Not less than 50 head of full-grown horned cattle could be wintered upon the hay and wheat straw that would be annually produced upon a farm cropped in this manner we have described; and if well wintered a summer's run in the woods would in a majority of cases put them in a condition that they would not require much artificial food to fit them for the shambles.

The turnip crop upon new land is one which pays better than any other, especially where a judicious course of feeding them to horned cattle for the shambles is adopted. An acre will yield, in an average of cases, about 600 bushels, and even 1000 bushels have been frequently gathered from an acre of new land turnips. The alkalies in the soil thoroughly prevents the depredations of the fly upon the plants, and they require no hoeing as the ground in its natural state is free from weeds. An enterprising bush farmer would find it profitable to sow a large breadth of land with the Swedish turnip. By applying a heavy harrow to the ground, after the removal of the turnip crop, it would be in a good state of cultivation for spring wheat, with which crop the land should be seeded down with clover and timothy.

When the bringing of land into cultivation upon a regular scale is engaged in, the wheat crop will do but little more than pay the expense of clearing the land and marketing the crop, therefore the interest upon invested capital, and the net profit upon the business, will have to be realised from the other products of the farm. These products will consist in a great measure in beef, pork, and dairy produce. In some localities hay will find a remunerating market; and in such cases it would probably be wise to so arrange matters that from 20 to 30 tons could be disposed of annually. To secure a certain large yield of hay many particulars are necessary to be observed, but for want of space we shall at this time only mention one. Where the ashes are not converted into potash, they should be gathered and housed, and about the first week in May they should be applied upon the meadows at the rate of 10 bushels per acre; or if they are leached, 60 bushels per acre should be applied.

Upon a 200 acre farm, 50 acres should be re-