

ground, a top dressing of gypsum, at the rate of one bushel per acre, (or, four bushels of unleached house ashes will answer the same purpose,) applied broadcast, will assist the growth of straw very powerfully, and will, in most cases, be the means of adding at least twenty per cent. to the yield of marketable Peas. In cultivating the Pea crop, it is important that the growth of haulm (i.e. straw) should be so abundant as to smother all weeds and wild grasses. This is more particularly the case where it is intended to be a preparative crop for Fall Wheat, which should invariably be the case in those districts where the latter crop can be grown with certainty and profit. It is rather difficult to cover seed Peas with the common harrows; and a nine-tooth cultivator will be found an efficient implement for that purpose. But a still better plan is to nicely rib the land with a ribbing plough, each rib or furrow being from ten to twelve inches asunder; and, by sowing the seed broadcast, and harrowing the land twice, lengthwise of the furrow, the seed will be thoroughly covered, and the plants will come up in rows as regularly as if a drilling machine had been employed. If weeds or grass should spring up between the rows, in the early part of the month of June, the crop may be horse hoveled once or twice—by means of which the mechanical texture of the soil will be materially improved for the crop of Wheat intended to succeed it; and, besides, it will be the means of increasing the yield at least twenty per cent.

Pea straw, if the crop is harvested a few days before it is ripe, is quite equal to hay for sheep and colts. There is no cheaper means of fattening sheep in autumn and winter, than to feed them on unthrashed peas, which have been cut a few days before the crop was ripe, and carefully cured—preserving, if possible, the bright green colour natural to the pea haulm cut and cured at a period when about two-thirds of the peas have changed their colour to a light-yellow. The quantity of mutton which can be made from the produce of a ten-acre field of peas, cut, cured, and fed in the manner described, would astonish the person who has not given the matter a careful consideration. The day is not far distant when the Farmers of this country will ridicule the idea of naked summer fallows for Fall Wheat! when, by sowing peas, and some other crops which we shall hereafter mention, they can make the products of their crops pay the expense of managing, and also those of the wheat crop. Peas of a good quality, and of choice varieties, will always bring a highly remunerating price, for export; and when once the character of Canadian peas becomes raised to its proper standard, it will be a difficult matter to supply the demand. The Pea crop draws its food largely from the atmosphere; and, besides, it leaves the ground in better condition than it was at the time when the seed was sown; and for these, as well as the other reasons pointed out, it should occupy a much more important rank than it does among the crops grown by the Canadian Farmers.

SPRING WHEAT.

The past year, having been an unfavourable one for Spring Wheat, it is not to be expected that as much ground will be occupied this season with this crop as has been the case in former years. For five or six years in succession, Spring Wheat has yielded more bushels per acre, on tolerably rich and well-cultivated land, than did Winter Wheat; and, as might have been expected, it soon became very popular—so much so, indeed, that sufficient of it was raised to supply the home consumption; and, besides, large quantities were shipped to Britain, which soon had a prejudicial influence on Canadian flour. The system of mixing Spring with Winter Wheat was resorted to by our millers, in order to improve the character of Spring Wheat flour; but what was saved in this way was more than lost from the bad character that was given some of the choicest Canadian brands. The Inspectors of Flour at last determined that Spring Wheat flour should be branded as such; and, by this means the two quali-

ties were kept distinct. The failure the past season was so great, that the country from this source alone must have sustained a loss equal to £400,000! The failure of Spring Wheat was not confined to one District, but it was general from one end of the Province to the other. There were, certainly, isolated cases; but nineteen twentieths of the crop did not more than pay the expense of harvesting, thrashing, cleaning, and taking to and from the mill, leaving nothing for the payment of rent, seed and cultivation. So that it will be seen, that the Spring Wheat crop of 1844 was not only a non-paying one, but that it subjected the Farmers to a loss of some £1 10s. per acre, besides a great disappointment. On the farm occupied by the writer of this article, upwards of eighty acres of Spring Wheat was sown and harvested the past season, which to all appearance, ten days before the crop was cut, gave most satisfactory evidence that it would yield, on an average throughout the entire crop, a little upwards of thirty bushels of sound grain to the acre; but, in reality, it yielded only ten bushels of a very inferior sample—so bad, indeed, that in other years it would have been feed to the cattle in an unthrashed state.

It will require but little calculation to ascertain the actual loss that a farmer would sustain whose crop so singularly failed as the one alluded to, and which by no means is an isolated case. The loss of rent, value of seed, and the cost of ploughing the entire eighty acres, in the autumn and spring, would be sufficient alone to make a farmer very cautious in seeding down so great a breadth of land with a crop that would occasionally prove so thoroughly fruitless. The largest Spring Wheat crops of which the writer has any knowledge, exceeded two hundred acres, which to all appearance a few days before harvest, would give an average product of twenty-five bushels per acre, but which in reality, did not pay the cost of harvesting. The owner of the crop in question assured us that his actual loss might be safely estimated at £500.

Although the farmers of Canada may look upon the business of growing Spring Wheat with a good deal of doubt as to its favourable result, yet it must not be received as being more subject to risk than Autumn Wheat, when a period of eight or ten years are taken into the calculation. On the score of economy, the country should be supplied with a sufficient quantity of Spring Wheat flour, to meet the entire local demand for bread-stuffs, and the flour manufactured from Winter Wheat, should be exported to the markets of the mother country. It is useless to sow this crop upon badly prepared ground, and it should also be sown as early as possible, or as soon as the ground becomes sufficiently dry to work the harrows with efficiency. In most cases it is well to have the ground well prepared for Spring Wheat in autumn, and when this is done, the seed should be sown as early as possible. When it is not intended to cross plough in spring, it is an excellent practice to pass a steel tooth cultivator over the ground once or twice, if time will admit of it, just before sowing the seed. From five to six pecks per acre will not be found too much on most soils; and before sowing the seed much care should be observed in thoroughly purifying it from all other grains, and the seeds of weeds, as well as smut. A little care in this respect will much more than repay the cost, and besides, a perfectly pure sample of grain is always more creditable to the grower, than one that is mixed with other species of grain, and that is discoloured with smut.

CATERPILARS.—An English agricultural paper gives the following method to destroy caterpillars, which was accidentally discovered, and is practised by a gardener near Glasgow:—A piece of woollen rag had been blown by the wind into a currant bush and when taken out was found to be covered by the leaf-devouring insect. Taking the hint, he immediately placed pieces of woollen cloth in every bush in his garden, and found the next day that the caterpillars had universally taken to them for shelter. In this way he destroys many thousands every morning.