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TOWNSHIP OF YORK FARMERS' CLUB.

A meeting of the members of this Club was held at the Red Lion Inn, Yorkville, on Wednesday Evening, March 28th. R. Davis, Esq., Vice-President, occupied the chair. A larger number of members than usual were present. The subject for discussion was, THE FALLOWING OF LAND, which Professor Buckland introduced by an extemporaneous address, the substance only of which we can give in this place, and our notice of the long and interesting discussion which ensued must necessarily be very brief.

The Professor commenced by defining the process of fallowing, as practised in ancient and modern times, for the purpose of clearing the land of weeds, and by giving it a longer or shorter period of rest, to enable it to recruit its exhausted powers. The several kinds of fallow were then described: the *naked* or *bare fallow*, under which the land remains without any crop for a whole year, and subjected to repeated ploughing and harrowing; the *bastard fallow*, comprising a spring or early summer crop, such as rye, vetches, &c., after which the ground is thoroughly cultivated and prepared for fall wheat; and the *green crop fallow*, a striking feature in improved modern husbandry, the ground being well prepared in spring for root crops, such as potatoes, turnips, mangold-wortzel, &c., sown in drills, and the intervals regularly cultivated by horse or hand-power during the period of growth.

Fallowing is a very ancient practice, going back indeed to the earliest authentic records of cultivation. It was in fact the principal means, up to a comparatively recent period, of restoring arable land from exhaustion induced by repeated cropping. Fallow were consequently had recourse to at regular and sometimes very frequent intervals; a practice which more or less continues in every part of the world at the present day. The ancient Jewish law required that the soil should remain at rest, without any crop whatever, every seventh year; an injunction which, whatever typical application it might have, was well suited to renovate the exhausted soil of Palestine.

The Romans invariably practised fallowing, and to them many modern nations owe the system, for wherever that powerful and enlightened people carried their conquering arms, their arts, including their agriculture, as well as general civilization followed. The Romans were accustomed to fallow every alternate year, so that only one half of their tillage land was in crop at the same time. It is a remarkable fact that the fallow was unknown in Scotland till the commencement of the last century, although long and extensively practised in England. The land being there laid out in long and narrow slips was unsuited to cross ploughing; a circumstance that must have materially retarded the introduction of fallowing and green crops. The introducer of the fallow system into Scotland was Mr. Walker of East Lothian, who had to endure for a time, as do most improvers, the ridicule and contempt of his neighbors; but in a few years the practice became general over large areas.

It should be borne in mind that till within a comparatively late period the naked fallow system was indiscriminately pursued upon every variety of soil. The introduction, however, of turnips and potatoes into field culture on light soils, during the latter part of the last century, particularly in Norfolk, naturally paved the way for the contraction of the bare fallow, which, in course of time, became restricted to the heavier class of soils. A strong controversy was for a long time carried on in the agricultural community between the advocates and impugners of the fallowing system, and the result appears to have been, as is frequently the case in all such debates, that a medium course was adopted. The followers of the old system restricting naked fallow, as a general rule, to cold and wet clays; while their opponents achieved a great and most beneficial triumph in substituting the bastard fallow, or the culture of root crops in rows, on all the lighter descriptions of soil. The moderate clays and heavier loams were still undisposed of, discussion still continuing, and each party claiming them; till at length the introduction of underdraining as a means of improvement on the wetter and heavier lands, gradually prepared them for ranking among turnip and root growing soils; so that the naked fallow became at last restricted to the heavy clays, as at the present time.

The larger proportion of wheat raised in Upper Canada is after summer fallow, a practice no doubt, when not abused, the best adapted to the wants and