

they suppose our intelligent and shrewd neighbours, across the line, would be such arrant fools as to send hundreds of miles, to the Grand River, for ship-loads of plaster yearly, and afterwards transport it all over the Union, if there was not something good in it? Why, Sirs, the American, as well as the native Canadian Farmer, would about as soon think of expecting a crop of wheat without sowing the seed, as to harvest his clover or corn without a liberal dressing of plaster, let the cost be what it might.

But do not let it be conceived, for a moment, that I would wish your readers to understand that plaster will do everything for them: it is in conjunction with other manures, and good husbandry, that its efficacy is most conspicuous and valuable. And in certain cases, where a sufficiency of barn-yard, or vegetable manures, cannot be procured, it will be found a cheap and sure auxiliary. I have used it most successfully on my oat, wheat, and pea crops, as well as upon grass land and corn, especially on the three first, where the soil has been somewhat impoverished by constant grain cropping, without aid from any kind of manure; but I would not advise its application on wheat, where the soil is at all rich, unless you could ensure a rest are the inevitable want to force the straw too bushel and a half to the acre, upon a seventeen-acre piece of land I had just taken, for spring wheat. The soil was naturally a good sandy loam, but had been, I thought, over cropped. It was sown broad-cast, and harrowed in with the wheat, clover, and timothy, and the intention was to have given half-a-bushel more per acre, when the wheat was up about three or four inches. This, however, from some cause or other, was not done. It was, nevertheless, obviously plain to my mind that there were fully five bushels of wheat more to the acre where the plaster was applied, as there was part of a land left unplastered, to give the experiment a fair trial; which was made in consequence of the crop being sown three weeks later than it ought, through a delay, the clover-seed not reaching me at the proper time, and of a suspicion entertained by myself of the land being deficient in condition. I speculated upon gaining time, by the plaster forcing both the wheat and clover, immediately they began to germinate; and in truth I was not disappointed. Besides which, I believe that I secured that year my crop of clover and timothy by the operation: at any rate, it was very considerably increased thereby, for it was the trying, hot summer, before alluded to, when eighteen out of twenty farmers lost their clover and timothy crop. But, as the summer turned out, and had I applied another bushel of plaster per acre, I firmly believe that I should have had another five bushels of wheat per acre, in addition to the other five obtained by the first plastering; and my clover and timothy crop (which was very good the following year) increased proportionably.

I have also tried plaster with good effect on both turnips and potatoes. I have seen it, too, applied with considerable advantage on rye and buckwheat, where the soil lacked condition; but on clover and timothy, or general mowing land, I will guarantee

for every bushel and a half of plaster per acre an extra ton of hay, provided the plant is thick on the ground, and the plaster sown immediately vegetation begins to start. For here, I hold, is the secret of plastering with the most advantageous effect; for it is sure to get well washed down to the roots, by the spring showers, by which the roots become quickly stimulated, and a covering of the ground, by the plant, is rapidly obtained, that keeps out the extreme heat of the sun, with which we are often visited, in this climate, in May and the beginning of June. I have been much surprised to hear many farmers talk of not plastering their clover and other crops till half-a-foot or a foot high. Now, from my own experience, and several years' close observation of my neighbours' doings, I feel myself warranted in pronouncing it a most erroneous system. And I dare assert, that any one plastering his wheat crop when a foot high, shall have more straw and rust than he bargained for; and in his clover crop, half a ton, instead of a ton, extra per acre.

Let the simple question be asked, for what purpose is the plaster applied? To stimulate the growth of the plant, most certainly! Is it, then, possible that that stimulant can be applied too soon after the frost is well out of the ground? I think not. And with this observation I will draw this much longer good wishes for the prosperity of your A. G. L. S. paper.

I am, Messrs. Editors,

Your obedient Servant,

Guelph, Sil. March, 1849.

LEICESTERENSIS.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE CLOVER PLANT.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—The importance of the clover crop is by no means sufficiently estimated in this country. And as this is about the season when many farmers supply themselves with clover-seed, as well as with that of timothy, for the purpose of seeding down with their wheat and other grain, my object is, to point out to such as have practised the plan of thin sowing the immense loss they incur, in a series of years, by so mistaken a practice; and at the same time to represent to them the actual and enormous gain, in a variety of ways, they will realise, by a liberal sowing of clover-seed.

I regret much that I am not able to show at once, for want of correct statistical data, the immense loss the Province annually suffers from the single and erroneous operation of a parsimonious sowing of clover-seed, but at some future day I will endeavour to procure, as near as possible, the number of acres that are seeded down every year to clover; and I am certain the result of this wretchedly imperfect branch of agriculture will actually astound any one whose eyes it may chance to meet.