kalies be exhausted from the soil; wheat cannot be grown. It was found by Sir H. Davy that 100 parts of the stalks of wheat produced 15-3 parts of ashes, while oats produced less than 4-5 parts, and the ashes of both include the same constituents. Consequently one crop of wheat must exhaust the soil of the same essentials more than three crops of oats. Wheat is always accounted the most exhausting crop raised excepting tobacco; and yet wheat is our constant crop. I am not alarmed at the quantity of wheat we produce, but at the manner in which we produce it. Now what else do we produce but grains? and how much do we restore to the soils of what we take from them? and what rest do we give our lands when jaded?

Some of our western soils will last much longer under this treatment than others. Those in which there is a strong mixture of clay will undoubtedly last longer than those in which sand predominates. And provided a man has several hundred acres of land more than he tills, so that he need not raise grain on a given piece of land too often, his land might last for an indefinite time. But as an example of what those more experienced think of such matters, the Dutch, with whom flax is an important crop, do not sow it on the same ground but once in 10 or 12 years. It should be borne in mind always that the constituents of a crop either exist in the soil or are dependent upon it for their supply—consequently, their amount, if no chance be given for a recruit, is *limited;* and whatever is limited can be exhausted. Though a man have a million of dollars in the bank, yet if he makes continued drafts and never increases his deposit, his drafts will finally get protested. So with the soil; our drafts will be answered reasonably long—perhaps longer; but the time will come when we shall find that we have overdrawn. Nature is a kind mother, but she will not suffer herself always to be tampered with—much less will she be made an absolute drudge, while her own laws are disregarded.

It will not, I presume, be contended that our soil is more fertile than the soil of Virginia was at its settlement, where wheat and tobacco were successively produced on the same lands without manure for 100 years. And yet those lands are now turned out unfruitful wastes; grown up to shrubs of pine and oak, to await a new resurrection of thrift; and for thousands of acres overrun with wild beasts, where once the smile of green fields and the merry hum of husbandry were mingled in the calm sunshine of heaven. And yet this was a result once deemed impossible. Judge Garnett gives us a glimpse of the style of things under which this was brought about. It was customary, he says, for cattle enough to die each winter of starvation to shoe all the negroes on the plantation; and his grandfather was once on the point of turning off a good overseer who was too provident to suffer this to happen. Such an incident is a key to the whole system, and the best commentary on the style of farming which reduced the Virginia lands to barrenness, that could possibly have been written.

Mr. Thomas Burrell of Geneva, New York, kept an account for twenty years of a piece of ground which he manured plentifully and sowed yearly with wheat. Dividing the 30 years into three periods, he found that the average of the first period was 29 bushels per acre, of the second, 25 bushels per acre and of the third, 20 bushels per acre.

If these examples are worth any thing—indeed unless the voice of experience and science both prove delusive, we may rest assured that our lands, under a continued system of grain raising, will run down after a time; and when lands are once run down it is no easy matter to resuscitate them. 'Tis true that wheat has hitherto been almost the only crop that would bring us money; and the emigrant having exhausted his all in getting into the ground, erecting his residence and making his first improvements, has had no time or ability to consider what would be best for a permanent course—for a system. Necessity stood by and hushed all such inquiries. Perhaps the very land was to be paid from its own productions; and at any rate the high necessities of early settlement must be met. Wheat was the surest resource; and by stirring up the surface of the primeval soil a ready return could be realized. Now the case is beginning to stand differently: the first expenses of settlement are met or provided for, and a little breathing time is granted us. A kind of era has in fact come round—a fit time for the long future. Would it not be our folly to pour out wheat for 30 or 50 years—though I have no idea that many of our lands will sustain themselves in grain-growing only, for any thing like that time.

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Now is the time to avert a calamity so undesirable. The great want of Western Husbandry to day is a system well perfected, which at the same time that it shall yield us present adequate returns for labor, shall preserve the soil in its freshness, able to yield, not the same, but greater returns for all time to come. It is the height of folly to pursue any course of husbandry which, however productive at present, shall cut us or our children off from wealth or support at any future time. * * *

Whither do all these considerations point? They all point one way—and that is to a systematic course of farming, by which the product on a given surface shall not only be undiminished, but be gradually and surely increased. It is not certain but that many must make up their minds to possess smaller farms than our notions have been fixed on. Why not? Are not ten acres worth ten dollars per acre, as valuable as 100 acres at one dollar per acre? I think it would be hard to show that if 10 acres will yield the produce of a hundred they are worth absolutely more. I do not understand the profits of tillage to increase in the exact ratio of the expenses of it. A certain amount of labor and expense are necessary to get any return from tillage; which when once bestowed, the returns for further labor are in a greater ratio. What is true of fattening stock is true of husbandry. A certain amount of food is necessary to keep the animal in good heart, and this he must have at any rate. A little food given beyond this will fatten him rapidly. Thus upon the same food upon which two animals would barely live or even starve, one can be fattened. So of tillage. The fact that by stirring the surface of the soil a fair crop is now obtained, has blinded us to the fact, more occult but equally true that the food necessary to grow grains is fast taken up, and left us to go skimming over acres neglectful of sure but ulterior consequences. * * *

The above selection may very well apply to the past Agricultural system in Canada. No part of our lands, however, are so exhausted as much of the lands of the United States. There is scarcely a farm in Canada that is not very capable of being restored to fertility, and profitable productiveness, and we know of no means by which this can be so certainly accomplished, as by draining sufficiently, and by judiciously summer fallowing the land. There may be some exceptions where root crops may be grown profitably on light soils, either for the feeding of cattle, or the supply of our large cities and towns with vegetables. There is no excuse for allowing our lands to remain in their present state. If they are not worth improving they are not worth having—and they may as well be suffered to resume their wilderness state, as to occupy them without obtaining produce or profit from them. In a very short time the occupied lands of Canada might be brought to produce double the value they do at present, and more. This would augment the income, and means of comfortable support, to almost every inhabitant of the province, either directly or indirectly, and when we know this might be the case, we should make every exertion to produce this result.

NEW TRADE—FOREIGN PROVISIONS.

We copy the following from a late English newspaper. It will shew that the character of our provisions in the English market must depend altogether on the