

lutely essential to growing of spring crops, for by a judicious system the lands can be well prepared in the fall, if the land is not too dry to plough. To effect this the first ploughing should be done early, say in September.

Some farmers seem to think that when the harvest is secured a little relaxation may be enjoyed. The teams are allowed to run about the fields for a month perhaps, when, in fact, this is just the time to put them into work, and start the ploughs to turn over the land intended for the ensuing crop. But the hogs must run awhile in the stubble. Never mind that; a few heads turned under will grow up and make feed, and give us that evidence, so refreshing to the eye of a connoisseur, of that process of decomposition so invigorating to the soil, while the fall rains furnish those elements of replenishment to the grateful bosom of mellow fields.

Lands intended to be ploughed the second time in the fall can be manured after the first ploughing, and the lapse of one month, if the weather is favourable, will qualify them for the second. Or the manure may be put upon the lands to be ploughed, once in the fall, previous to the ploughing. In fields free from stumps I always plough the same way; I always find it ploughs better, both times, turning the lands back and forth. Many farmers, we find, make it a rule to plough across the furrows in every case, throwing up the lands into squares and diamonds, producing a wretched condition of the surface. Very few farmers appear to be aware of the advantage of ploughing early in the fall. Lands prepared in this manner are nearly as good as fallow lands. Barley lands might be ploughed in August with corresponding advantages, if the ground is not too dry.

I feel assured I can give no better evidence of the correctness of my theory than by example, if you will allow me to give the product of my crop on a small farm in 1864. Having a little leisure after the barley harvest of 1863, we set to work to rip up our barley ground in August. It was hard work and hot. But the desire to wreak vengeance upon thistles, and bring their roots up to the sun encouraged us to proceed and plough deep. I found this land was like a garden in the fall. We ploughed early in the fall, and had the moss of our ground prepared in the fall, which, on account of the extreme wet last spring, happened very lucky, although one field we ploughed in the spring produced the best crop. The rains were so disastrous in the month of May, even on high ground, that we found difficulty in getting in the seed. And here I might say a word in favour of gang-ploughs, for I found the "gangs" the best implements I had on wet fields. Cultivators were a bore, and ploughing out of the question. We got in all the seed by the 25th of May, and harvested a crop as follows:

Spring Wheat, 48 acres.....	1,100 bush.
Barley, 33 acres.....	950 "
Oats and Peas (mixed), 5 acres.....	150 "
Peas, 2 acres.....	40 "
Corn (hoe crop), 15 acres.....	450 "
Buckwheat, 5 acres.....	100 "

Total of Grain..... 2,790 bush.

The number of acres under crop was 108.

It is conceded, I believe by all, that the season of 1864 was the most unpropitious in this country since the memorable dry season of (I am told) 1826.

As the season advanced the earth became solid almost as frozen ground, and the smoke hung like a pall over the face of Nature. Gloom pervaded every precinct, and distress and danger from fire drove many in the new settlements from their homes. The extreme wet of the spring, followed by the extreme drouth of the summer, rendered many of the best lands of the country useless. But where high cultivation, on more favourable lands of good quality, existed, the crop was quite good. I refer, of course, particularly to spring crops; as fall wheat, in the older settlements, has become a foregone conclusion. I attribute the character of the crop, the details of which I have given, to be due to the system of culture I am advocating, notwithstanding the bad season. For spring crops my motto is—"plough early after harvest." Cultivate well; prepare the land in the fall, but a ploughing in the spring will not hurt it, if so prepared.

A DURHAM FARMER.

April 14, 1865.

Meadowvale Farm.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—Having just had the pleasure of visiting at this place, the farm owned and occupied by Mr. Wm. Gooderham, of the firm of Gooderham & Worts, and of inspecting his excellent system of sheep

management, and of general farming, I send you a brief account of the same. It will, I trust, furnish some matter of interest, and of profitable suggestion to your readers

His flock of sheep consists mostly of "Cotswold" grades, with a sprinkling of the "South Downs," and numbers between 400 and 500, and they are all of superior quality,—in excellent condition,—none of them with fleeces torn, nor sickly or diseased. The arrangement of buildings and yard enclosures, is such as to secure to them perfect shelter from storms, and separate apartments, for the breeding ewes, for lambs of the last year, and for other divisions of the flock, so as to prevent over crowding, or waste of fodder. All the hay fed on the premises is cut by a machine, worked by horse-power, and capable of cutting ten tons in a day. The barn is built on a gentle eminence, with an extended roof front and rear, to give a shed the entire length upon each side, and with a cellar under the whole building, for roots and for cattle stabling. Buildings extend almost entirely around the yard, and are so arranged that the sheep can all feed under cover. They are twenty-four feet wide,—covered, front and back and roofs, with rough boards. A manger, on the inside front, with an opening from the yard for passing in the feed, extends their entire length. There are hanging shutters, front and rear, that are raised in fair weather, so as to give free passage of air across the buildings, the entire length, and closed during storms. The yard is so arranged that all the sheep can go out without mixing the divisions, and can have daily access to water, for drinking. A few turnips are given out daily. The entire arrangement combines economy and convenience in a most successful manner, and is well worth a visit from any farmer engaged in sheep raising. Of 160 lambs last spring, only 3 were lost in raising.

For spring pasturage, he sows in the previous fall a few acres of rye, on which the sheep are allowed to feed. A small portion of the field is divided off by a moveable fence, made of tarred twine netting, which is moved from day to day, as the feed is consumed, and prevents waste by their running over it. In this way the sheep thrive finely, and the land is put in excellent condition for another crop.

In stall-feeding cattle for the market, he feeds hay and roots for about six weeks previous to turning them off, gives oil-cake, about 4 lbs. each per day. This makes very fine beef. All the operations upon his farm of about 350 acres, are conducted with that thoroughness and good management which make the occupation both pleasant and profitable. It may be said that "Mr. Gooderham can farm in this superior manner because he has means at his command, but that a small farmer cannot do so." To this it may be replied that he simply acts upon the maxim that "what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well," and this will apply to a farm of 50 acres, as well as to one of 350 acres.

E. L. S.

Neglect of Turnip Culture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—In January last, I travelled through the northern part of the garden of Canada (County of Oxford), to buy beef cattle or store cattle; in reply to my many enquiries, I was told "we sold out in the fall. Fodder is very scarce. It does not pay to winter feed. It will not pay to grow turnips; we have had luck with the turnips" &c. It seems strange that our settlers (for they are not worthy of the name of farmers) are so blind to their own interests as to exhaust their land by growing wheat averaging ten bushels per acre, starving their stock or give them away in the fall, because they have not fodder sufficient to get them through winter. By the last statistics we raised 27 million bushels of wheat and only 10 million bushels of turnips. Is it any wonder that our defrauded soil refuses to give the abundant crops of wheat it did a few years ago, when we carry all away from the soil and take nothing back? The Press has for years urged the settler to thresh out his grain as soon as harvested, and sell it because he will get a cent or two more per bushel in the fall than he would get in the winter. By so doing he saves a penny and loses a pound. Some of your readers will ask how they lose when they get a higher price for their grain by neglecting their fall ploughing, not getting out their dung, or if it is got out, left lying in heaps to waste until the spring, and wasting their

straw and chaff before winter. Hundreds of animals are starved to death annually by the wilful waste of fodder.

And again, every writer in the country is writing about flax and its cultivation, showing by figures, that flax is the only crop that will restore our exhausted soils and fill our empty pockets with the needful. The flax crop will exhaust our soil more than the wheat crop, except we grow it in regular rotation, and consume the seed or its equivalent in oil-cake with turnip to winter-feed cattle, for the only way that we can restore our exhausted soils, is to manure our farms from resources within themselves.

The only way to remove this prejudice against turnip growing, is through the columns of THE CANADA FARMER. Let every turnip grower write to the FARMER his plan of preparing the land, sowing his seed, time of sowing, &c., &c. Establish Farmers' Clubs in every school section, so that farmers can meet together and exchange ideas on all agricultural subjects. And let every subscriber of THE CANADA FARMER lend his neighbour the FARMER for perusal, for it only wants to be known to be appreciated.

W. C. S.

Haysville, March 20, 1865.

Flax Culture vs. Wheat.

To the Editor of the Stratford Herald.

Sir.—As the season for sowing flax is fast approaching, farmers will naturally enquire what has been the result of the experiments of the past year. I beg a short space in your columns to lay before them a few candid facts connected with this crop. It is needless to state that from the continued drouth of the past summer it was probably the worst season that has occurred for years past, on which to have first introduced it; and farmers may justly be asked to consider how many fields of wheat under such circumstances have been harvested that have not paid the bare expense of the harvesting. However, it will be seen by the following statements that Flax at least bears a most favourable comparison with the great staple of the County, viz: Wheat:—

From 2 bushels sown—28 bushels seed, sold for	\$35.60
Fibre.....	21.42
	\$59.42
9 acres—168 bushels seed.....	\$125.00
Fibre.....	130.00
	\$255.00
1 acre—16 bushels seed.....	\$22.00
Fibre.....	15.00
	\$37.00
1/2 of acre—5 bushels seed.....	\$6.00
Fibre.....	4.94
	\$10.94
2 acres—seed.....	\$29.00
Fibre.....	25.00
	\$54.00
2 acres—seed 25 bushels.....	\$31.25
Fibre.....	18.00
	\$49.25
1 acre—20 bushels.....	\$25.00
Fibre.....	17.50
	\$42.50

many more cases might be adduced, but the above will give a fair estimate and when compared with the average yield of wheat of this County during the past year, which was certainly not over twelve bushels—it is thus evident that in all the above instances the balance is decidedly in favour of Flax, as a crop. This section of the Province is admitted by all persons conversant with the growth of Flax as perhaps the best suited to its culture, of any part of Upper Canada. I am fully satisfied that with care and attention, and on well selected soils, and with a more favourable season than the past, the above results would be doubled, certainly as far as fibre is concerned.

In placing these statements before the public the object has been to adhere to facts, and not hold out false inducements, leaving farmers to judge if it is not better to encourage the growth of a crop that will produce such results, rather than persist in the continued growth of wheat, the average of which is yearly being reduced in this County. There are now two flax mills in operation—one at St. Mary's, the other in Stratford—thus furnishing a sure market for all the seed and fibre that can be produced. Messrs. Brown & Co., of Stratford, are prepared to purchase any quantity of Flax that may be grown in this section during the coming season—They have had some of the past crop spun by farmers, and will shortly have about 300 yards of bagging ready for market. They will also furnish seed to farmers as far as possible.

W. IMLACH.

Stratford, April 3rd, 1865.