

for himself and family, and that consists or rather did consist of potatoes, oatmeal, sour coarse bread made from the worst of the wheat or barley, with some salt meat, more or less, according to the means of the land holder.

The most that these people could do was to live from year to year, without anything to spare. Then what must their situation be when their only hope was swept away at one swoop. The landowners were first applied to, but they were in a very little better condition themselves. Those that had the means fled to America, and those that had nothing remained to die of either famine or disease.

The government, as soon as they were convinced of the state of affairs, lost no time in rendering assistance in the shape of loans of money, to be expended in draining, and improving lands. Root crops were cultivated, and carrots, parsnips, turnips, and mangel wurzel were grown by people that would as soon have thought of growing lemons or oranges three years previously. In the year 1836 turnips were scarcer than apples: none but estates gentry would attempt to cultivate them, such as had £2000 or £3000 a year.

The reason the Irish peasant does not like to try experiments is this: he is ruined if they fail, and as long as the article that he is acquainted with does, he is inclined to let well enough alone. On the green and root crop system he can do more on 10 acres than he could on 20 before, even when the potato succeeded to his utmost wishes. On 10 acres of land of average fertility the tenant can keep 3 cows, 1 brood mare, and fatten 18 cwt. of pork on the same ground on the old system 2 cows, 1 horse, and 8 cwt. of pork was all that could be kept in it.

Now at this present time the gentry are working heaven and earth to get every one to sow flax, as Great Britain pays over £3,000,000 sterling per annum for flax, hemp, and seeds, to foreign nations. This in time of peace, is enormous, and what would it be in war, when the demand is infinitely greater and the supplies altogether stopped.

The Canadian, in like manner, while the wheat crop flourished, would think of nothing else. The native might make a little posash, but this the old countryman, unless he is near those that can give good assistance and advice is sure to run himself at. But the wheat crop is sure to fail, as well as the potatoe, if it is pressed too hard, and sown too often in

the same ground without manure. It is true this year there are a good many turnips grown, but that is because people were terrified about the grain crop as well as the hay. But there are no root houses for their reception, and there is no doubt large quantities will be frozen, and, if they are not frozen in the pits, the houses, the cattle are kept in are so open that they would be partly frozen while stored in them, and from this the old settler would consider that turnips are not the things for Canada.

But, it is not so; there is no country in the world better adapted for the growth of root and green crops than this. Our winter frosts are better pulverizers than all the instruments and implements that ever were turned out of all the machine shops in England. When our land is properly drained the small seeds can be sown as soon as the frost leaves the ground, and that will be three weeks earlier than in undrained land. Parsnips, carrots, mangels can be sown any time after the ground softens; in sand especially, when sown early in the spring, they keep hold of the moisture all the season, which is a strong reason for sowing sandy land with plants having long roots. No one ever saw mulleions or burdocks fail yet, in the driest year that ever occurred. Every thing with the same length of root will thrive equally well. Then there is the sun to scourge the weeds, cut them off to-day and by this time to-morrow you will not know that such a thing had ever existed. The parsnip should be the staple root of Canada; no heat can injure it while growing, and the hardest frost only improves it, they can be grown to any size with the help of deep digging and manuring. Seventy five bushels of parsnips are worth 100 bushels of potatoes for feeding purposes, and then there is the advantage of labor. The root crops are in the first of April. Peas, wheat, and oats, between April and the first week in May. Flax, second week in May. Weeding and sowing turnips first two weeks in June. Cutting hay and weeding the two last weeks of July. Haying, weeding, and cutting fall wheat and peas, pulling flax and harvesting spring grain August and September. Manuring and sowing fall wheat, October. Trenching and taking up the tenderest roots November; finishing the roots, December, this month and the next are mostly spent at short jobs; the flax should be cleaned in February; March, manuring and preparing for spring grain. But many