

parsnips, have come up very irregularly, and in many instances have failed; and this is a considerable disappointment, as these crops would be very useful in case of a short crop of hay. We have seen dry seasons generally good for the farmer, but whether it will be the case this year, it is impossible to say at the present moment. Fall wheat, though considerably injured last year, should not be given up. We are persuaded, that by careful cultivation in ordinary seasons it would succeed. In Upper Canada, this year, some fields have failed, but they will not discontinue sowing it on that account, and neither should we give it up. The wheat-fly has appeared in fall wheat and barley. The pastures have greatly recovered, though in many places they are still very short and poor. Upon the whole, there is no reason to anticipate bad crops, and it is the duty of agriculturists, when they have done their part well, to rely with perfect confidence upon the Giver of All Good, that their labor shall not be in vain.

June 30, 1852.

#### SUMMER FALLOW,

Executed in a proper manner, from the commencement to the end of the process, is an excellent means of improving the soil, particularly in heavy clay land. There are not any better means of cleaning the land of all weeds, of mixing and pulverising the soil, of ploughing to the depth required, and of straightening the ridges, if previously crooked, and making them of suitable and uniform width. These improvements cannot be well made without summer fallow. The benefit of the process is not confined to these improvements, but the soil is actually enriched and rendered much more capable of producing good crops, though no manure should be directly applied to the land. The frequent ploughing and harrowing, and exposure of the soil to the influence of the sun and atmosphere, has a very ameliorating effect upon it, however it is produced. The ploughed soil must imbibe the gases that are constantly floating in the air, and thus acquire fertility.

It is only when the land is broken up, and kept constantly stirred and turned, that it is capable of attracting the useful gases that float in the atmosphere; and unless the process of fallowing is properly executed, and the soil constantly broken up by the plough, the harrow and grubber, the great improvement by fallowing is not attained.

The land intended for summer fallow should be ploughed or drilled up the previous fall. The drilling answers a good purpose, takes less time, and the land is dry, and early in spring is fit for work. The drills can then be well harrowed, and the land ploughed across. This is the commencement of the process. After the spring work is finished, the fallow should again be worked with the harrow, the grubber or the plough, or all three if required. The small seeds of weeds will probably have sprouted, and then will be the proper time to destroy them by the plough and harrow, and all root of weeds by hand picking and burning, if their vitality is not destroyed by the sun drying them up while exposed.

Summer fallow affords the farmer full opportunity of cleaning, levelling, draining, liming and manuring the land. If he has manure to apply, it should be with the last ploughing, and then the land to remain over for spring sowing. The land that is summer fallowed in a proper manner, with or without manure, will give a better crop of grain the following year than by any other mode of cultivation. For fall wheat, it is the best preparation possible, and we should not hesitate to sow fall wheat, if sown in time, and in a proper manner, in drills, or ploughed in lightly, on summer fallowed land.

We have received the "Proceedings of the General Committee of the North Shore Railroad" from Quebec to Montreal, which has been printed in pamphlet form, and contains a map of the proposed line. The countries through which the railroad is proposed to be constructed contains nearly 300,000 inhabitants, including the cities of Montreal and Quebec. The Engineer's estimate of the cost of the railroad to put it into complete working order,