

the general course of nature. The average time for commencing ploughing is, from the 20th of March to the 20th of April, always bearing in mind that within these two periods the season is earlier, as you proceed further west, and also bearing in mind that where I do not particularize localities I allude to the *central* part of Canada West.

There are also other disadvantages when the snow remains too long, and those chiefly connected with the condition of our cattle and horses. When our winters are very long we, of course, require much more food for our cattle, and, upon some occasions, there have been scarcities of straw and hay, which have caused the loss of numbers of cattle, especially if the snow happens to be so deep as to prevent the oxen and cows from going to the bush to browse on the tops of the trees which are felled by the axeman, unless he too has been prevented by the depth of the snow. The winter of 1850 was the only one in which I knew this to be the case, during my residence, and that winter the loss of life amongst the cattle was very extensive; but this very circumstance has been the means of creating a very general and wide-spread desire, on the part of the farmers, to economise their winter feeding, by building warm houses for their cattle, by growing increased quantities of turnips, mangel-wurtzel, and clover, and by making freer use of chaff-cutting machines, which are very great economisers of hay and straw; but the