

for working properly with the plough. If any other unforeseen event should happen to detain him from fallowing at this period he will find before he has fairly commenced on this work his hay harvest will come upon him, and after it, one description of labour will supervene after another in so rapid a succession, that in attending to his fallows he will neglect other labours and the whole be in confusion through the season. With drill-crops this cannot happen but from gross neglect, and mismanagement. The soil for them is prepared by ploughing in the fall; and after being left in this state for the winter the frost will pulverize the mould, and leave it in such a condition, that nothing farther than manuring and running the drills will be required before planting in the spring. There is another advantage which a drill-crop possesses over a naked fallow, namely, the return it makes the farmer; and which we shall see hereafter is an object of no minor consideration. By fallowing it is obvious a season is lost without a crop and the farmer must look for a return for his labour from the crop of the following year; but under drill crops, every year pays itself, and while he is thus labouring to bring his ground under a proper system of cultivation he loses no time.

Should the crop planted consist of roots, the additional stirring the soil receives when raising them, saves a considerable part of the labour which would otherwise be required in preparing it for the seed the following year.

Having thus stated my reasons for giving a preference to drill crops for recovering worn out land; it now remains to consider what description of these crops are the best and to what extent they may be cultivated. In a former paper* I recommended the division of farms into fields of ten or twelve arpents† each, and that while the remaining fields were under any crop suitable for their condition, and such as the farmer could put down; one of this size ought to be under the operation of fallowing or drill crops every year: until such time as the farmer got over his whole farm and brought his ground under a proper rotation of cropping. I shall therefore suppose a field of twelve arpents, to be put down in drill crop: and which is the extent that will be found best proportioned for the size of the farms in this province, and the means the majority of cultivators possess, for properly managing this species of crop. This field ought to be laid out in three equal parts; and that sort of crop planted in each, that will make the best return to the farmer. In selecting the description of crops the farmer ought to consider the quantity and kind of manure he has within his reach. This is a point of the first importance, for if he makes a wrong selection of crop, or applies an improper kind of manure to it, or if the manure he lays on be deficient in quantity, he will not only be disappointed in the return from his drill crop, but the white crop which follows it will also be less productive.

One third of this field ought to be laid down in potatoes. It is unnecessary to offer a single word upon the value of these as a crop: we

* See Canadian Magazine, p. 219.

† An arpent is about four fifths of a statute acre.