

Rape ploughed in as Manure.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Would you be kind enough to answer the following questions in an early number of the *Agriculturist*?

1st, What time should *Rape* be sown when it is to be ploughed in as manure?

2nd, What quantity of seed per acre is required when sown broadcast?

Yours, &c., C.

Woodstock, 16th March, 1861.

REMARKS.

The time for sowing rape is not restricted to a few weeks, but in order to get a strong plant, the operation should not be unnecessarily deferred. The habits of the plant being very similar to the Swedish Turnip, it can be sown at the same time—May or June,—and treated in a similar manner. It is best to sow plenty of seed, say 3 or 4 lbs. per acre, and even more on the poorer class of soils. Rape being a gross feeder, requires good land, and when sown on poor soils, some slight manuring should be given: a sprinkling of plaster over the young plants will be generally found beneficial. When the plant is approaching flowering, sheep should be turned into the field to eat a portion of the leaves and stalks and to tread down the crop, in order that it may the more readily be ploughed under. Sheep are particularly fond of this plant, and it is extensively cultivated on the continent of Europe and in some parts of Britain for the purpose of feeding, and they readily fatten upon it. As a green manure it is excellent for wheat and grain in general. In feeding sheep with succulent rape there is some risk of the animals blowing, which is caused, as in cows on clover, by the generation of gas in the stomach. Among the means of preventing this, the sprinkling of salt over the plants is said to be beneficial, and the animals should not be turned in, especially at first, on empty stomachs, or in wet weather.

Flax Cultivation.

EDITOR OF THE *AGRICULTURIST*.—There has been a club got up in this place, for the general improvement of the settlement wherein is debated what kind of cereals and other crops it is best to raise, and the most improved method of doing so. Some of the farmers have an idea of raising flax and hemp, but have no information of a practical character as to the

best mode of doing so, upon which they can rely. If you would give us such information upon the subject as may be in your possession, you would much oblige,

Yours, &c., J. A. McDOWALL.

Demorestville, March 1851.

REMARKS.—We copied an able article on the culture and management of flax in the February and March numbers of the *Agriculturist* of last year, pages 75 and 104, from the *Irish Agricultural Review*, which, although written for Ireland, will convey all the information requisite, making proper allowances for differences of climate, soil, &c., to the cultivator in Canada. We refer our correspondent to that article, and to others which have appeared at various times in this journal. Land for flax should be in good condition. It should be sown as early as the season will permit, say at the end of April or beginning of May, according to circumstances, not of course till the weather is favorable, and the soil in proper condition. The Riga seed is considered the best, and should be sown about a bushel and a half to the acre. Great care should be taken that the seed is good, and free from weed seeds. The ground should be harrowed smooth before the seed is sown, and then it should be well harrowed in with a light fine harrow. The cultivation in fact is not essentially different from that of any of our ordinary spring crops. The same soil and mode of treatment for instance which might be relied upon to produce a good crop of barley, might also, with slight variation, be expected to afford the same result in flax. The rotting and preparation for market is an art, which would require some space to explain, and we cannot do better than refer to the article above mentioned. Messrs. Perine, Brothers, Conestoga, Co. Waterloo, who grow probably a greater quantity of flax than any other parties in Canada, amounting to several hundred acres annually, furnished the following statement to the Board of Agriculture, and which appears in the Transactions, in reference to some flax seed, for which they took a premium at the Provincial Show of 1858. The statement will convey the information desired by our correspondent and his friends, in a condensed and practical form. It is as follows:—

The sample of Flax Seed exhibited by us at the late Provincial Exhibition, held at Toronto, was grown in the town of Woolwich, County of