

try. A gentleman has informed us this year of the vast benefit produced in pens by the application of gypsum—and we believe it will produce more improvement on this crop than any other.

Oats will be a good crop—Indian corn has greatly improved, where sown in suitable soil. Potatoes are generally good, except where the seed has partially failed from dry rot, and from wet in the soil. They are now so far advanced as to give promise of an abundant crop. Hay was a full crop, but much of it has been injured in saving. We believe a large proportion is deteriorated in quality. The price in market at present, is very little over what would refund the farmer his expenses of mowing, saving, taking to market, and town charges, and have scarcely anything for the land which produced the hay, and this has been the case generally for several years. We think, however, that hay will advance in price before another crop is produced. Hay sells in Montreal now, for about one-fifth what it sells for in the principal markets of England. This makes a vast difference in the value of the returns obtained from Agriculture in both countries. The produce of the dairy is abundant, and prices moderate. This is a branch of Canadian farming which is not managed to the best advantage, and we conceive one great want is proper dairies, utensils, and dairy-maids acquainted with butter and cheese making. Fruit will not be abundant this year, in consequence of the caterpillars in spring having made great ravages in the orchards. Labour may be had, if farmers had the means to employ it. We think it would be a great benefit to farmers to offer premiums to good and efficient farm servants. One that is well acquainted with the work of a farm, and willing to execute it with care, and dispatch, when the employer is absent as well as present, is better than two or three men who will not act thus. In no business are good labourers more necessary than on a farm, and when they are good, and faithful, they should be encouraged as an example to others. Good crops may be produced, and preserved when they are produced, with much more ease and certainty when good and skilful servants are employed, than when they are otherwise.

Côte St. Paul, Aug. 31, 1844.

We find it a great check to Agricultural improvement in this country, that we have no opportunity of the choice of Agricultural implements, seeds, &c., as in England. Had we such a Society as the Royal English Agricultural Society, we might expect the same results from it—such a Society might have model farms with schools and libraries attached. On these farms might be shown, after patient investigation, the most perfect modes of drainage; the most complete, durable, and economical arrangement of farm buildings; the most advantageous modes of tillage, and course of crops; the greatest economy in manure and labour; the quantity of seed to be sown to the acre, and distance in sowing; the effect of steeping seeds in manure

or other liquids; the most advantageous state of ripeness in which to cut grain or grass; the most advantageous mode of housing and feeding stock in winter, and of fattening cattle and sheep on grass in summer; the best mode of fencing, and the cultivation of live fences. All these objects should be accurately ascertained by a competent and paid responsible director, or board of directors. The results of all experiments might then be confidently recommended for general practice, and there would be an opportunity of personally inspecting the farm, the work, the implements, and management in every department, and all these matters should have general publicity.

We have seen the result of an experiment reported to the "North Cornwall Experimental Club," on the 27th June last, of the effects of covering grass land with layers of straw. The field was viewed by several members of the Club, who were perfectly satisfied with the result of the experiment which is described in these terms:—

"The straw had been spread over about one-third of the breadth of the field, and through the entire length from east to west. Mr. Jones caused the straw to be raked off for some width up and down the line of division, and from several patches in different parts. The difference was very marked: where no straw had been laid, all the grasses were thin and short, and the field appeared almost as brown as the soil itself. But where the straw had been spread, the grass presented a lively green, and in quantity was thick and matted, corroborating Mr. James' statement of the enormous increase. He had cut and weighed it, and the increase was at the rate of 2,240 lbs. to the acre. Immediately after dinner at the Tree Inn, the chairman read a letter he had received from the Rev. J. Davis, of Kilkhampton, stating the complete success of an experiment he had made with guano for the destruction of the wire worm, a mere contact with which in its native strength will be followed by almost instant death."

There cannot be a doubt that a given quantity of straw will produce more good upon the soil as ploughed into it, than the same quantity would, after being simply rotted without any other addition to it.

The want of capital, as well as the want of skill, is a great bar to the advance of improvement in Canadian Agriculture, and both must be provided before we can expect that much improvement will take place. Without practical skill, capital cannot be employed advantageously by the farmer, but it is equally certain that whatever be the practical skill, much good cannot be effected without capital. In Canada, those who have capital appear not at all inclined to invest it in land or agriculture, and this will account, in a great degree, for its backward state at present. In the British Isles, it is only where there is abundant capital at the command of the farmer that agriculture is carried on in a proper manner. The monied institutions in this country are altogether, or nearly so, commercial, and for the accommodation of trade, and are unconnected with agriculture. It is quite otherwise in the British