

Thus the land is ready for seed, on a rough estimate, at 33s. 6d. less per acre. Most of our wheat land in Canada might be managed after this fashion, and, indeed, we maintain that, after once being cleanly laid down, the land could be kept in better order under the clover course than the fallow; and the crop might be repeated at intervals of a year less, while the fibrous roots of the clover would give the land a grip without being stiff or hard, which would prevent the wheat plant from heaving to any extent in spring. Indeed, fibrous vegetable matter, to a moderate extent, lessens the conducting power of the soil, and tends to exclude the frost; while we know, that nothing is a greater protection against winter than the numerous little points and matted clods presented by such a surface.

We should be chary of growing the coarse crops, to any extent, on our Fall Wheat lands, as, from our experience in the average of years, we find their dirt greater than their profit, where we have no cheap labor for weeding. A clean mow keeps down all dirt, and even kills our thistles. We merely mention clover as an illustration; doubtless many other plants would be found adapted to our purpose. We feel that thus we should be taking advantage of our climate. In England your green material would in many seasons lie undecomposed, in wet lands, for a twelvemonth. Here two months will in summer suffice to destroy its fibrous organization. Our winters, too, point to the same course, from their large amount of mechanical action. Turn over a boulder lying on the surface, and if it be not very solid, you find winter has shelled off a quarter of an inch of disintegrated sand from its surface. On this naturally pulverized material, the acids produced in the soil by rapid decomposition of vegetable matters, at once act chemically, and food for plants is thus formed at an enormous ratio, in excess of its production in the slow, sober climate of England.

These processes, combined with the difference of our mercantile position, call on us Canadians to adopt a system of husbandry widely different from that of the old country. We have less time to do our work in, but our country is faster, and we must be faster too, and must embrace all means which nature offers to help us.

In these rough remarks we would be far from seeking to lessen our Stock: we can eat all we yet have, but we would put them over more land, redeemed first from the growth of unprofitable crops, next from the forest. We would have more pasture, and feed our Stock fat before winter on abundant herbage; then freeze some, salt some, preserve some by chemical agencies, say charcoal, and keep a little for the epicures fed at a costly rate on turnips and oily seeds, and clover hay; but make them pay first if they want it.

Young Stock might be wintered on our large abundance of straw, with a little allowance of oil-cake; crushing establishments would arise, whereby a portion of the oil might be extracted from the seeds grown; and perhaps flax or hemp might be made from a portion of our produce, so as to increase the profit, while by this process of management, the crop being often repeated, one-fourth more wheat might be grown on the same extent of land, with less labor than at present. Wheat seems the staple for which Canada in its present position is peculiarly fitted. We doubt if the United States will ever do much more than supply their own consumption; so much of their surface is situated in a poor wheat-growing region. While they can produce almost any amount of Stock for their own supply as well as exportation, our Stock cannot be shipped to European markets fresh, and salted; it must meet a heavy and increasing competition from milder regions. Our wheat, until we get a region to the north to take our Stock, must be our main stay. Our fine water communications will carry it to all quarters of the world, at a trifling cost; and all Western Europe, and even the Southern Colonies, will ever want it while it is an article of produce, under proper management, peculiarly adapted to our climate. But a large produce of it on our soil, whose vegetation is so rapid, can only be kept up by taking advantage of its own reproductive powers. Our land will exhaust its fertility unless we allow it to renew and increase its vegetable ingredients, by taking advantage of its own capabilities. Grow enormously bulky crops and plough them down, and you maintain its vitality in an ever-increasing state, neglecting not, however, to attend to the action of its mineral ingredients. We speak of winter wheat lands—a large portion of our Province. For our black soils sufficient employment would be found, under such a system, in producing the seeds and coarse grains required for feeding.

We have been impelled to these few observations by the reflection, that the Canadian farmer is not making use of the means placed before him; he is not taking advantage of his cheap land. Our farms are too small, and our farmers are among the hardest work-