

The old practice of raising grain-crop after grain-crop, in uninterrupted succession, is gradually giving way to a system approaching more nearly to that adopted in those countries where the experience of long years, united with the discoveries of modern investigation, has almost raised agriculture to the level of an exact science. It is amply proved, by the sad experience both of States and individuals, that the successive cultivation of the harder grains, especially of wheat, gradually exhausts from the soil on which it grows those elements which are necessary to its productive capabilities; and that this exhaustion goes on, until the produce ceases to be remunerative, and the farmer has only the alternative of suffering his land to go out of cultivation, and seeking for a new location upon a virgin soil, or of supplying to his fields, in the shape of costly, and, in this country, almost inaccessible manures, the ingredients which have been abstracted by a long course of injudicious treatment.

The introduction of an increased breadth of hoe crops, involving, as it does of necessity, a corresponding increase of the number of animals kept by the farmer, goes far to eradicate this evil, or at least greatly to mitigate its effects upon the constitution of the soil, and the profits of its occupants. Not only does the cultivation of an enlarged quantity of green fodder and roots enable the farmer to raise and fatten a greater proportion of live stock than before, but it in a manner compels him to do so, in order to the profitable consumption of his produce; while at the same time it furnishes him with an increased supply of the staple, and, all things considered, the most valuable pabulum for future crops, farm-yard manure.

The presence of hoe-crops gives the farmer an opportunity of clearing his land from noxious weeds; and of reducing it by well applied labor, to that state of till which experience has proved so largely to augment its productive powers; while the frequent disturbance of the soil tends to turn out from their snug nests beneath the surface, and expose to the scorching rays of the sun, and the appetites of the feathered tribes, the larvae or grubs of these insect destructives, which, when suffered to multiply undisturbed, commit such terrible devastations, and destroy the hopes of the husbandman, by converting his promising crops into barren straw. The great breadth of land devoted to

production of hoe-crops in the County of Hastings, and we believe in Canada generally, during the past year, affords therefore a legitimate subject of congratulation, both to the Society and to the country at large, as it shows an approach to a more healthy and general appreciation of those great principles, the application of which to the practice of husbandry has so vastly increased the produce and augmented the profits, of the farmers in other countries within the last twenty years.

Another indication of progress in this direction is afforded by the greater number and improved quality of sheep bred and fed in the county, as compared with those of former years. Many of the animals of this class are such as may be shown with pride by their owners, and viewed with pleasure by their visitors; and it is to be hoped, notwithstanding the dicta of those who affirm that Canada is not a suitable habitat for the sheep, that wool may yet take a place among our staple products.

The attention of our farmers has also been directed to the raising of horses and cattle, and in consequence a marked improvement has taken place, both as to breed and condition, in the latter; while the horses of the County of Hastings, which have long enjoyed a high and merited reputation, are likely to be more sought after in future by buyers from the neighboring country; and bring more remunerative prices to their owners, thus constituting another important item in the agricultural returns of the county.

The introduction of machinery of an improved description, to a much greater extent than was formerly the case, forms also a gratifying feature in our review. Straw-cutters are now generally in use, and it is a good omen to observe with what avidity the improved forms of this machine are brought in by the farmers of Hastings. Indeed every improvement in agricultural implement which tends to lighten labor, or make its application more effective, whether the production of native talent, or introduced from other countries, is sure, if possessed of intrinsic advantages, to meet with abundant patronage, and we hope to see the day when Clod-cutters, Norwegian-harrows, Grubbers, and Bone-mills, shall be as common in the older Townships of the County as they are in the best parts of England and Scotland.

While the Farmers of Hastings have been