

Our copious dews are as injurious to it as a slight shower. It ought always to be left either in windrows or cocks; the latter being safer. The practice of salting hay in the mow is to be commended, particularly when it has sustained injury by wet during the process of making.

THE SUMMER FALLOW

The practice of fallowing land for the cereal crops is of very ancient date, going back to the most remote periods of history; and it is still a practice very generally followed by all agricultural nations in the present day. Of its benefits in general, when properly performed, experience leaves no doubt. The soil by being pulverized, absorbs ammonia from the atmosphere, becomes cleared of weeds, and by the disintegration to which it is subjected by repeated ploughings, harrowing, &c., yields up into a free state, potash and other valuable ingredients, constituting the essential food of plants. In Canada by far the greatest portion of winter wheat is raised upon summer fallows. It becomes then to the practical man a question of very great moment, whether this important operation is in general so thoroughly performed as an advancing agriculture and a constantly and rapidly increasing population demand.

We are not unaware of the fact, that of late years an opinion has been gaining ground both in Europe and America, that the naked fallowing of land is a wasteful and unprofitable practice; denoting indeed a stationary rather than an improving condition of husbandry. The introduction of root culture and the drill, has no doubt superseded, at least to a very great extent, the necessity of a whole year's fallow, especially upon the lighter soils, and in such a climate as the British Isles, where turnips, mangold wurzel, &c., yield a heavier and more certain crop, and butcher's meat fetches a much higher price than is the case in any portion of this continent. In England, however, upon the heavier soils, it is still found necessary every few years to subject the land intended for wheat to the cleansing and renovating process of a naked fallow, which is usually done in a thorough and expensive manner. Three or four deep ploughings, with scarifying, rolling, &c., with a liberal dressing of manure, are frequently given; a circumstance that will go a long way to account for the production of the forty and fifty bushels of wheat per acre that are frequently obtained from land which has been subjected to arable culture for centuries.

In order to render the growth of wheat more certain and remunerative in Canada, it is essential that our summer fallow should be more thoroughly prepared. Instead of two, or at the most three, superficial ploughings, with portions of the ground often left unmoved, it would be far better to expend double the amount of labor in effecting a more deep and thorough culture, which would greatly obviate the necessity of so frequent a recourse to the fallow as a means of renovating and preparing the soil for wheat. Upon our lighter soils, where root and clover crops are grown to any considerable extent, accompanied by the fattening of sheep, naked fallows as on similar soils in Europe, may be in a great measure dispensed with, and the land kept clear and in good heart. But in the stiffer soils, especially where they have been superficially cultivated and over-cropped, and, as a consequence filled with weeds, a deep ploughing before the frosts of winter set in, leaving the surface as rough as possible, is an excellent commencement for the next summer's fallow. In dry, hot weather, (for clay land particularly, ought never to be worked when in a wet state,) a good cultivator or grubber, drawn by three, or if need be, four, stout horses, to the depth of ten or twelve inches, would be more effectual and beneficial than half a dozen ordinary ploughings. Steam, there is now reason to hope, will, ere long, supply us with a cheaper and more efficient power for accomplishing this and other purposes.