

years to effect, even with the most industrious. Hard wood stumps, such as beech, maple, oak, iron-wood, elm, &c., rot out in that period, pine stumps will remain much longer sound, and require to be undermined and burned out with the aid of other wood.

It is too much the custom to tax the virgin soil too severely by double cropping, and when the richness of the top vegetable mould is exhausted or deteriorated, the farmer too often finds that the subsoil is not as fruitful as he expected, and for this most natural reason—that the wide-spreading roots of the mighty forest trees have made their natural and unceasing demands for nurture on the soil that surrounds them.

The roots of trees must be fed in Canada as well as in any other country, and no wise farmer will exhaust the vegetable supersoil so that it will not improve the subsoil when incorporated with it. It is much easier to keep land rich when you find it so, than to exhaust and then be obliged to recruit it. People are generally very much mistaken when they talk of the *inexhaustible* riches of the virgin soil, and much more so when they practise severe cropping to avail themselves of these boasted riches. It is killing the goose for the golden eggs.

I do not wish you to understand by this that the virgin soil is not rich, but merely that its riches should not be exhausted before the plough comes to be used,