

SUMMER FALLOW.

As the season is far advanced, it will be unnecessary to go into detail in the arrangement of making naked summer fallows—we shall therefore merely confine ourselves to a few appropriate hints which we trust will be read with interest and profit by such of our readers as may be engaged in the cultivation of wheat.

Barn yard manure should be employed on land that is characterised for its deep vegetable mould, after it has passed through the stage of fermentation and decomposition;—to attain this point, it will be necessary to draw out the manure in the early part of the season, and make it in large heaps in the fields, which should be covered with a coating of surface soil. This trouble will be unnecessary on light sandy lands or those chiefly composed of calcareous clays.—The best criterion to judge whether the manure should have passed the stage of fermentation before it were applied to the soil or after, will be found in the crop itself. If the crop be subject to lodge and give evidence of an over rapid growth, so that the sap-vessels burst and the exudation cause premature decay or rust, then in that case, the manure should be thoroughly fermented and rotted so that it could only be spread with a shovel. Lime and mail, if attainable, would be productive of benefit on such soils—but if the crop be subject to look a pale sickly colour during the spring and summer months, and if it seldom suffers from rapid vegetation, then the manure may safely be applied in its crude state. From a few experiments that lately came under our notice, we are almost constrained to be a favorite to the system of applying barn yard manure on the surface after the seed were sown and covered—this might be done with two-wheeled cars without injuring the crops. A few of our acquaintances have tried this plan, and while their neighbours will have scarcely their bread, they anticipate at least forty bushels per acre from the ground they have thus prepared. We highly recommend the wheat-growers to try this experiment—a single square rod will be a sufficient trial at first. The coarser the manure the better for the trial.

The practice of drilling, has its admirers, and we are among the number who are of the opinion that the product of the wheat crop might be nearly doubled on most soils, by the introduction of drilling machines. To make the system of drilling safe and practicable, the seed should be deposited in rows full twelve inches apart, and the plants should be horse-hoed at least twice during the month of May. A man and horse will hoe two acres per day. This plan of course will be denounced by most of our readers, but notwithstanding the day is not far distant when the rays of light will have sufficient influence over their dark understandings, that they will be constrained to acknowledge the truth of the above system.

The Drilling Machine advertised by Mr. Wallis, of Yorkville, in the last few numbers of the *Cultivator*, is calculated to do the work in a most perfect manner—a ribbing or double mould board plough will be found to do the work in a very accurate manner, and a good Scotch plough will also be found to answer an excellent substitute for the ribbing plough. If the latter be used, the land should be previously laid up into ridges and harrowed down, and then the furrows are to be made at least fourteen inches asunder on rich deep soils, and about

eleven inches on tenacious clays and light sandy lands. The plough should be held towards the land side, and each furrow should form a separate and distinct ridge. The seed should be sown brought east, and by a single harrowing lengthways it will be found to come up nearly as regularly as if a proper drilling machine were used. This though an imperfect plan, will give the Canadian farmer an idea of the utility of introducing drilling machines. We strenuously urge upon the intelligent farmer to make an experiment as above, and give us the result when the proper time arrives.

Some of our readers would no doubt accuse us of being wild and visionary in our notions on farming, were we to assert that a system might be practiced which would prove an excellent substitute for naked summer fallows, by which the old system might be safely dispensed with, notwithstanding the opposition we may meet with by narrow-minded men in the various improvements which we shall in future recommend and practice, we shall endeavor to convince them before we have closed our career as a journalist, that book-farming, as such instruction as we disseminate, is vulgarly called, is nothing more or less than facts, plain and practicably communicated for the benefit of all who may choose to favor us with a reading—and, that we are not selfishly influenced in disseminating these facts.

The cultivation of pease as we have elsewhere stated is a subject that shall receive full attention by us. By a superior mode of managing land for that crop, it will be found to be one of the best preparatory crops for wheat, as it will leave the ground in a perfect clean state—and may be pulled or harvested in the early part of August.

Clover ley, would be an excellent substitute for naked summer fallows, providing it were free from wild grasses, and the second crop of clover ploughed in with a deep, well proportioned furrow, each furrow slice should be well lapped on its fellow, and laid up as nearly as possible at an angle of inclination of about forty-five degrees with the horizon, which will give the harrows an opportunity of taking hold of the land, by which the interstices will be completely filled up with finely pulverised soil. Previous to sowing the seed and harrowing, we would recommend that the furrow should be compressed with a very simple implement, something after the character of a roller made in such a manner that it will press a certain number of furrow. This implement can be made by almost any carpenter,—the best farmers in England use cast iron presses, each weighing a ton and a half.

Every Canadian farmer feels fully the importance of any change, which would be calculated to fill his coffers with dollars, and at the same time lessen his expense for manual labour. One of the many means of attaining so desirable an object, has been with us a subject of attentive investigation during the last few years. We shall at present only advert to it, as it is highly probably but few will be prepared to take advantage of it to any extent, the present season. Supposing a farmer had an early variety of pease, which would on an average of seasons be ready for harvesting by the fifteenth of July, and that the whole of the land, which he intended for wheat were sown with those pease and harvested by a herd of swine,—the result of such a plan would be that the land would be as clean from weeds as if it had under-

gone a regular summer fallowing, providing the seed were sown at the rate of fourteen pecks per acre,—and the porkers would be two-thirds fattened by the time the farmer were ready to plough the seed furrow. No danger need be apprehended from waste of crop, as the hogs would effectually harvest the whole. To carry out this system completely a number of cows should be kept on the farm, so that the swine would be in a high condition from the refuse of the dairy, previous to entering on the pea crop, and when a number of acres are treated as the above a portion might be harvested, by a very cheap process,—a single horse, attached to a hay-rake, with the aid of one man, will pull at least five acres of pease per day—these may be thrashed at leisure, ground and mixed with steamed potatoes to finish the fattening process of the swine.

There are two variety of field pease in the country which would ripen on an average seasons by the middle of July, both of which are very prolific. We sowed one of these varieties the present season, on the tenth of May, and they were ready for boiling by the first of July. Three years since we sowed the same variety, harvested them, sowed them again, and they were ripe in the first week in October. The only name by which we designate these from other varieties, is the early 'English Grey Pea.'

As an evidence of their value, a bush farmer, twelve miles north of Lake Simcoe, sowed a little upwards of five acres, among the stumps, and he had the astonishing produce of sixty bushels of clean marketable pease per acre.—Many will doubt this statement, but it was communicated to us by the man who harvested and thrashed them, who is a person esteemed in his neighbourhood, for his integrity, and we as much believe it as though we saw it ourselves. We shall endeavor to sow a number of acres of this variety the ensuing season, and shall feel a pleasure in laying before our readers the result of the experiment. Wheat sown on pea stubble should be rolled in the autumn and spring.

We have thus cursorily adverted to a few features of a part of a system which we feel flattered will prove an advantage if honestly and judiciously carried out in all its bearings.

A very essential feature in farming is to have the ground which is intended for seed, in a perfect permeable or pulverised state, which is attained more readily and with less expense by a smothering crop than any other system practiced; this is only a part of a whole which is requisite to make the business of growing crops certain and remunerating; clearing of the surface soil from water, and keeping it clean from weeds, are also points which are of the greatest moment, and no farmer possessed of a grain of common sense would neglect the latter any sooner than the former. We shall then proceed to give a few remarks upon the best mode of preventing surface water from injuring the crop.—Where land is undulating the intervals should be underdrained, a branch of farming but little understood in this country. We so frequently adverted to it in the last volume that it will be unnecessary to repeat what has already been said on the subject. The formation of perfect ridges averaging about four yards wide, the harrowing of these ridges down after the seed has been sown, the cleaning out the furrows with the trench plough, a common plough will answer, and the ploughing cross-furrows in eve-