

of cordage, which can be easily manufactured as it requires no extensive machinery.— And I am sure that rope walks would be established wherever anything like a supply of hemp could be procured, and thus help to increase the amount of our manufactured articles, in which we are now so lamentably deficient. But apart from our own wants, England would furnish us a market for many years to come, as they import from Russia, and other countries hemp to the value of millions of dollars every year, which she would be very glad to send to her colonies instead of sending her money to a foreign and sometimes hostile power.

The amount of hemp grown on an acre, like anything else, depends a good deal on the cultivation, giving from 600 to 1000 lbs. per acre, and even more in a good crop. The price in Kentucky, where hemp is largely raised, is from five to eight dollars per cwt., when merely broken without being scutched. This, taking the medium of price and quantity raised, would give about fifty dollars per acre, and as a crop, it is said, can be raised on the same ground, year after year, with a slight manuring, without deteriorating the soil, the produce, taking all things into consideration would be as large as any crop we could raise.

The cultivation of hemp, where no fall wheat is sown, interferes very little with the other operations of the farm, for after it is sown it requires no further attention, until September, when most of the grain crops are secured; and if you are not at leisure when it is ready, it suffers no loss in value if left a week or ten days before pulling.

Having determined to try hemp myself, I would like to see others do so, and if you consider its cultivation to be a matter of interest to your readers, I will give you a description of the most approved method of raising, rotting, &c.

R. N. B.

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### SHEEP FARMING.

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*To the Editor of the Agriculturist.*

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RYCKMAN'S CORNERS, Jan. 7, 1859.

MR. EDITOR,—I submit to the readers of the *Canadian Agriculturist* whether or not it would not be profitable for a few years to change the practice of farming. The question will naturally be asked, In what way? Well, by preparing during the coming summer and fall, for buying up a much larger stock of sheep. Have you an hundred acres of cleared land? Then I would advise you to winter over next winter 150 ewes, and so continue for not less than three years. Sheep I find to be the most profitable stock I can raise, and I believe it is the experience of others. They are a kind of stock with which you can raise money at any time; they save, too, a great amount of labor compared with wheat-raising. Now, during these three years, your land of course must be chiefly in pasture and meadow, and let this be clover as much as possible; thus your land will be resting and recruiting, and the sheep will be bringing it into a fine condition for wheat in future years. During the three years, I think ten acres of wheat may be grown each year with great profit, and this is the method I recommend: Turn under clover after the 15th of June, plough 9 inches deep, and subsoil. Ploughing being done, now harrow; then pen your sheep on this field every night, in a pen just large enough for all to lie down in; move the pen twice or thrice a-week, until they have gone all over the field. Your fallow is now well manured. About the last of August put on your cultivator, and it will need no ploughing. When ready, drill your wheat,—furrowing out your land, making good water-courses where needed, and your prospect is as good as you can well make it for a crop of wheat. This will leave that field in a fine rich condition for a number of years to come.

Now, the question is, What is the best breed for our farmers to keep? Here there is and will be a difference of opinion—some preferring the pure Leicester, others the Southdown, others a cross between the two. The latter, I believe, is really larger and more easily fattened than the Leicester, and the wool is somewhat finer. The Southdown is an easily kept sheep, and yields a fine fleece, but the carcass is small. The manufacturer of wool greatly disapproves of the cross between the Leicester and Southdown, inasmuch as it does not improve the wool. The wool in this cross is harsh,—lacking oil. The best stock of sheep for Canada, is a cross between the French Merino