

eight years, while here they are fallowed once in two years.

The introduction of a greater proportion of green crops into the agriculture of this Province is certainly much required; but that it would succeed to the extent that it has done in Britain, is very doubtful. The benefit it would be to the soil is unquestionable; but the question which every farmer reasonably asks, and which is not so easily answered is, "*will it pay?*" The returns do not appear so quick and certain as the wheat growing alone. There are several reasons why such a system should not succeed so well here as in Great Britain; the high wages and scarcity of labourers, and the difficulty of disposing of the produce to advantage are serious objections, and the greater severity of our winters deprive us of some of the means of making use of the green crops which are most profitable in Great Britain. But all these objections may be removed by time and circumstances, and it seems to me that, to that system we must come at last. And it would appear to be the interest of every farmer to keep this subject constantly in view, and to consider well how far, and in what manner, this system of husbandry may be best introduced into Canada; and more especially the partial substitution of green crops for the naked fallow.

It is a disagreeable prediction, but I fear it will prove too true, that we must look to a further decline in the price of wheat, as the ground work of any material improvement in the system of agriculture in Canada. At present the farmer cannot by any process realize so much money by growing Turnips, Mangel Wurzel and Clover, as he can by growing mostly Wheat, therefore, he will adhere to the wheat growing; and it would be hard to expect him to do otherwise. But reduce the price of wheat to such a rate that he can realize more profit by growing partly green crops and feeding cattle, and it will be easy to convince him of the propriety of improving his land by growing clover, turnips, and mangel wurzel. It would be much more satisfactory if we would increase the value of the green crop, rather than depreciate that of the wheat, but it seems that one or the other must be done before the cultivation of green crops will be generally adopted in the Province.

It would, however, ill become me at the present time to predict what improvements may not very soon be witnessed, when, apparently, one of the brightest eras for agriculture is just dawning on the country. The organization of a *Provincial Board of Agriculture*, and the appointment of a *Professor of Agriculture in the University*, will be important events in the Agricultural History of Canada. These acting in conjunction

with the Provincial Association, and the several County and Township Societies, will produce a concentration of the agricultural science, knowledge and resources of the country, from which a vast amount of good may be reasonably expected. The fund of intelligence thus collected will be again distributed and circulated through agricultural publications. These publications will obtain more support than they now do, and in consequence will become, by their improved character, more worthy of support.

After all we must not depend on any *new light* in agriculture, as the source of prosperity to us farmers individually, so much as upon the proper application and husbandry of the knowledge and resources already in our possession. It will be well for every farmer, before seeking or adopting any new system, to consider well whether or not he has made the most of his present position. Let him see that his land is well ploughed and harrowed, and the seed sown in a proper manner, and at the proper season. Let him see that his fences are safe, that his crop may be secure while growing. Every farmer knows that one hog let into a field of peas, while growing, may destroy as much in one meal as would feed the same animal for a month if he would wait till they are duly prepared for him. Let him see that a portion of his richest and best land is not employed growing useless and noxious weeds, which with a little timely attention might as well be producing wheat or turnips. Let him take care that his crop is harvested at the proper time, and that he makes his hay while the sun shines. When his crop is harvested, let him see that it be properly cared for,—let there be no useless waste in thrashing and cleaning, and that the rats and mice be compounded with on the most favourable terms possible, (favourable for the farmer I mean,—not the vermin.)—that the straw is properly secured and fed to the stock during the winter, so as to be converted into manure, and that the manure itself shall not be allowed to go to waste. Let him keep the proper number, and no more, of cattle and horses on his farm, *and keep them well*. Let his farming implements be always in proper condition, and in the right place, when they are wanted. Let him, in short, attend carefully to every matter and thing that requires attention on his farm, according to the best of his knowledge and means, and he will be, under Providence, independent of any improvement in the science of agriculture, and at the same time in a position enabling him to take advantage of any such that may appear.

It may be that there is no other farmer in Canada who has neglected any of these matters, but for myself I can safely say that in my experience in farming, I have lost much more by neglect of