

intelligence than the general run of his fraternity, yet by the example of "good farming" before him, he had been enabled after first coming to Canada to earn money beyond his wants, to acquire the confidence of his employer so as to be trusted with a farm. The man had in the course of eight years raised himself from the mere labouring man to the station of a prosperous and well-doing farmer, and one who could acquire the freehold of 100 acres of his own, and yet have means (more or less) to work it; and whilst he was acquiring these means, he brought his farm from a worn-out state to a state of fertility by force of "good farming" alone, not by means of capital, artificial manure, and all modern usages, but by dint of sheer hard work and what he could force out of the ground, to be returned to it again, and to leave a fair profit and surplus for his skill and labour. All this he did with the smallest of means and cash capital, and chiefly by the labour of himself and his wife, and some help from his family. No doubt the man has been a pattern of saving and sobriety, and is a person of considerable natural intelligence; but to talk to him you would never suspect him of more than the most ordinary qualities. He is far from a powerful man, and I very much doubt whether he can read or write; but he can "farm" and grow turnips, and is well grounded in the fact that good farming without manure, and plenty of it, is impossible; that grain growing, without a corresponding stock to keep up the fertility of the soil, is suicidal to the interests of the farmer; and more than all, he has shown that Canada, for the hard working and industrious man, with only moderate skill in farming, is indeed a haven of success and security, and a place where a poor man, whilst he is enriching a worn-out farm by judicious management, not only benefits himself, but is rendering himself independent for life, and his family are raised from the dregs of the people to the ranks of an independent yeomanry.

VECTIS.

Salt, as Applied to the Soil.

Salt is a corrector—of this there is sufficient evidence to establish the point. It is not a manure proper, but it aids chemically and otherwise. It needs but little to have the necessary effect, and this the soil has often supplied to it by natural means, as when the location is near or along the sea shore, the air carrying the saline properties to the land. It is, therefore, to be determined by test whether salt is sufficiently present in the soil. Otherwise applied, it will be of service particularly on sandy soils, where it dissolves the silica—hence the advantage of stiffened straw without, however, increasing its bulk, rather lessening it; but the berry is improved in size and weight. The quality of growth is insured; there is a healthful effect.

On clay soils it seems under most circumstances to be of little benefit. The arenaceous is the place for it, and there especially for root crops, but according to English accounts more particularly for the mangold. We have a table (by Voelcker) where the increase of this root from the use of salt was from five to eight tons increase per acre over land not salted. There were used from two to eight hundred pounds of salt per acre.

Salt will be absorbed entirely, unchanged by the plant. It will be taken in and thrown out, passed through the plant, doubtless for some use, but what it is not clear, probably to renovate and clean the plant. Hence it improves the quality of grass and hay, and it is asserted in some cases the yield, and largely; also that of grain. Of course much depends upon the soil. We must test; that is the way to find out.—*Cor. Rural World.*

Wheat on Stubble.

There are those who still persist in sowing winter grain on stubble, and wheat at that. The lesson this teaches ought to be sufficient to cause the discontinuance of the practice; but it seems farmers will persist in having dirty wheat fields and light crops, and this when the best crops, on fallows or otherwise, pay none too well. The fallow, in addition to a good crop, will clean the land, and prepare it for seeding and for future crops. The excuse that there is no time, and that it will not pay, will not do. If the fallow pays not, how much less will exhausted stubble land pay? But some stubble land, it will be said, is rich enough. To those who have such land we wish to say a word or two, and say it principally from experience in the various ways of wheat growing.

Rich stubble land ought to be mellow, and is if not hurt by bad treatment. This treatment consists generally in ploughing, or working the land in any way too wet. This will show for years. But if the land has not been hurt to any considerable extent in this way; if the soil is mellow, and not harsh, lumpy, or to but a slight extent; if the fertility in it is old, well incorporated with the soil, and there are not too many weeds, a fair, perhaps a paying crop of wheat may be raised. If it is desired to seed down the land, this is a further inducement, as no seeding generally does so well as that sown early in the spring—on the snows, all the better. That is our experience, either with clover (which some object to) or the grasses.

It is bad policy to sow wheat after oats. Barley is better. Peas we have found best of all, especially if as much of the haulm is left as can be. The land is pretty certain to be in good condition, mellow, and apparently enriched. Great results we have known to follow such treatment. But, in all cases of stubble, if possible, harrow the land as soon as the crop is removed. Several harrowings are better than one. Then leave till just

before it is wished to sow the wheat. There will now quite likely be a growth of the shelled grain and weeds that may have vegetated. This turned down, but not too deeply, is the next operation. If possible, the sub-soil plough should follow here, answering for deep ploughing. This new growth of grain and weeds does not want to be buried too deeply, as there is much nutriment in it, and the wheat wants it near the surface, though its root will extend well down, looking after the benefit of the sub-soiling; the latter is less necessary where the ground is porous or well drained. This is important, as it will be a guard against the heaving of the frost. There is a difference, it must be considered, between summer and winter grain, in this respect.

The wheat will come up well with anything of a chance, and it will be all wheat, not the unpleasant mixture of the coarse grain with the wheat. It will have the soil all to itself; and it will grow, comparatively, a clean crop. It would be greatly helped if a thin coat of old manure were spread, evenly, and harrowed with the wheat when sown. This mainly for a good start, which is of importance. It is of importance, as it establishes the root for the winter and spring test, keeping the plant alive even if the snow and the frost have been severe, and seem to have cut it off. We see such fields, with a barren and discouraging look, yet doing almost wonders. It was so in some cases the past spring. Establish a good root in a dry soil; you are safe then.

Another thing, which is not generally inviting: Cover your field with straw. You will not like the looks; you will not like the labour. But if you have the straw it will be a paying benefit to spread it on, evenly, and not scantily; the grain will find its way through, and will seem to be lifted by it. This straw is a protection, and it will protect against many things—against the snow, which will the less smother it, the frost and rough winds, and the washing of hill-sides. Besides, it is a manure; this to a greater extent than would appear. It also keeps warm by its covering, as a blanket does, while at the same time it reflects the excess of the sun's heat. The practice is common in some places, particularly in Pennsylvania, where the farmers make it a special business to save their straw for their wheat fields.—*Utica Herald.*

PROLIFIC PEAS.—Mr. C. Bean, of Scarborough, brought us for inspection a fine sample of peas, which he had grown this season. From a single stalk, branching out into four principal stems, were produced over forty pods, the total yield of which amounted to no fewer than 250 peas, a remarkable increase, certainly from one seed. The length of the haulm was about five feet. The whole crop from which this was taken was remarkably fine, and will return, it is estimated, fully 50 bushels to the acre.