

WELLINGTON FARMERS' CLUB.

The usual meeting of the Club was held at the British Hotel in the town of Guelph, on Friday June 10th, the President, Thomas Saunders, Esquire, in the chair. The subject for consideration was, "The best mode of cultivating Fall Wheat," which was introduced by Mr. McCrea, as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—

In commencing the discussion of this subject. I make no pretension of communicating anything new to those who hear me; and shall aim more at impressing on all the benefits which would result from their carrying into practical operation the most improved system of cultivation known to themselves, than is generally done. Men don't always do wrong for want of knowing the right, but often from the fact of the wrong being attended in the first instance with the least outlay or labor.

The cultivation of wheat varies in different countries, from the necessity of varying the other crops to be grown in the rotation, so as to suit the climate and market. Thus, it would be found impossible in Canada to carry out generally the four or five course shift, having one-fourth or one-fifth of the land in green crop annually, because we cannot feed any part of that crop on the ground, and the expense and labour of housing and feeding in winter is greater than the returns would warrant on so large a scale; neither does the green crop come off in time for sowing Fall Wheat, which has been, and probably will continue to be, on all favourable soils, the principal crop. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to strike out another course, which I will endeavor to explain.

Taking, then, a soil either naturally favorable, or made so, as in many instances it is capable of, by artificial means—such as under-draining, sub-soiling, and the judicious application of correctives, as lime, marl, clay, or sand, in such quantities as may be needed by the peculiarities of the soil—the next step for the enterprising cultivator, who is not above gleaning instruction from the theories of others, combined with his own experimental and practical knowledge, will be to prepare the ground for the reception of the seed; and this will naturally lead to the consideration of a proper rotation of cropping, such as will keep up a uniform breadth yearly of the various crops he wishes to grow, and yet keep his farm in a good state of cultivation.

I will assume that it is divided into as many equal parts as will suit the particular rotation required. To attain this, I would vary somewhat from the fifth course shift, and grow two

crops each of wheat, peas and oats, and four of clover and grass, with one naked fallow in eleven years. Thus:—

1st year—	Fallow from sod.	
2nd do —	Wheat	} manured for one year.
3rd do —	Peas	
4th do —	Oats and Seeded.	
5th do —	Clover & Grass	} plaster if mown.
6th do —	do do	
7th do —	Peas on Sod.	
8th do —	Wheat with lime.	
9th do —	Oats and seeded.	
10th do —	Clover & Grass	} plaster if mown.
11th do —	do do	

At the end of this course, the land has been once manured and once limed with from 60 to 100 bushels of lime per acre, and will be in a *better* state than if worked on the five course shift, and manured once in the course with the spare coating, which would be available, and will amply repay the extra charge for lime, especially as it is found very difficult in this climate to make a sufficient quantity of manure for garden, orchard, and the land appropriated to roots. In the above division, it will be observed, there is no mention of roots; but this does not *prevent* a sufficient portion of the farm being appropriated to these *very necessary* crops, and they are only omitted here, because they would interfere with the rotation proposed on a purely fall wheat farm, and, as is generally the case, the orchard and one or more fields near the homestead, will be found more convenient for these purposes.—The wheat crop will thus either follow a naked fallow, or peas grown on a sod of a two years layer. In the former, I would plough once (in the spring in preference to the fall) a furrow six to eight inches deep, and use the cultivator as often as may be needed during the summer to keep down grass or weeds, running it shallow at first, so as not to disturb the grass under until the sod is in that state of decomposition considered necessary when cross ploughing is practiced, when it may be worked to the depth of five or six inches. In some soils it will be necessary to plough a seed furrow to facilitate surface drainage; but in porous sub-soils, the cultivator will do all the work after the first ploughing. In ploughing the sod for peas, such a plough should be used as will cut a furrow with a good shoulder, and pack tight, so as to cover the seed well and prevent the grass springing, that no trace of the furrow may be found after the peas are harvested. One good furrow should then be ploughed for the wheat, and the lime spread and seed sown as quickly as possible, harrowing all in together.

The best time for sowing will generally be the first half of September, the plants requiring the intermediate time before the setting in of the