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**SPRING WORK.**

The farmer now finds himself pressed on all sides with numerous operations, that have to be either commenced or completed. The present season cannot be pronounced an early one, but the ground, where properly attended to as regards ploughing, draining, &c., is in a good state for the reception of the seed. Not a moment should be lost in pushing on work, and giving as good a finish to the various and important Spring operations as time and circumstances will admit; ever bearing in mind that the results of the harvest, in a great degree, depend on the manner in which field labour, at this season, is brought to a termination. Deep and clean culture, so as to secure a fine and pure seed bed, with a suitable dressing of manure, when necessary, constitute the basis of success in farming.

Although no precise time within the range of a few days can be stated for sowing grain, roots, &c., since so much must always depend on the character of the season, and the physical condition of the soil, it may be laid down as a generally correct rule that it is best that this important operation should be performed as early as practicable. In this climate Spring is of short duration, and the farmer should not have matters so farwarded as to be able to commit the seed to the ground as soon as it is sufficiently warm and dry. To attempt the contrary—that is, to sow when the soil is cold and wet, particularly early in the season—will

be sure to end in disappointment and failure. Indeed, there is always a large extent of land put under crop, which, from practical inattention to these matters, is rendered comparatively unproductive.

It may, therefore, be regarded as a sound, general rule to sow early; bearing, of course, in mind the seasonal physical conditions of the soil and temperature before mentioned. Early sown grain will generally prove of the best quality, being both heavier, and having a larger proportion of nutrient ingredients. Recently, however, farmers have adopted the practice of sowing the *Fife* variety of wheat very late, in order to avoid the fearful ravages of the midge; an artifice that has been attended with considerable success. This variety of wheat is well known to be particularly hardy, but little liable to rust, and well suited for late seeding. We have known large crops of this variety sown as late as the middle of May, or several days afterwards; in that case, the ripening process of the plants being late, they escape the ravages of the midge.

The preparation of land for root crops should now, if not already done, be completed. The sowing of carrots and parsnips should be finished without delay, and mangel wurzel will immediately follow. The Swedish turnip can be sown from the middle to the end of the month, or even later; much depending on the character of the season, and the condition of the land. The extent of root culture in Canada is annually increasing, and the most approved