

the earliest practicable period. Early sown grain will be found to produce the heaviest sample and consequently the best quality. No precise time however can be absolutely laid down for the performance of these important operations. Much must depend on the character of the season, and the nature and condition of the soil.— Though early sowing as a general rule is to be recommended, we must wait till the soil is sufficiently warm and dry, or the seed will not germinate, and much of it may perish. It is a sound practical rule, also, not to plough or otherwise work land when in a wet state; far better wait for a more favourable opportunity. By working land while in a wet state, its condition is more or less injured, and rendered unfavourable to the growth of the crop during the whole season. It will be seen that the precise time for ploughing and sowing must not depend on the day or the month, but upon conditions that are more or less variable; and consequently what is considered late in one season, might be regarded as particularly early in another of a different character.

From what has already been said it will be seen that the raising of root crops forms an important feature in every good system of modern husbandry. To the stock farmer roots and green crops constitute his sheet anchor. Now then is the time to commence preparing land for turnips, mangels, carrots, &c. Under this head also may be included flax, the culture of which is gradually making progress in many parts of Canada, and which promises, if persevered in with judgment, to add materially to our provincial resources. For these crops we strongly urge our farmers to make good and timely preparation. If the land has been deeply ploughed in the fall, incorporating farm-yard manure, all the better; but this circumstance will not make spring cultivation less necessary. It would be well to look to the thoroughness of preparing land for these kind of crops, than to the mere extent of culture. One well prepared acre will often produce as much as two inadequately treated. Liberal treatment of land for all kinds of crops, is no doubt the best paying in the long run, and in case of roots this holds specially true. We may just remind the farmer that great relief may in some places be given to winter wheat by inspecting the fields at this season, and opening any obstructed water furrows, there-

by preventing injurious stagnation. In short, it should be the constant effort of the farmer, particularly in spring and fall, so to arrange the surface furrows, as to allow water freely to pass off into the adjoining natural outlets. Even in well underdrained land this precaution cannot be dispensed with.

THE PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE IN CANADA.

MESSRS. EDITORS OF AGRICULTURIST:—I am induced, after much consideration, to take up my pen, from the perusal of an article that appeared some days ago in the *Leader* newspaper, questioning in some measure, the propriety of the University Commissioners to abolish the chair of Agriculture in the Toronto University, and commenting in general terms upon the present progress of agriculture in western Canada.

I have been expecting every day since, to see in that paper, by a practical agriculturist more able than myself, a refutation of several assertions and impressions set forth in the article which are practically untenable, made doubtless under erroneous information by a very able writer, but who, nevertheless, is somewhat out of his depth on the all important subject of agriculture, or in other words, as broad as to the present status of agriculture in this Province, I allude especially to Upper Canada.

The article, upon the whole, is undoubtedly a very able one, and although I can account much that the writer says regarding the different cultivation of a part of the soil, at the present time, in some sections of the province, and lament as much as any one the paucity of science employed as a necessary adjunct to the successful carrying out of agricultural operations, I cannot conceive even to the doubt of whether we are progressing or retrograding in that truly important industry, or as to the propriety of abolishing the chair of Agriculture.

Notwithstanding, I am willing to admit that the older cultivated farms generally speaking, are not in every case being supplied or renovated sufficiently with proper and needful fertilizers, so indispensably necessary in producing a full and remunerative crop where the land is under yearly cultivation. yet, upon the whole, making due allowance for the last two unfavourable seasons, more especially in the north and north-west part of the province, I do not think it can be said *with any show of justice*, that as an agricultural community we are not progressing. I think far otherwise! and I imagine that I am borne out in this conclusion by what I have witnessed, not only at our late Provincial