

be almost sure of a clean burn of brush. As those who have cleared land will know, this materially helps in the final clearing up of the fallow. The cost of the work of clearing if let by contract to chop, log, and fence, but not stump, is from \$16 to \$18 per acre. From six to eight years after chopping, the land can be stumped. The greatest draw-back in clearing is burning the wind-fallen timber. In an ever-green bush, which is shaded at all seasons of the year, the fallen trees get thoroughly water soaked. The best way to get rid of them is to pile the logs up in heaps, being careful to put the fallen timber on top of the piles, allowing them to remain two or three weeks, before setting them on fire. If there is a good wind, and the time dry, not only will the piles burn, but the fallow will burn over a second time, burning moss, rotten wood and much of the surplus vegetable matter. On light land this second burning is not necessary, in fact the more decayed matter on it the better; but on this fertile, crumbly, calcareous clay, if there is too much mould and waste matter on the surface, the roots of the grain cannot penetrate to the clay soil beneath and the crop is more likely to be affected by summer frosts. Summer frosts, which, like flies, are always troublesome in the first years of settlement, get less frequent and often entirely disappear as the clearings are made larger and the country becomes opened up. But if the crops are rooted in the clay they will stand frosts and the extremes of weather much better than when sitting on the surface, with their roots reaching for food amongst the mould and rotten wood of a partially cleared fallow. In crossing a number of fields of oats (first crops), I noticed that wherever the oat roots had reached the under soil they were strong, healthy and green, but where they were harrowed in amongst a mass of rotten wood, the leaves were touched by the summer frost. Some of the settlers who have had experience in clearing, rake the land over by hand after logging, gathering into small heaps, chips, rotten wood and moss, and burn them off, so that the harrow teeth can reach the soil to mix it with the vegetable surface mould, insuring a safer crop and a far more profitable return. Clearing land is not altogether done by brute force—some skill is required. The most important point is to see that the surface is made so clean that the roots of the first crops will easily reach the clay soil below.

Here, as at the Rainy River, you can locate on the burned lands, and avoid many of the difficulties of clearing a timbered lot. Up the Blanche river, in the townships of Hilliard, Brethour, Ingram, and Evanturel, (some of which are not yet opened for settlement) there are large areas of fine farming lands very easy to clear, where two or three days' work will make an acre ready for the plow. It is therefore a matter of choice whether you locate on a timbered or burned lot.

DRAINAGE.

The natural drainage is good, the numerous creeks and rivers affording sufficient outlet. A few open ditches through any of these lots in the

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