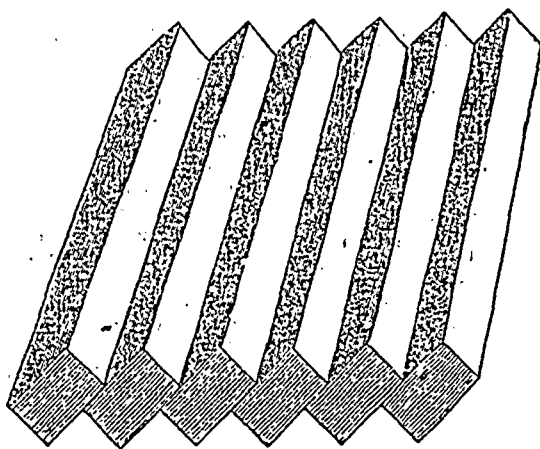


er, showing the exact proportion which the width and depth bear to each other, and the lap or proportion of new surface that will be exposed to the atmosphere.

FURROW SLICES.



A part of the following selection from Allison's "Principles of Population" has already appeared in one of our communications published last year in the *Montreal Gazette*, but as subscribers to *The British American Cultivator*, may not have had an opportunity of seeing it, we beg to submit it for their consideration:—

"The first employment of capital in the cultivation of the soil, and such rude manufactures as are necessary for the convenience of simple times. This is the situation in which it offers the most direct encouragement to the increase of mankind, because it is entirely employed in the support of domestic industry. * * *

In the progress of improvement, however, the increase of the wants of men generally gives a different destination to part of the national wealth. With the means of purchasing the conveniences and luxuries of life, there springs up the desire to possess them, and this gives rise to the separation of employments, and the introduction of a class of men who transport the produce of industry from the place where it is raised to that where it is required. Hence the direction of capital towards manufacturers and commerce.

The wealth which is employed in the home trade and in manufactures for home consumption is entirely devoted to the encouragement of domestic industry, but the facilities thereby afforded to the multiplication of the species are not so great as when agriculture forms the principal pursuit of the people.

The reason is obvious. When capital is laid out in Agriculture it not only yields a return to the Farmer, but also communicates a degree of fertility to the soil, which renders it capable of producing an enlarged produce, and furnishing the means of maintaining an additional number of inhabitants for an indefinite period. But when the same wealth is expended in manufactures and commerce it only yields a return for the capital employed, with a profit for the use of the employer; there is no permanent addition besides this made to the wealth of the state, which may afford the means of maintaining an increased number of individuals. For example, if £100,000 be expended in trade or manufactures, at the end of ten years it may be increased to £200,000, besides maintaining the capitalist and those whom he employed, in comfort during that period. But beyond this there is hardly any addition made to the prominent revenue of

the state, or to the means of supporting an increased population. But if the same sum be employed in agriculture, besides maintaining the Farmers in comfort during the periods of its employment, and doubling itself, as in the hands of the manufacturer it makes a permanent addition to the capability of the soil, which for ever yields a greatly increased revenue to the landed proprietor. If the Merchant withdraws his wealth from its employment, he has no doubt amassed a portion for himself, and has probably furnished the means of doing so to the persons who were engaged in his traffic; but he has left no permanent source of wealth to the state. But if the former withdraws his capital besides having realized a fortune to himself, and having given the means of doing so to his dependants, he has left a great addition to the fertility of the soil, which is a lasting cause of opulence to his country.

This is the true reason of the great difference between the permanent encouragement given to population by the employment of wealth in agriculture, and in commerce and manufactures. In the one case, the riches, besides re-producing themselves with a profit, make an undecaying addition to the wealth of the community, and the means of maintaining the people. In the other, the capital only re-produces itself with a profit, and leaves behind it in addition, with the exception of the buildings or machinery of the manufacturer, no lasting provision for an increased population. The encouragement to industry, and consequently the impulse to increase, at the time, may be greater by the employment of wealth in commerce than in agriculture; but the ultimate effect is very different, the continued stream of wealth which flows from the soil after the capital is withdrawn from it, and vested in other occupations, becomes much more than sufficient in the end to counterbalance the temporary stimulus given by mercantile enterprise. Hence the agricultural property of the great commercial states of Europe in former times has long survived the prosperity of their cities, and the decay of their manufacturing industry. The arts and the trading enterprise of Flanders have long since been on the decline, but agriculture is still undecayed; the manufactures of Florence are no longer sought after, in every part of Europe; but the cultivation of the Tuscan Hills never was surpassed; and the Plain of Lombardy is still the garden of European cultivation, though the wealth of Venice and Milan no longer pour their vivifying streams along the waters of the Po.

It is in cultivating the soil, that is, in aiding the productive powers of nature, that the greatest possible encouragement is afforded to the increase of population, not only by giving present employment to the people, but securing the means of their future subsistence. The direction of part of the national wealth into manufacturing or commercial employment, though it may occasion a more rapid increase to its amount at the time, has not the same effect in permanently enlarging the demand for labour, because it has given no impulse to the productive powers of nature, and has left no permanent provision besides itself for the future employment of mankind.

The Merchant who exchanges the manufactures of Britain for its agricultural produce, supports the industry both of the Farmer and Manufacturer of his country; but he who exports its fabrics, and brings back in return the produce of foreign states, vivifies the industry of another country as well as his own. This change has an important effect on the demand for labour. The returns of the foreign trade, besides being divided between two different states, are much slower than those of the home. The more, therefore, that the capital of a country is directed towards foreign trade, the more it is withdrawn from the encouragement of domestic industry, and the more distant that trade is, the less is the impulse which it gives to the labour of the country from which it sprung."

We are proud to select from so respectable an author, when we find his views so completely in accordance with those we entertain on the same subject. There is not a page of the work we refer to that might not be read with profit.

CANADA THISTLES.

Much has been written upon this pest of the agriculturist, but in our opinion the plans generally devised to get rid of them, are only applicable to small patches, rather than to farms completely covered with them. The grand radical cure is clean and frequent ploughing, and by seeding down the land for meadows,—land that is in meadow and mowed for hay for two successive years, will generally destroy any thistles that may have appeared in it.

We have invariably noticed that the class of farmers who are most troubled with this variety of thistle, are those who cut and cover in their ploughing operations, and carry out the whole routine of their business in a careless or indifferent manner. The few and imperfect ploughings which they gave their summer fallows, tend materially to the raising of this noxious plant; whereas, if they were to plough their lands properly, say five times in the course of the summer, so that, as we feel assured would be found to annoy them, when harvesting their crop. New lands brought into a state of cultivation, are often entirely covered with these thistles, and a course of tillage similar to that recommended above, will be found necessary, before they can be subdued.

The plan necessary to be adopted by those who have their lands quite covered with this weed is not to allow any plants to go to seed, which may be done in the following manner:—By following a large proportion of their farm, as above described, by cultivating yearly, a few acres of potatoes and rhubarb, by cutting the clover meadow twice in a season, by keeping them on the pasture ground, fence corners and road side, mown close to the ground and allowing none to go to seed, by properly preparing the seed grain of every description; and in short, by adopting an improved system of husbandry, and by close attention to business. If this simple, but laborious scheme be acted upon, we promise them that their farms will be entirely free from Canada Thistles.