

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

The work to be done on the farm during this month, is of the greatest importance. Much of the success of the farmer will depend upon the manner in which the operations of this month are carried out. Unless the ground be properly prepared and the seed of a good quality, it is hopeless to expect a profitable crop. If information be more profitable to the husbandman at one season of the year than another, this is obviously the one in which it could be turned to the greatest account. The first thing to be considered is, a judicious system of rotation. Spring wheat may be sown after potatoes, rape, turnips, vetches, and peas. If a preference is to be given to either of these crops, it must be in favour of potatoes. The land for this crop should have been ploughed last autumn and the seed cannot be sown too soon in the spring. The moment the ground is sufficiently dry for the harrows, spring wheat should be sown. To prevent smut, the seed should be pickled in strong brine and dried in lime; by this process the oats and light grains may be separated from the wheat, and the early growth will be considerably promoted. In selecting a variety, choose the one which comes the earliest to perfection, and has the greatest number of good qualities and the fewest bad ones. For yielding and flourishing qualities the Siberian wheat cannot be surpassed; and by sowing alternately upon heavy and light lands, and selecting the finest samples, the quality of this wheat would be greatly improved. Forty bushels per acre after potatoes and rape have been repeatedly harvested, and it will command as high a price in the British market in wheat, as the finest samples of fall wheat. The flour from this wheat is of the finest quality, and if it be ground and packed in the summer months, it may be shipped across the Atlantic in as sound a condition as flour manufactured from winter wheat. If the land intended for this crop be very rich and likely to promote rust, it would be advisable previous to sowing, to plough the ground lightly in ribs about twelve inches asunder—the seed may then be sown and harrowed once. This method diminishes the weight of straw, brings the crop to an early perfection, and lessens the chance of rust and mildew. The drouth last autumn, having materially blighted the prospect of the winter wheat crop in many sections of the province, it would be advisable to sow spring wheat upon much of the land now occupied with this crop. In all cases where the plants are thin upon the ground and appear backward or stunted, the ground should be ploughed or scarified and re-sown with spring wheat. It is folly to wait for the winter plants to thicken, if the prospect is bad; plough and sow with spring wheat, as soon as the ground will admit.

Peas require to be sown upon good ground, and if they be a short, haulmed variety, three and a half bushels of seed will not be found to much.—This may follow any of the white crops; and the land should be ploughed deep and well in the fall, and harrowed fine in the spring. The seed is difficult to cover—this may be remedied by ribbing or drilling in the seed; of the two methods probably the former is the best, both for covering the seed and for the crop. In point of importance the pea crop ranks next to wheat. Instead of making a naked summer fallow, peas may be sown upon the land. An early variety should be selected for this purpose—one that will come off the ground by the twentieth of July. As soon as the crop is harvested the land should be ploughed ten inches if possible, which may be done previous to wheat

harvest, if the early variety be sown; and the only other preparations that the fallow will require, will be ploughing the seed furrow. The seed should invariably be sown in rows about ten inches asunder, or even fifteen inches is better than less than ten, which distance will admit a free circulation of air between the rows. If peas are cut a short period before they are ripe, the straw with care may be cured in such a state, that it will prove highly nutritious food for sheep during winter months. An abundance of food for stock might thus be raised at a very trifling expence, upon land that would have produced nothing if summer fallowed, but a heavy expence to keep clean.

Barley land can scarcely be worked too much; it should be rich, ploughed in the fall, and twice in the spring, and made by ploughing, harrowing and rolling, as fine as a garden. Ground thus prepared will scarcely fail in producing a heavy crop of barley. Ten pecks of seed per acre is none too much, and the seed should be sown by the first of May.

The Oat crop at the best scarcely remunerates for the expence of cultivation, and no good farmer will grow them with the expectation of realising a large profit. No crop is harder upon land than this, and it almost invariably leaves the ground in an unsuitable condition for the crop that succeeds it. Land for oats should be ploughed in the autumn and cross-ploughed in the spring. When all things are considered, the black oats are the most profitable variety cultivated. Three bushels per acre is the usual quantity of seed sown, and the average produce may be computed at sixty bushels per acre. Oats should be sown by the twentieth of this month.

Sow clover with barley, spring wheat, flax, and oats, either of these crops is adapted, to be sown with seeds. Clover cannot be sown too early, and rarely succeeds well if sown after the tenth of May. The quantity of seed that is calculated to produce a thick growth of hay, is six pounds of clover and four pounds of timothy per acre. Grass seeds should not be covered deep with the harrow, and the ground should be made perfectly clean and rolled. The success of clover culture depends generally on the state of the land upon which it is sown.

Prepared ground for flax; the deeper it is ploughed the longer and better the flax. Land for this crop requires to be made very mellow and tolerably rich; six pecks of seed per acre is a liberal seeding. Much less will answer if the seed be the principal object with the farmer. The flax crop will unquestionably remunerate the cultivator, if skill and proper machinery be employed in preparing it for market. The most feasible plan of engaging in this business is the factor system, which will take the trouble of preparing the fibre for market off the farmer's hands.

Twelve hundred acres were sown last spring in one township in N. Y. State upon this plan. The factors were bound to give the farmers one dollar per bushel for the seed, and eight dollars per ton for the flax or straw. No crop is on the ground a shorter period, and both seed and fibre will always find ready sale the moment that the business receives that attention that its importance warrants. Flax-seed is valuable food for stock, especially horned cattle, horses, and the fibre is well adapted for the manufacture of bagging and strong linen, which might be spun and wore by the farmer's family or it would give employment for the poor. Every farmer should sow at least one acre—the seed to be fed to the calves, horses, and cows, and