

which promises a better return for the time and labour bestowed, and the expense incurred, than the breeding of horses, but great care must be taken in the selection of the animals, from which it is intended to breed, whether for draught, for speed, for the carriage, or for light work. And the introduction of pure blood, and horses of sound constitutions, cannot be too highly recommended.

A little judgment and management in raising them, in keeping them in good growing condition, without pampering them, when young, and in carefully and thoroughly breaking them for use, will always enable us to command remunerating prices.

But whether we continue, as we have heretofore done, to regard Wheat as the great staple of the country, and so confine ourselves chiefly to its production, or whether we couple with it and employ, to a greater extent than hitherto, the means of obtaining wealth from other sources, as I have ventured to suggest, nothing can be more clear than that to be successful, we must pay more attention to the preservation and the use of manures.

The virgin soil does not require it, but in many parts of the country it is greatly needed, and much land is comparatively unproductive, for the want of it. It is a subject which well deserves the most careful consideration. Upon it depends in a great measure the very existence of your art. In Germany and Switzerland, where the other branches of husbandry are much inferior to ours, where their ploughs are of the most rude and primitive construction, and where their most common team is a pair of milch cows, they far surpass us in the making and care of manures.

Each farm yard is supplied with several tanks or cisterns, into which all the rough manure and the refuse of the house are thrown—into these again is carefully led, all the liquid manure made in the stables and barn yards—to which is added, from time to time, a sufficient quantity of earth to absorb all the ammonia that would otherwise escape. With this the land is annually dressed; and thus are farms kept in good order and condition, which without it, would soon become barren fields.

In connexion with this subject, I would strongly recommend the use of minerals—such as lime, and gypsum or plaster of Paris—on old farms, the supply of lime, which for years after the land was cleared, was found quite sufficient for all ordinary productive purposes, has become diminished, and requires to be replenished; and as this can be done, with such great benefits, and at so small a cost, in most parts of the country, it ought to engage the serious attention of those farmers to whom these imperfect remarks may apply.

Clover, which is so generally raised, and which will continue to be grown in increased quantities, as being the best winter food for horned cattle and sheep, and as affording such superior aftermath, requires a good deal of lime to feed on. I believe that gypsum is not considered a manure, but rather as a stimulant—its effects, however, on sandy soils especially, have long been known and acknowledged. By its judicious application,

some of the lightest soils in the country have been placed amongst the most productive, and very beneficial results have been obtained from its use, on other lands—and I am mistaken if our better farmers, are not every year applying it, more and more, as a dressing to their clover, oats, peas, and Indian corn, even on clay lands.

Spring crops generally suffer from drought in May and the early part of June. It is found that the application of gypsum draws down moisture from the atmosphere to these crops, at these seasons; and that the fields which have been dressed with it, retain their colour and continue to grow, while those on which it has not been used, become pale and sickly. The same effects would, no doubt, be felt by turnips, carrots and field beets, if this stimulant were applied to them.

The Canada Company, to which Agriculture in Upper Canada is largely indebted for its liberal premiums on wheat, offers also handsome premiums to the growers of flax and hemp, and as, through the enterprise and liberality which have always marked the course of their Chief Commissioner here, in respect to all matters connected with the welfare of the country, we have at this moment on the show grounds, in actual and successful operation, imported at the entire expense and risk of the Company, as an object well worth the attention of farmers, the most approved machinery for preparing the former article, without the long, uncertain, and expensive methods heretofore adopted, for dressing it, it is hoped that its cultivation will be extensively undertaken. It can hardly fail to be profitable. We have a large quantity of land, especially on the flats of our rivers, admirably adapted to the growth of this plant—and the many valuable uses to which it can be applied, render it highly essential that its production should be encouraged by every legitimate means. Not only is the fibre of the most extensive and important use, and would, no doubt, in many cases, be largely and profitably employed as a superior substitute for cotton, much of which we now import from the United States, but the seed also is most valuable, and would be found of vast importance to the country, for from it our linseed oils should be made, and oil cake extracted for the feeding of our fat cattle.

The successful growth of hemp, would not only save us a large annual outlay on the importation of cordage, but I can see no good reason why we should not, with proper arrangement, besides furnishing our own rope-walks with the raw material, now chiefly obtained from other countries, become exporters of the article to a considerable extent.

The failure of the usual market for wheat, will force us to direct our serious attention to the best means of supplying that defect, as well as to the production of new articles of consumption and export. As regards the former, the most obvious remedy would seem to be, the creation of a home market—by stimulating internal enterprise—encouraging shipping—establishing manufactures—promoting immigration—fostering a trade with our Sister Colonies—and protecting native industry in all its various branches. This would have a