

pared at this time to go any further into the details of this very interesting subject, but felt confident a more thorough system of draining must be practiced to ensure more profitable returns from the soil.

*Mr. Moses Knight* agreed with the former, that land might be made too rich for wheat, and he felt satisfied that he had sustained heavy losses from this source. Thirty years ago there was no difficulty in getting good wheat, but now the case is altered, especially in this part of the province. Farmers formerly were great slovens, and apparently but little trouble or skill was bestowed in preparing their land for the wheat crop, but since the improved system of management has been introduced, the rust has become gradually more prevalent; and it is now concluded by many, that it is the most judicious course to substitute spring for fall wheat. He was not at present prepared to assign the cause of this fatal disease, but it was evident that the system which is generally practiced in this section of country, in a great measure promoted it, and in a large majority of cases, the wheat crop did not pay for the costs of production. In a recent conversation with one of the most successful wheat growers in the Home District, and one whose crops have never been affected with rust, he informed him that he manured and broke up his fallow grounds in the fall, ploughed them the following summer as many times as was requisite to clear the ground from weeds, grasses, &c., and used the harrows during the whole process only once, for the covering of the seed, which he invariably sowed the first of September, in seams or ribs, which admitted a free circulation of air between the rows of the plants. Manure might be judiciously applied to the land for the wheat crop upon the farm alluded to, as the clay came very near the surface, but upon all deep loams he felt confident that it could not be used without manifest injury unless thoroughly decomposed before being applied to the soil.

*Mr. Lot Hartman.*—When he received his first lessons in the art of farming, such a thing as a failure of the wheat crop was scarcely known. The system which he was taught to pursue at that period was to cultivate clover extensively, to summer fallow three years' old clover ley, and to plough only three times during the summer season. He had harvested one crop managed in this way, that yielded throughout 40 bushels per acre;

and others which came a mere trifle short of that quantity. Dear bought experience had convinced him of the error of manuring his summer-fallows with long barn-yard manure. A few years since he made three experiments in manuring his summer fallow. The first he manured before breaking up; the second before crossing; and the third after the wheat had been sown; that which was manured before breaking up produced by all odds the best return. The present low prices of wheat clearly point out the necessity of some cheaper method of cultivation being adopted; he was rather inclined to the opinion, that a bastard fallow after clover, peas, or some other smothering crop, that could be removed from the land in time for the wheat crop, might with much advantage be substituted for the naked fallow, and he felt confident, by attention and skill, that this mode would be far more profitable than the old system.

*Mr. Joseph Willson* concurred in most of the opinions already advanced. The highest parts of his fields, where the clay came the nearest the surface, always produced sound grain, but where the black soil was deep, his crops were almost invariably injured with rust. He had about abandoned the idea of manuring his summer fallows.

*Mr. John Clubine* was of the opinion, that too much farming was injurious to the wheat crop. The best crop of wheat that he ever harvested, was sown upon barley stubble. The ground was manured and ploughed in the autumn, and once in spring for barley; and after the crop was harvested, it was once ploughed for wheat. His practice has been to plough deep, and he has found it to be productive of the greatest advantages to his crops.

*Mr. Eli Irwin* said, that the land did not require to be made fine for wheat. From an extensive observation, he had come to the conclusion, that the farmers in this part of the country work their land too much for the benefit of their wheat crop. He had travelled much through Ohio and other Western States, and there the summer fallows are never ploughed more than twice, and the work is mostly performed in a most slovenly manner; but notwithstanding, he noticed that the average yield was much greater than in this country. This is certainly a most interesting subject to the practical farmer, and no trouble should be spared in giving it a thorough investigation.

*Mr. Chairman* said, that in addition to what had been so ably advanced by the speakers which