

cutching machinery in St. Mary's, that period is deemed too late in the season for parties to benefit by any information which I might be able to give them. Therefore, with your permission, I will endeavor—although very incapable—to give the public all the information I can on the subject through your valuable journal.

Although it will extend this to a rather long article, yet I consider it necessary that I should state, in connection with Flax growing, my views on the injurious effects of having so much land under wheat in this country, lest it be imagined that I am advocating the culture of Flax at the expense of a diminished quantity of wheat. My object is to show my brother farmers that the growing of Flax in the rotation, will increase the quantity of wheat, and at the same time enable us to diminish the breadth of and sown to wheat.

For 17 years I have experienced the ravages of the numerous insects, and I have invariably observed that they did most damage to crops where land was poor and foul from a succession of wheat crops; and also that where land was rich and clean, neither drouth nor insects affected the crops nearly so much. There can be no doubt but that a series of cereal croppings is most ruinous to the soil, especially in this country where a sufficient quantity of manure is not applied, without which, and sufficient rest from white crops, the land will get hard and sterile. Crops on such lands may look tolerable healthy during a favourable spell of growing weather, but a drouth of 8 or 10 days will cause this luxuriance to vanish into a poor stunted yellow appearance, with blades like horse's hair. How can it be otherwise, with a soil perhaps to the depth of 5 or 6 inches; like as much broken stone, which cannot defend itself against drouth, either can it retain moisture, and a subsoil so hard that the roots of plants cannot penetrate in search of nourishment. With such poverty and hard usage, it is no wonder that the crops are weak and unable to stand a dry time and the assaults of vermin. To enable us to produce better crops, we will require to have a less extent under wheat and that in a better condition by thorough cultivation, liberal manuring, and rest from white crops.

There is no doubt but that the want of sufficient capital among us is one cause for so much land having been put under wheat. Wheat has been the main article that the farmer could depend upon to enable him to meet his engagements.—Therefore many have been obliged to sow wheat year after year in succession, although they knew at the time that if they could spare the field from wheat, and clean, manure, and seed it to grass for 2 or 3 years, that when put to wheat again it would pay them double; but they required immediate returns, even if they could be small.

I consider that the cleared lands in Canada ought to support double the quantity of stock, if they better fed than what is on it at present,

to give the land the least chance to continue to produce a quantity of wheat equal to what it is producing at the present time. For years past the greater portion of the lands have been put under wheat and other cereal crops, leaving only a small extent for cleaning crops—hay and pasture—and nothing for cattle in winter but sapless straw, and that commodity they often get their own way of managing, frequently tramping their winter supply under their feet in a few months, and in April they have to roam the fields, if able, in search of food, poaching the land, and nipping the first buds of grass into the ground. The pasture is kept so bare that when a drouth comes, it is burned up and unable to sustain the stock during the whole summer after, and then when plowed under there is no rich sward to decompose and enrich the soil for future crops. It has been impoverished as well as the stock. Animals of all kinds require shelter from the winter blast and summer heat; so also does grass lands.

The solid and liquid manure obtained by having a full stock of well fed animals is a treasure to the farmer. So also is a close, rich grass sward turned under to rot, which makes first-class manure for all kinds of crops.

We require to have more acres under hay, pasture, and cleaning crops, such as roots, flax, corn, &c., if we expect to grow wheat with profit.

I believe that nearly one half the land which is now put under wheat, if put under regular rotation and sufficiently manured, would yield more wheat than the whole acreage now produces, and of a superier quality, and not so liable to injury by its many enemies.

The culture of Flax is becoming the subject of increasing interest to the people of this country, but more so at present on account of the war in the States; but there is little doubt, if machinery had been introduced years ago for preparing the fibre, that large quantities would have been grown over a large extent of Upper Canada.

And when we reflect that the prosperity of the Province is mainly dependant upon the success of the wheat crop, we may wonder that our Bureau of Agriculture has not given their attention more toward encouraging this source of industry, which might not only have saved to the Province large sums of money, but have given us a surplus to export. I see that in 1844, £80,000 worth of cordage, bagging and canvass, was imported into this country, and of course this is but a trifle in comparison to what is now imported.

Before the war with Russia, Great Britain was yearly importing from that country alone, \$26,000,000 worth of flax, and in 1831, Britain imported 2,759,100 bushels of flax seed for crushing and sowing.

Why might not Canada have a few millions of this money; with a soil and climate so peculiarly adapted to the growth of flax and hemp as ours