

perform their work thoroughly, and three good horses are sufficient for ordinary occasions. We have seen in Michigan and Wisconsin, ploughs of a similar kind, without wheels, adapted to the breaking up of grass-land. Upon well cleared farms in Canada they are certainly worth a trial.

#### THE LOW PRICE OF WHEAT—ITS REMEDIES

*To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.*

SIR:—It is a well known fact that the commercial policy of the mother country has had a steadily depressing influence on the wheat growing-agriculturists of Canada; so much as to leave just grounds to fear that the production and export of wheat as an agricultural product must, to a great extent, cease.

Under these circumstances it is time that the Canadian farmers were waking up and turning their attention to the culture and production of some other more encouraging, and, if possible, more remunerating crop. I, for one, must confess that it is a matter of utter impossibility, considering the present state of the markets, for a farmer to make both ends of the year meet without any other resource than that of his crops, which cost him (say for wheat) at the lowest calculation, about three shillings, or three shillings and six pence per bushel when delivered at the market, and which he is often compelled to sell for 2s. to 2s. 6d. per bushel, not being able to realize any more.

In consequence of these depressing considerations I am induced to make application to you, and to request that you will be kind enough to furnish all the necessary information regarding the culture of the flax and tobacco plants in Canada, or any other plant that, in your opinion, would be more remunerating than that which is now considered the staple product of the Canadian farmer, the nature of the soil that each may respectively require, the quantity and quality of seed best adapted to the soil and climate of Canada; the proper time to sow and reap, and the state the land should be in when sown; the best mode of saving after being cut, the average crop per acre, cost of raising, and its value in the Toronto or any other market, and your opinion of their production and culture as forming part of the agricultural pursuits of the Canadian farmer, together with any other information that your position and experience as a Canadian agriculturist may be able to command.

I am, &c.

HENRY WHITE,  
*P. L. Surveyor.*

Beaverton, Feb. 13th, 1852.

We hope to be able to give the information which our correspondent asks before long. The Commissioner of the Canada Company has ordered all the best modern treatises on the culti-

vation and preparation of flax and hemp published in the British Islands, and has generously promised to present them to the Board of Agriculture, for the purpose of preparing from their contents a series of articles for this journal. We are much in hopes that wheat has seen its lowest price, probably for some years to come. It is, however, of the greatest consequence in practical husbandry that as great a variety of productions should be raised as is practicable; thereby preventing the soil from utter exhaustion, which is the inevitable result of frequently recurring crops of the same kind in this country, where ample and suitable manures are not generally available. A wider range of cultivated productions would likewise benefit the farmer in the long run, by diminishing the numerous chances of failure which so seriously affect those who mainly depend upon one or two articles; such for instance as wheat, which hitherto has been the principal money producing crop of the Upper Canadian farmers. Wheat must long continue a principal crop in this country, but the farmer should avail himself of several auxiliaries.—*Editor.*

#### COST OF RAISING WHEAT, &c.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.*

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for the copies of your most useful paper. I sincerely hope the Essays you have published, and are publishing, will draw forth further observations from practical men, and lead to discussions which cannot fail to be beneficial. One so seldom sees on paper, in Canada, the thoughts of thinking Canadian Farmers, that our experience is derived almost solely from personal observation, or from intercourse with brother Farmers whom chance throws in our way. The encouragement given by the publication of farmers' essays, and the prizes awarded to such will no doubt have the effect of drawing out the light of some minds, which has been too long hid under a bushel, and will probably lead to experiments being made and results communicated, which may confer great benefits upon great numbers.

With the view of thus eliciting the experience of others for our mutual benefit, I herewith send you some remarks which I conceive to be interesting, and which a List of Queries sent by the Board of Registration and Statistics for replies thereto, has led me to a fuller consideration of, than I had ever before entered into.

Whilst replying to them all, I was particularly attracted by the question—What is the Cost of raising Wheat? To this I had never paid any very particular attention, and was much struck to find that it stands somewhat thus. Supposing it to be under the summer fallowing system, by which probably 9-10ths of all our winter wheat is raised—also supposing that the average crop in