

It is said that the value of the estate of the late Earl of Leicester, was ten times greater at his death than at the period it first came into his possession, and this increased value was chiefly produced by the improvements introduced by his lordship in agriculture. No man that ever existed, perhaps, has done more for the promotion of practical agricultural improvement than the late Earl of Leicester, during a period of 43 years, that he was actively engaged in extensive farming. His experiments and example were for the benefit of all who choose to adopt them, and his large fortune enabled him to make these experiments, and show this example, that was of such vast importance to the whole of the British Isles. If we had such a man in Canada, we might expect that the improvement and prosperity of our agriculture would be promoted.

The annual meeting of the Royal English Agricultural Society took place at Bristol, on the 13th of July and continued for four days. The meeting was numerously attended by landed proprietors and farmers from all parts of the British Isles. There were 510 lots of cattle, sheep, and pigs exhibited for premiums; and the exhibition of new and improved implements of husbandry amounted to several hundred. The proceedings altogether, as reported in *The Mark Lane Express*, are most interesting. We can only wish that we had such a Society in Canada, but never can expect it. We give a few extracts from the reported proceedings at the meeting. The following remarks on the utility of the Society and the amount of the funds received at the Bristol meeting, may give some idea of the good they are likely to produce:—

"Although established but four years, the good accomplished by this society has, even in so short a time, been great indeed. The capabilities of our soils are already better understood; the chemical qualities of their component parts, and the nature of the artificial aids which they require, have been carefully investigated; the powers of mechanism have been invoked, not to supersede but to aid the labour of man; production has been increased; improvements in the breeds of cattle have been effected; a mass of facts, the only safe foundation for an enlightened theory, have been collected; prejudices, long interwoven with the habits of a class peculiarly attached to old habits and customs, have been broken down, whilst the careful test of experiment has prevented the spread of the opposite error of confounding all that is new with all that is valuable; a general amalgamation of those interested in one common pursuit has been effected; and, to crown all, the eminent success of the past offers a guarantee of a yet more brilliant future—brilliant, indeed, to the eye of the philanthropist, since it is a future teeming with an abundance of the treasures of our soil, produced by mature industry, and more than sufficient for the wants of our native population.

"The receipts of the Association were also very large, and larger than in former years. I can, in round numbers, give you an estimate of the receipts, which will convince you that I have not formed an extravagant estimate of the numbers who attended.

Wednesday.—Show of implements—	
800 at 5s. each.....	£ 200
Thursday, up to one o'clock.—Cattle	
Show—16,000 at 2s. 5d.....	2,000
After one o'clock, to six p.m., 12,000	
at 1s. each.....	600
Friday.—5,000 at 1s. each.....	250
Council dinner tickets, exclusive of invitations.....	450
Pavilion ditto.....	1,200
Ladies' Gallery ditto.....	150
	£ 4,850

besides about £1,200. arrears of subscriptions which were received on the occasion."

The following article has been copied from the Journal of the Royal English Agricultural Society. We think that winter rye might be very profitably cultivated in Canada for spring food for cattle. In ordinary seasons it would afford considerable feed early in May, and the land would be rather improved than injured by it. The pastures are very backward here up to the 1st of June, and a few acres of rye would be a great help to stock in the month of May. The farmer who would not require it for his stock might let the crop go to maturity. We would not recommend the sowing of rape seed with the rye. We copy only a part of the article.

"It is the intention of the writer now to state his experience, and offer his recommendation of a crop embracing all the advantages of the preceding, and several peculiar to itself. It is that of rye, eaten in the early stages of its growth. It is intended to intervene between the last crop of the four course system, which is generally wheat, and to be eaten, and the land ploughed and worked for a crop of turnips. It is equally applicable to all kinds of rotations, and would well precede a fallow or a crop of rape. As it is generally upon farms where the four-course system is pursued that spring feed is most wanted, the writer will confine his observations to that rotation.

So soon as the wheat is cut in the autumn, the plough should be set to work. This may be done even before it is cut, during the mornings of harvest. A single ploughing is given, and a very slight dressing of any kind of short manure. In some cases where the farmer lays on his manure in the autumn, or turns up the ensuing year, it might be better to lay it on before the ploughing. It should be remembered that the slight dressing should not all be considered as given to the rye; in reality it becomes incorporated with the soil, and more intimately mixed with it than by the ordinary mode of spreading it on in the autumn, and any part of it which the rye may abstract, will be more than compensated by the droppings of the stock and the carbonic acid gas which they evolve while consuming it; and which the soil more readily absorbs in the spring than in any other part of the year, evaporation going on at that period to a much smaller extent than in any other.

The seed must be sown upon the plough-secum broadcast, at the rate of 2½ bushels per acre, and if of that year's growth, so much the better, as it is earlier and more certain of germination. To this, a peck of rapeseed per acre should be added; for although the latter is not able to stand a winter when the frost sets in early and severe, in many cases it will get sufficiently vigorous to resist any ordinary frost, and will much improve the feed in the spring. Should the rape not be sown, a peck of winter-tares per acre will improve the feed, or an additional peck of rye may be added; as a fuller bite and excited growth in its early stages will be secured—a point gained when wanted to depasture, although it might be injurious if sown for a crop.

In cultivating rye as feed, there need be no fears entertained of its becoming "winter proud," for as that only affects the ears of the corn, it is a circumstance of no importance, and therefore the earlier it is sown the better able it is to resist the early frosts, as well as having a better cover and more feed when wanted. When sown it should be thoroughly harrowed, but not rolled—a double with a pair of fine harrows is sufficient, and the surface weeds should be gathered off, or the whole raked with the hand, which will more efficiently cover the seed. An advantage is gained to the soil by this ploughing, which cannot be obtained when the land is sown with the vetches. The annual weeds on the old surface are prevented from running to seed, and a new surface is exposed to the air and frost.

The rye will be fit for consuming the first week in March or the first in April, or if allowed to remain until the middle of the latter month, it will carry a greater quantity of stock. After it is thoroughly eaten up, it should be freed, and by the first week in May, will afford another pasture of fine young nutritious feed; at least, in ordinary seasons. It is bad management, though some-

times practiced, to allow the rye to remain uneaten until the seed-stalk begins to shoot, for in that case it will become much less palatable and useful. By consuming it young, it is much more valuable, and the succession crop equally so as the first.

The second crop being consumed, the plough must be put into operation, and the soil prepared for the succeeding crop; and the advantage of its cultivation, by no means a small one, is, that it interferes with no other crop.

Perhaps a short digression may be pardoned on the subsequent preparation of the soil. The writer's practice is different to that of most other persons. Usually it is cross-ploughed a fortnight after its first ploughing. Time is thus lost, and the shees are cut into squares difficult to be acted upon by the harrow. The writer begins to harrow as soon as the newly turned up surface of the first ploughing is sufficiently dry. This brings up the lowest part of the roots of the weeds and closes the interstices of the furrows, so that the remains of vegetation being covered, deprived of air, and gathering moisture, begin to decompose. Instead of cross-ploughing, it is again ploughed lengthways, and the old surface again brought up and harrowed. The weeds separate much more easily by this process, and much time and labour is saved; the same practice is applied to bastard fallows with the same good effects.

Rye has the decided advantage of being capable of resisting any conceivable degree of frost, and when even the hardy wheat is carried off by an ungenial season, it will escape injury, and even thrive. At this time (February 21, 1840), the writer has a plot growing for feed which would now afford more eating than almost any mixture of artificial grasses in the middle of April, and that on a thin light soil not worth more to rent than 25s. per acre. Some of the rape has succeeded, even in this season of incessant rain, which prevailed not only in the early stages of its growth, but ever since it was sown. It can bear so much and constant wet, worse even than frost.

The expense of this crop will be somewhere as under. Say per acre—

2½ bushels of rye at 4s. 6d.....	11s. 3d.
½ peck of rape.....	0 10½

12 11½

It should be remembered that this interferes with no operation of husbandry, and prevents no crop, so that no rent of land or other extras are to be reckoned—the ploughings would be nearly the same if the rye were not sown. Nothing is better relished by stock at the season when it is intended to be used; a guide by no means unsafe as to its nutritious qualities, and which is borne out by the condition of the stock feeding on it.

To recapitulate the advantages of its cultivation:—

I. Provision of excellent green food is made at a season of the year, when of all others it is most wanted.

II. It is produced without sacrificing any portion of the usual rotations pursued on a farm, and with little extra labour, nor does it interfere with the management of any preceding or succeeding crops.

III. It will grow on any soil, but is especially calculated for poor loose sand, when every other green esculent is more or less uncertain.

IV. It will bear any degree of frost to which our climate is subject, and is sufficiently hardy to defy the effects of the coldest situations in the country, being there cultivated instead of wheat for a corn crop from necessity.

V. It is as inexpensive or more so than any grass or leguminous plant.

VI. It is readily consumed by stock, especially young animals.

VII. It improves rather than deteriorates the soil upon which it is grown.

Thorpfield, near Thirsk, Yorkshire.

We strongly recommend experiments on this plan. We know that cattle suffer severely here for want of food in the spring. Rye will answer all the purposes of winter tares, that are found so useful in England, and tares would not stand out-winters.