

pend largely upon the nature of the soil, but it must be of that cast which will cut off every living thing that appears on the surface. The number of turns which it shall thus be gone over must be determined by the requirements of the case, but should be sufficiently often to completely accomplish the end sought, the perfect cleaning of the land.

Summer fallowing is at the best an expensive business, and cannot be undertaken with too much caution. There is first the loss of the crop for one year; then there is the great amount of labor when the work is done well, under the most favorable circumstances, and the liability in heavy clay soils to lose the following crop when the autumn seedtime is unusually wet. Where the first results, then, are an increase rather than a decrease of weeds, it is simply ruinous, and cannot be largely engaged in without drifting him who pursues it toward bankruptcy.

When summer fallowing is engaged in at all, the most thorough work should be made of it. Neither the business of haying nor the rush of harvest should be allowed to interfere with the care of the summer fallow. So thorough should be the work, that when completed, the following crop shall flourish out of the ashes of the decay of the intruders that preceded it.

### Specialties vs. Mixed Farming.

A good deal is said about the wisdom and unwisdom of adopting *special* lines in farming in these latter days, in contra distinction to what is usually termed *mixed* farming. We have thought that a good deal of printer's ink might be saved, and much valuable time devoted to better purpose, if we editors and writers on farm topics could obtain a consensus of opinion, which would decide definitely as to what is meant by these terms. For some years past we have patiently waded through eloquent effusions on this subject, and listened to references without number as to the advantages of mixed farming, but we have never yet been able to determine exactly what the speaker or writer meant by the use of the term. If it means that the farmer should grow indiscriminately all kinds of crops usually grown in the country, without regard to soil and peculiarities of season, then we are strongly opposed to it. If it means that he adopt this system in conjunction with indiscriminate stock-keeping, we are equally opposed to it. If it mean that he shall combine grain-growing and stock-keeping, giving one kind of stock and one kind of grain the lead, growing other kinds of feed as auxiliaries, we are less opposed to it. If it mean that he grow principally one kind of stock and sufficient feed to sustain them, and keep them in sufficient numbers to consume that feed, then we give the system our unqualified approval. But it will be observed that last is a definition that we can apply equally to the specialist in farming, and where this system is the subject of the specialist's advocacy, then we are in favor of specialists in farming. It will thus appear that the line of demarcation may be so faintly drawn between the advocates of mixed and special lines in farming, that the champions of the two systems may be compared to men fighting over the site of a line fence where the stakes of the original survey have been lost. It is surely time that there was a new survey, and that every man who wrote upon the subject henceforth should swear to abide by it.

In the absence of a corner stake we set up one for ourselves, and here it is: In farming we believe in that *special system which gives prominence to one line, and which so concentrates the energies upon it that all the other labors of the farm subserve to its furtherance.* What that special line shall be is worthy of the most

careful thought; and before it is determined, many things should be well studied—as location, adaptability of soil, market, and above all natural fitness for the work. This done, a mistake may still be made. A man may grow grain well, who will never excel as a stockman; and when once a mistake of this kind is discovered, the unfortunate cannot be too diligent in retracing his steps.

It is clear that specialists may succeed under very different circumstances. One living near a town may grow principally one kind of grain or grass, and keep his grounds enriched by the application of suitable manures and have a margin every year. The same system remote from the town would ultimately lead to ruin. Another may keep a dairy and make large returns, while on a different kind of soil he would not succeed. And a third may succeed well in fruit growing where his advantages of situation may facilitate his securing purchased supplies of nutriment, while in another case it would pay him better to raise his supplies of the same, through the channel of stock-keeping. It is thus apparent that convenience and suitability of location, as well as adaptability of soil wield a powerful influence in special lines of farming. The special system which we favor, while it covers a good deal of ground, makes everything conduce to the one end, so that it may cover nearly as much ground as is gone over by the non-specialist, but with this great difference, that while the latter is in a sort of aimless way trying to get all that he can from the soil, the former has a fixed definite plan, and all the variations in system and culture are intended to further this one object. There need be no great difficulty in deciding who will succeed the best. The young man entering the university who has his life-courselined out at the outstart, and who keeps the line steadily in view, will succeed better than he who is only intent on passing his examinations. He will forage most in those fields of learning where there are ample stores bearing on his future calling, and so the one who, on a journey, makes a bee-line for the intended goal, will get there much sooner than he who dilly-dallies in the by-ways.

The specialist in stock-keeping will succeed best who turns his attention principally to the keeping of one kind of stock, and for many reasons. The concentration of our energies on one thing is necessary to highest attainment, from the limited capacity that has been given us, and on account of the brief space allotted for its development. A less amount of capital is required to commence and sustain it in one line, and a less varied crop-production is required to sustain it. There is also a likelihood that there will be less of excellency in the quality of the stock. M. W. Dunham would never have been crowned king of the Percheron men of America had he kept Shire and Clyde horses as well. Nor would Amos Cruikshank have set the buyers of the west in a scramble for his cattle had he kept blackskins as well. If a diffusion of the gifts of great men impairs the products of their minds, how much more must it do so in the case of those of lesser capacity!

A special line in stock-keeping involves a good deal, if we affirm, as we do, that when once fully started, the stockman should grow all or nearly all his own feed. Spring grains of various kinds, different sorts of grasses, and wheat in one or other of its forms (the latter to provide plenty of bedding) will be the objects of his labors, and he will adjust the areas allotted to each, not by the whims of the market but by the requirements of his stock. Specialism in stock-keeping, then, puts a man no more at the mercy of the vicissitudes of the seasons than the ordinary

grain-grower who gets his gains from the crops sold. The specialist in stock-keeping, then, is virtually a mixed farmer, and by virtue of the necessity of his own special work.

We do not favor grain-growing for the purposes of making money direct, as it cannot usually be done without deterioration of the soil. And this we have set our face firmly against; but where it is done we see no reason why a grain-grower may not be a specialist. If the land is better adapted to the production of some one kind of crop, why not grow it? This would not exclude growing other grains in degree, for we presume that no sane man can hope very long to get a return from Ontario lands at least, who does not make stock-keeping the auxiliary to his work, and the other varieties will feed these. It may be objected that he is liable to very heavy losses in years when his favorite crop fails, but he is equally likely to reap large gains in those years when it succeeds.

The fruit-grower, too, will probably succeed best who grows but few varieties, and aims at highest excellence in these, or in other words, who becomes a specialist in fruit growing. But there is more reason in the fruit-grower increasing the number of his varieties, owing to the short duration of the harvest time with several of these. This argument applies also to grain-growing, but in a much less degree, while in reference to stock-keeping it does not apply at all, as the whole ground covered by the grain-growing must be gone over in carrying on the latter pursuit.

If mixed farming means aimless, hap-hazard work, we have no faith in it. By aimless work we mean sowing that kind of crop most largely which at the present time may command the best price, and by hap-hazard work, sowing what feed we have on hand just because we have it, regardless of the consequences.

Whatever line of farming a man adopts we cannot but think that he should keep his eye firmly fixed upon some one object of attainment worthy of his effort, and at the same time feasible. Though vicissitudes of tide and weather may veer his bark for a time, he will as soon as possible head again in the direction of the object of his search. With proper diligence, if years are given him, this man will reach the goal, while he who, like a reed shaken with the wind, is looking in every direction, will prove a certain failure.

### The Provincial Exhibition.

The 41st Provincial Exhibition will be held in the city of Guelph, commencing on Monday Sep. 20th, 1886 and continuing until Saturday Sep. 25th. It will thus be held in the centre of a rich agricultural district, long noted for the numbers and the excellence of the live-stock which it contains, so that we can fully expect at this exhibition a large representation in this department. The prize list has reached us and it is very full this year again, especially in everything relating to the great live-stock industry.

The Clydesdale Association are giving a special sweepstakes prize of \$50, for the best Clydesdale stallion of any age, to be recorded in the Clydesdale Stud Book of Canada.

Be it observed that Durhams competing must be entered in the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book. In the class for Durhams there are two specials, in each of which \$40 is given as a first, and \$25 as a second, the former for best herd of Durham cattle, consisting of 1 bull and 4 females, imported, and the latter for the same, Canadian bred, and silver medals are given for the best pens in nearly all the sheep class, both for those imported and for those Canadian-bred, and the