

everywhere, when a new fallow is left a summer uncropped; and to this day that piece feels the neglect, as the thistles are most abundant, whilst in those portions that were cropped the first year and seeded down at once, no thistles whatever have appeared.

We first tried logging with ordinary cattle, but the attempt soon convinced me of its entire uselessness. Such a job of logging as we had to do required the best team that could be had. I gave it up after a week's trial, and left the farm for parts unknown, determined not to return until I had procured a first-rate yoke of oxen,—smart, but very heavy, and not older than between seven and eight. These I succeeded in finding. They were eight years old, very heavy, each weighing at least 1,600 or 1,700 lbs., nearly 5 feet 6 inches high, and in fine condition; they girthed 7 feet 8 inches. Splendid animals they were, and we logged nearly 120 acres of land with those oxen that summer. Of course we fed them like horses, and had an accident happened, either of them would have been good beef. I have often seen those oxen break a new yoke at one jump, when attached to too heavy a log. After breaking three or four yokes I am convinced they understood the trick of doing it, and did it on purpose to be allowed the necessary rest, while we were making a new one. Our four rollers and driver, with one man to "chunk up" and burn, made short work of clearing an acre; twenty or twenty-four acres a month made a great show, and this was the result of first-class men and a crack team.

#### LOGGING BEES.

During the first years of our clearing up the farm, many of our neighbours made logging bees, and we were always asked, but never went. I set my face altogether against logging bees. Raising bees may be borne, and possibly are requisite, but bees for anything else are miserable things—a regular waste of time. For, if you get your neighbours to come to your bees, you must go to theirs, no matter how important it may be that you should not leave home; go you must. There is absolutely no saving by bee labour, at any rate. If you get fifty men to help you one day, you must go fifty days to help them, and often some one will get you to go twice, and occasionally more, to their once coming. And you may add fifty days in addition almost lost by it, as you always get racing, and are, consequently, over-worked and often strained, and seldom do anything worth while the next day after a bee but rest and recruit. We know whiskey is at the bottom of this, and any quantity of whiskey is always drunk at bees in a new neighbourhood, whilst clearing up the land. Not that this sort of labour requires whiskey more than any other, but such is the general custom. And not as long as logging bees last will the people listen to temperance doctrines. No sooner, however, is

the logging all done and farming regularly begun, than farmers all at once attend temperance lectures, and they find the benefit of them you may be sure. And this is the principal cause of the great improvement in almost any neighbourhood directly the land attains the name of "Old Cleared Farms."

#### SPRING WHEAT.

The next year we sowed about sixty acres of spring wheat, and as the land was in first-rate order we certainly expected a first-rate crop also. All went well until the 12th of July, when the wheat was just "shot out," and on the night previous there occurred in our locality a most untimely hard frost, so much so, as to freeze water quite over, as some pieces of thin ice were found and brought into the house next morning. This is most unusual, but I distinctly recollect this frost occurred on the 12th, and that it was a holiday with some of our men who were Orangemen, and the records in the day book prove the fact as well. The effect was to prevent the grain ever filling in the upper parts of the ear, and at harvest about nine bushels an acre was the crop instead of at least thirty. Fortunately our means could stand the loss; had it been otherwise it might have ruined us. We were not one jot discouraged by this loss; wheat was high in price that year, and as expenses were about paid we were not as badly off as we might have been. Meantime our stock of cattle and colts increased.

#### RAISING COLTS AND CATTLE.

We had bought two or three brood mares, and a reasonably good entire horse, and we were thus enabled to breed colts without any extra expense, and nothing paid better on our farm for years than this branch. For about ten years we had only two accidents that ended fatally to the young foals. One was shot for a deer, and the other was mired in a ditch. We always worked the mare as long as we could before foaling, but not afterwards, if we could possibly avoid it. We considered that with care the mare was uninjured by such treatment before foaling, but that when worked afterwards the colt suffered.

The horned stock also increased fast, and now numbered over twenty-five head, all raised without any expense that could be well reckoned as such. They all increased at about the rate of \$10 a year for three years, and the quality was good, as we never could bear to see the poor half-starved miserable animals such as usually are to be found about a backwoods farm. The cause of poor stock in such places is chiefly due to the miserable quality of some little runt of a bull; a wretched beast, that it would pay the settlement generally if some one of their number would shoot it, and pass round the hat to collect the value for the owner. Laws against the running of such animals at large are now generally pretty strictly observed, and in such cases the owners of the brutes

are at once notified through the pound-keeper that the obnoxious animals are impounded.

#### GROWING BARLEY.

We held that year a great consultation as to the heavy loss arising from the failure of so much wheat two seasons following, and next year we determined to sow upwards of sixty acres of barley. Seed was very high, and we anticipated great returns, but unfortunately a remarkably dry season occurred that year, and many fields of oats and barley all over the country failed to grow more than from eight to twelve inches high. Our return at harvest was about three times our seed. Nothing daunted we determined to try fall wheat next, and therefore having well fallowed about twenty-five acres of good land the previous year, we sowed fall wheat on it and prepared about thirty acres more of fallow for spring wheat, the year following.

The weather was beautiful the next year, about April and May, and, contrary to advice, we ploughed the land twice for wheat, and got it sowed in splendid order. The dry weather continued, and our extra care did all the mischief. We soon found that the second ploughing had so loosened the soil that the wheat plant began, about the middle of June, to look miserably yellow and lean. This was to be attributed to having the soil too loose, especially when combined with dry weather. Had we had our usual June rains the soil would have settled hard and firm; but the dry weather finished what the loose soil had begun, and at harvest nine bushels an acre was our crop of spring wheat. The midge attacked the fall wheat, and we only harvested twelve bushels an acre of this.

We had seeded down a large quantity of the land this year and determined to graze cattle instead of growing wheat, until the stumps were rotten; and this year we put in only about thirty-five acres of wheat, fifteen of fall, and about twenty of spring. The fall wheat at harvest yielded thirty-five bushels to the acre, and the spring about twenty or twenty-two, and we almost regretted seeding down so much, but we nevertheless determined to seed down more, and go into cattle more extensively, and then await the rotting out of the stumps and results of draining to complete our farming operations.

#### BEST ROTATION FOR NEW LAND.

From all our farming experience, I am convinced that, under all circumstances, the best course to follow with new land is to get the first crop of wheat, and then seed down directly and keep the land in grass for at least seven years afterwards, or until the stumps are completely rotten and all loose. Then to collect all the small stumps, roots and rubbish, and set fire with these appliances to the large old undecayed stumps, most carefully tending the fires, never neglecting them to do other work, but steadily working amongst them all the time they are alight, constantly "chunking" up and forcing. By