

Those amounts are given in American currency at a time when fully one-third, if not more, must be deducted to bring them down to a gold standard, exclusive too of extra taxation, and these deductions leave an acre of sugar beets (at \$40) quite equal to a crop of the great staples of the South, and if worked up by the farmer into concentrated syrup, of greater value than either.

But the advantages of the beet root crop, if raised as proposed and turned into syrup, must not be reckoned merely as an *assistant*, a supplementary crop; it can be pushed to any reasonable extent, and will really nearly if not quite double the cash proceeds of the farm by its returns, exclusive of the increase which will take place in the wheat and other grain crops from the manure afforded, and the improved tillage which is sure to result from increase of means and returns to the farmer on his average year's work. I reckon in the foregoing that the beet root crop will take as many hoeings as the turnip crop, but if managed with judgment there are strong reasons to hope that at least half the hoeing may be dispensed with.

To raise beets to the best advantage for sugar they must not be sown till well on to the middle of June, and they will be ready for the manufactory by the middle of September, and may be begun within the first week of that month; so that if the ground is properly prepared by early spring ploughing, and then by several harrowings and rollings, sufficient to keep down and kill the weeds, all the surface weeds having vegetated, the beets run ahead of those that survive, and from the short time they occupy the ground, the weeds have not time to go to seed. This is putting out of sight all the advantages of horse-hoeing, which are considered to be equal, whether in the turnip or beet crop.

A miss crop of turnips, from fly or drought, is a common occurrence; indeed, what with missed spaces and general troubles from this cause, turnips are always a precarious crop. Beets, if the seed is good, never miss; the seed does not perish either from wet or drought, and the root has been called "the root of scarcity," because when all else failed the beet succeeded; hence, whatever little extra trouble there is in the growth of it, when compared with turnips, it is amply made up by its unfailing certainty.

Then again, when it is once a plant of general growth, the cash return of forty dollars per acre can be had from the manufactory, long before the turnip crop can be realized on, so that the advantages of the beet over the turnip crop are too manifest to be disputed.

In all this, too, we must not forget the thorough manuring the ground gets from the leaves, which are always cut off in the fields, and ploughed under before winter, thus leaving the land in the best possible condition for either barley, or spring wheat, or oats.

These assertions are not speculative, or given without ample experience. In countries where beet sugar is grown, as the growth of beet increases, the number of cattle increases; the manure from the cattle is more than can be obtained in any ordinary farming, without the growth of that root, unless expensive artificial manures are used. So the grain crops increase, and the general fertility of the land is maintained and added to, whilst from the greater amount of hoed crops and partial fallowing, by harrowings, and cultivatings, the weeds diminish year after year, until the land becomes clean, instead of, as most of our Canadian farms now are, a mass of foul weeds only to be kept down by the entire loss of crop one year out of four by naked fallows, the result of which, however necessary since the failure of our wheat crop, has been poverty to the farmer, and a gradual yet surely increasing want of fertility in the farm.

The beet root cake is better food for cattle than the original root. It can be stored for future use, and it is the best possible food for milk cows, never flavouring or injuring the butter.

Those who live to see it, will marvel at the regeneration which the cultivation of the sugar beet will produce in Canadian farming. Come it must and will.

VECTIS.

A Backwoods Farm.

SOWING SPRING WHEAT.

Our sub-contractor failed in his contract to have the whole one hundred acres ready for spring wheat the following year, and although most of it was legged and partially burnt, yet the fencing was incomplete. Some disagreement among themselves caused this, and we only had about sixty acres of spring wheat sowed by the 20th May following. We sowed one bushel and one peck an acre, and it would have been plenty, but from the time it was sowed, after one heavy rain, we had not one shower until the first week in July, and about that time we had a few showers, just enough to save the wheat from destruction. I think we had one slight shower about the middle or end of June, but very little. The wheat that lay on or near the surface did not vegetate until this shower fell, and consequently that portion of the seed that had been better buried was up quite high. The effect of this was that at harvest, which was delayed until September 20th, we were obliged to cut the unripe wheat to save the dead ripe portion from being lost by shelling out. This was a great drawback, as part of each field would be quite ready to haul, whilst other portions would be quite green and damp. About this time also, as is usually the case, some heavy showers fell, and as the equinox approached, wet and cold wea-

ther set in, and our land being cradle-knolly, and the water lying in the hollows, the waggon wheels cut so deeply into the sod that it seemed utterly impossible to haul off the wheat to the barn. The load rolled and rocked about like a ship in a gale of wind, but ultimately all was secured and hauled home to the barn.

BOARD ROOFS.

Here more trouble arose. When we built the barn, we, of course, calculated to cover it with shingles, but no shingles could be obtained, and as lumber was plentiful from a neighbouring saw-mill, we concluded to use boards instead. This would have been sufficiently tight to save the crop, but the lumber was cut, as almost all lumber now is, with a large circular saw, and one not in the best of order, and consequently it was covered with circular marks made by the saw where some one or more of the teeth projected beyond its fellows. These marks or channels, as they ran in a circular direction early across the boards, afforded a perfect succession of little drains to convey the water from the centre to the outside of each board, and consequently under the batton that covered the joint between each two boards, and so directly through the track thus formed on to the wheat below. Our wheat was badly injured by this, and we had at once to procure shingles at any cost, pull off the boards, and lay the shingles as quickly as possible—and not until this was done was our crop safe.

We would have threshed it out, but it was too damp and wet from the unripe straw that was mixed with it. This trouble somewhat daunted us, but we were made of stuff too enduring to "lie down and die" under any difficulty that could be surmounted.

BUILDING THE BARN.

This was rather a serious undertaking, but it had to be done. We contracted with a framer to do the carpenter work—we only undertaking to get out the timber in the woods and haul it, find hands to raise the frame, and also haul the lumber wanted, and find nails. I mentioned a neighbouring sawmill as being conveniently situated. The preceding sleighing months had been taken advantage of to haul 1,000 logs to the mill to furnish the lumber requisite for the barn and stables. We got it sawn on shares, that is, every log that was cut and yielded say two hundred feet of lumber, was divided, and one hundred was for us, and one hundred for the mill owner. This worked well, and to our advantage. In clearing the land, we had to remove the timber at any rate, and we had more labour to spare during the winter than money. We thus got plenty of lumber on easy terms.

About the 1st of August, when our first