

Land devoted to barley growing should be prepared in the *fall*, for spring seeding. Any preparation made for a wheat crop is quite as suitable for barley, as sowing a bare fallow, after a hoed crop, on clover sod plowed in the fall, or after a pea crop, where the land has been ganged, repeatedly stirred with the harrow and cultivator, and finally plowed with a single plow, throwing the furrow well up to the action of the frost, or simply ridging it. In spring, prepare the seed bed before sowing, getting it in as fine a state of tilth as possible, being careful not to work the seed bed to a greater depth than four inches (as barley is a shallow growing crop and requires its plant food at the surface.) If the land be in good condition and dry, drill; if very moist, broadcast; in either case be careful not to cover too deeply, one inch to one and one-half inches is plenty. Sow at a time, if possible, when the seed will germinate uniformly and continue to grow vigorously. From one to two bushels is the quantity sown per acre, varying with the kind of soil. I prefer one bushel, if drilled, or one bushel and a peck where broadcasted. I am of the opinion that in many parts of the country too much seed is used per acre, except, perhaps, where farmers have to provide for injurious insects. Manures for barley should be applied as a top-dressing, or merely worked into the surface soil. Top-dressing in winter with farmyard manure where barley is to be sown gives splendid results. If special fertilizers are used apply them at time of seeding. Nitrogenous and phosphatic manures are the best, especially the latter, as barley draws more heavily on nitrogen and phosphoric acid than on the potash and other ash constituents of the soil. Carrying out these conditions, with a favorable season, we may expect good results, but our work doesn't stop here. Harvesting is a critical point usually, more especially regarding the color, as barley is very susceptible to heavy dews or showers. Some one has said that there are only three days in which to cut barley: the day before it is ripe; the day it is ripe, and the day after it is ripe. I would advise to begin cutting the day before it is ripe, to get as much cut as possible on the day it is ripe, and finish the day after it is ripe. Ripe seeds malt quickest. There is often three and four days difference in the malting properties of barley, due for the most part to the different stages of maturity. Cutting with the self-binder has many advocates and many points in its favor. Unless it is entirely ripe, I think a better way is to swath it with a reaper, allow it time to cure, rake with a horse-rake into winrows, and if the weather be favorable house it, if not, cock it up. It is decidedly better to let barley sweat out in the mow than to thresh early and leave in large heaps. Barley, on the whole, I think is the easiest crop to handle on the farm, and can be grown with the least outlay. In fact it might be considered "the lazy man's crop."

The marketing of barley often gives the farmer more anxiety than all the trouble in growing it. Taking one year with another I believe the *early market* is the best, and by selling early it saves much uncalled for worry. But, says some one, we cannot afford to grow barley any more for 33c. to 43c. per bushel, and I must agree with the sentiment. Are there no means of making barley growing profitable, notwithstanding the keen competition of the Western States and our own great North-west? This competition doubtless has been the prominent factor, along with the over-production of the past year, in reducing the price. I will try to suggest a few ways out of our present difficulty.

#### AS REGARDS FUTURE PROSPECTS OF BARLEY GROWING IN ONTARIO.

1. We must lower the cost of production and produce more per acre. This would mean less hired labor, the tilling less land and the enriching and cultivating better what land we do work.
2. Remove the restrictions at present existing on the export trade in barley. Where the price of an article is fixed in a foreign market, under a protective policy, the producer has to pay the duty when exporting his produce there, so that, the Ontario farmer marketing 500 bushels of barley with a duty of 10 cents per bushel on it, gets \$50 less for his crop than he might have received had there been no tariff wall. I learn that during the years 1885-6, we exported from Ontario to the United States 20,178,877 18 (A.C).