

and another to march between the stils, and the utmost the team would do would be an acre a day. The father of "Vectis" introduced into his part of the country light two-horse teams with the swing plough (as it was called then), a light iron mould-board without a wheel at all, and such as is now used here. He, poor man, was also sneered at, and divers great names brought forward to prove him wrong, and his neighbors said he might as well try to plough with two rabbits and a case-knife; but he lived to see the old wooden plough abandoned, and the two-horse plough and no driver adopted, all about him. So it has been with all improvements; the better they are the more they are sneered at by people who prefer to pin their faith on others, rather than think for themselves. The cost of raising turnips or other root crops is in the manure for them, and the culture of them, in order to get large roots. If they were to be raised for manure only, less pains would of course be taken, and the roots would be smaller and greater in number, and thus more easy to dispose of. One of the most approved methods of turning the stubble land to use in "Vectis" native place, was the sowing of "stubble turnips"—these were sown late (after the fly had passed) and the seed was scarce and widely scattered; they might or might not be dragged, they were certainly never hoed; and yet before the frost came they would cover the ground with their leaves, and the roots would vary from the size of an apple to that of a cricket ball, and so on up to four inches diameter, and they would help the ground and also the stock greatly. Such a crop as is now spoken of, would answer all purposes, and be the cheapest green crop that could be raised.

"Vectis" trusts that the important matter thrown out for consideration will not be allowed to drop. He has received much useful information privately from all quarters, and he is quite sure the readers of the CANADA FARMER will have been amused, if not instructed. It is quite possible that he may start some other heretical doctrine before long, and in the meantime will take leave of the present subject.

"VECTIS."

A Discouraging Balance Sheet.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—I am a constant reader of your most valuable paper, THE CANADA FARMER, and which, by the way, I find to be the most useful publication a farmer can have; and, among other matters, you strongly advise farmers to keep a strict account of all their receipts from and expenditure on the farm. Having had the benefit of a commercial education,—for I am not a farmer by profession, though I have been led to adopt farming as my present, and I believe also my future business—I have kept a correct account of all I have received from the farm and laid out upon it, and herewith I beg to enclose you a copy of my balance sheet up to December 31st, and I doubt not you will agree with me in styling it a very miserable affair. I should premise, however, that the past sixteen months have been of a very exceptional character. I bought the farm on the 10th August, 1866; it had been lying idle for a year, and the land being a strong rich clay loam, you may easily imagine what a crop of thistles it would yield; and indeed it produced a heavy crop, and one that we shall not get rid of for years to come. This crop of thistles has, I believe, very materially lessened the yield of my crops proper; added to which, a bad threshing machine, which left a good deal of wheat in the ear, and the generally deficient harvest, in which I necessarily participated, all combined to make my returns for the past season less than I expected. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, I am not altogether discouraged; but, by the application of manure, which I am drawing from the County town, some five miles off, and of which I am raising as much as I possibly can on the farm, and by a judicious system of cropping, which will include a larger proportion of roots than is generally grown about here, I trust that my balance sheet for next year, if I am alive and well, will be a much more satisfactory one, and which I shall be glad to send you, if you care to have it.

I keep, also, a regular diary of farming operations, and notetwice, sometimes thrice a day, the state of the thermometer, wind, weather, and in summer time, that of

a home-made barometer, made after your own recipe—it is pretty correct, indicating atmospheric changes some hours in advance—but, unfortunately, I cannot use it in winter, for the difference of temperature between night and day affects the density of the air in the inverted bottle so much that it cannot be depended on. This diary, though perhaps not quite perfect in its arrangements, is nevertheless especially useful, as if I sow too early or too late, and the results are not satisfactory, these are all noted, and on consulting the record the error can be avoided in future operations. The arrangement of the diary is as follows:—the size of the book should be a small folio—one page occupied with meteorological notes and "transactions and occurrences," and the other with "remarks and results," and I would like it very much if some of your numerous correspondents would give me a hint by which the diary would be made more useful and complete. But I must not occupy any more of your valuable space. I therefore beg to remain, Sir,

Yours truly,

ULMUS.

BALANCE SHEET OF FARM PRODUCE, FOR 1866 '67. (From 10th August, 1866, to Dec. 31, 1867.)

DR.		
1866-'67.		
Dec	To labor, &c., preparing land	\$264 30
	Feed to Stock	191 54
	Repairing and Blacksmith's work	108 88
	Feed	106 35
	Expended on Vegetable Garden	17 66
	Threshing 24 days at \$4	15 00
	Lumber	13 11
	Taxes for 1866	6 00
	Sundries	34 11
	10 per cent. depreciation on implements, the first cost being \$222 85	22 28
	Total expenditure, exclusive of rent and labor of self and four sons	779 15
	Balance gained, carried to 1868	3 36
		\$782 51

GR.

1867.		
Oct.	By 43 bus. 23 lbs. Barley at 60c.	\$26 11
	" 97 bus. Oats do 65c.	63 11
		89 22
	Less Market Tolls	00 5
		89 17
	By 292 bus. 46 lbs. Scotch Wheat at \$1.50	438 65
	" 25 bus. 50 lbs. Peas at 70c	18 65
	" 43 bus. 23 lbs. Oats at 32c	13 95
	" Butter and Eggs sold	4 3
	" Garden Produce sold	17 92
		492 38
	" Teaming Sundries	112 37
	" Cutting Wood, &c.	15 57
		127 94
	" Present value of Stock	440 00
	" Used for home consumption	25 90
		465 90
	Deduct first cost	393 71
	Gain in value of Stock	72 19
		\$782 51

1868.

January 1, By Balance from 1867..... \$3 36

NOTE by Ed. C. F.—We publish the foregoing candid statement of a "miserable" failure, both because we do not wish to suppress the unfortunate experiences of farmers, for useful lessons can be drawn from them, and because we would have all engaged in Agriculture keep a correct account, and thus learn the actual state and result of their farming, and also because we hope our correspondent will send us a better balance sheet at the end of the next season. Some of the above expenditure might certainly be diminished—for example, the amount for blacksmith's work, and probably the cost of preparing the land. Two items of "feed" are also rather ambiguous. Is it extra "feed" bought, or the value of "feed" consumed from the produce? Further, there is no account of any "home consumption" except the item of stock. We notice, also, one important omission, namely, making no mention of the number of acres under cultivation. We sincerely trust that the coming season will turn the tables, or we should advise our correspondent to quit farming. His hopefulness under difficulties is most exemplary and praiseworthy.

Oats and Hay.

THESE products, formerly so cheap, have been for some time past among the highest priced articles in the market. They are now so dear as to cause constant grumbling among those who keep stock and have to buy all their fodder. Both crops are easily raised, and on rich, well-drained land, are pretty sure to give a good yield. Farms that have facilities for irrigation, may be so managed that these products may be relied on as little short of absolute certainties. Sixty bushels of oats per acre, selling at fifty cents or more per bushel, and two tons of hay, fetching fifteen dollars and upwards per ton, are yields and prices that ought to make farmers cheerful, and abolish the chronic tendency to grumbling. The experience of successive seasons goes to prove the wisdom of a mixed system of husbandry. When one product yields poorly or brings but a low price, something else will help to make up, if it is on hand. The tendency, when a particular crop sells high, is to go largely into it, and thus there comes to be over-production in one direction and under-production in another. We anticipate that a large breadth will be sown to oats the coming spring, and that, consequently, prices will rule much lower next season than they have done this. But these products always pay if fed to stock on the farm. Whether turned into beef or into the increased value of thriving young animals, it is profitable to use them for home consumption. We fear the temptation with some farmers the present season has been irresistibly strong to stint their own stock, in order to have a larger quantity of these high priced products to send to market. This is always poor policy.

Platt Midge-proof Wheat.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—There have been several communications through your columns from correspondents in regard to, and setting forth the superior quality and extraordinary yield of, a wheat to which they give the name of "Platt's Midge-proof." A farmer, of this township having last season procured a quantity from Mr. W. H. Boulton, of Demorestville, and my curiosity being excited by what had been said regarding it, I went last harvest to see this celebrated wheat, and what was my surprise to find it identically the same variety as I had previously grown for three years. As far as my experience went after a fair trial, I found it to yield about the same as the Fife wheat: but as it was a bearded variety, much coarser in quality, and not so well liked by buyers as the Fife, I gave up sowing it. In the spring of 1864 I procured a small quantity from a merchant in Guelph, who got it, I believe, from some person in Toronto, who gave it the name of Poland Wheat. There were other farmers in this township who got some at the same time, and after giving it a trial, also gave it up. However, at that time we were not troubled here with the midge; and I am now of opinion that it might be advisable to sow this wheat in localities where the spring wheat is liable to be injured by the midge, it being well known that all coarse bearded wheat is not so liable to injury from the midge as wheat of finer qualities.

W. WHITE LA W.

Guelph, March 25, 1868.

SORGHUM TARTARICUM.—In answer to numerous applications, Major Bruce has sent us the following directions for the culture of the *Sorghum Tartaricum*:—Soak the seed to be planted about twelve hours, roll it in plaster, make shallow drills, two feet six inches apart, and only just cover the seed with earth. When the plants grow to six inches high, thin out, to one foot apart, in the rows. Hoe frequently, but do not hill; remove suckers as they appear, in order to give full vigour to the plants. Poor clay is recommended to plant in, but it will do well on any land, if not too rich. When the seed-leaves first spring up they resemble Indian corn leaves, on a small scale.