

oning the manure, as it was necessary to move it out of my way :—

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Rent.....  | \$12 00       |
| Ploughing 2½ days.....                                       | 5 00          |
| Dragging.....  | 2 00          |
| Cultivating.....   | 1 00          |
| 12 days hoeing and thinning .....                            | 9 00          |
| Six pounds seed.....   | 1 80          |
| Drilling and sowing .....                                    | 6 50          |
| Harvesting and carting to market at<br>1s 3d per bushel..... | 29 75         |
|  | <hr/> \$67 05 |

The actual cost of the 4 acres was the sum of \$67 05, which leaves me the net of \$84 86 per acre. So you see it pays very well directly, and I expect my next year's crop of wheat and barley will pay indirectly from the manure; therefore the poor ground of 1867 will be good ground for 1869, after I give it 400 pounds salt per acre, which will help to stiffen the straw and keep the ground longer moist. The only fault people have to my turnips is they are too large. At our county show in Brantford I got one first and two second prizes for turnips, and second for field parsnips, all grown in the said field. For 1868 I intend to sow 8 acres where I had corn last year, because I think and know they pay directly and also indirectly. But I think potato ground is better for the next year's crop, provided it is equally as well manured, as turnips or corn ground. I can always pick out the potato ground in the next year's crop.

I think there is no crop on a farm pays half as well as a root crop, next to which I put corn, both for fodder and grain. I think if any farm will grow corn, a farmer is foolish to sow oats, for a poor crop of corn is as good as the best crop of oats, and a good crop of corn is as good as two good crops of oats. I know of several farmers here who have from 50 to 100 bushels shelled corn to the acre, and I know from experience that good corn stalks are better for milk cows than hay. They will give more milk from them, and thrive well on them, on account chiefly of the large proportion of sugar they contain.

J. S. T.

Paris Road, Brantford Township.

### Ridge and Furrowing Land.

Some time since my attention was called to the idea of ridge and furrowing land intended for fallow or for winter or fall ploughing, and I determined on trying the experiment. I caused a furrow to be opened at every twelve feet all through the field, to be "fared out," as we term it in England. When all was correctly finished, and the land carefully measured off, I commenced and threw out another furrow, from the bottom of the previous one, letting the plough down as deep as the team could readily draw it. Turning at the end short to the right, I threw another furrow against the one last

drawn, and again turning, but this time to the left, I let the plough deeply down into the same furrow, out of which it had just come close to the land side, there forming a ridge with an intervening furrow of nearly 3 feet wide, from centre to centre, and leaving a space of about 2½ feet unploughed under the ridge. I found that I could plough nearly four acres each day with a good team, and as a much larger surface was exposed to the action of the air than by the old plan, I was convinced I had made a move in the right direction. You will readily see that to go over nearly four acres each day was of itself a great boon in working furrows, and as every other furrow was subsoiled, that was also a good thing. When the thistles began to grow here and there, I split the ridges first one way and again the other; this time however, I found I could not get deep enough without running a third furrow into the subsoil underneath the ridges, when split. Of course, this caused one-third more ploughing, and I now only saved one quarter of the whole instead of nearly one-half, as formerly; but the work was good, and as I intended to give the land four ploughings to destroy thistles, I was satisfied with the saving already made. When the field was completed the second time, I concluded no better course could be followed than to cross the land the opposite way, with ridges and furrows just the same. I kept an accurate annual account, and found it as follows. No harrowing was given, as unnecessary, and you will see only about one-half of the land was moved the first time, three-fourths the next, and half the third time, with three-quarters the last. A portion of the field was harrowed across the ridges the last time, so as to level them, and on one part of the field, when sowing was completed; the ridges were harrowed lengthwise on the remainder, which left the land in a succession of undulations, and was believed to assist drainage.

I find the team was

- 3 days the first time,
- 1 days the second time,
- 3 days the third time,
- 4 days the fourth time of ploughing.

Total, 14 days to plough 10 acres of land four times.

The land was loam, and easily worked. The plough, one that would always take a foot each furrow. Now the ordinary mode of ploughing would have required

- For the first time 6 days,
- For the second time 6 days,
- For the third time 6 days,
- For the fourth time 6 days,

Total, 24 days.

Thus showing an absolute saving of ten days' work in ploughing ten acres of land, or nearly one-half. Few farmers can afford four ploughings, but all can afford four ridge and furrowings; and the thistles were effectually killed by this course, as they could

not stand the drying effect of the ridges, so much more apparent than ordinary ploughing.

The great destruction to thistles is caused by dry weather and constant motion. They cannot stand it; but motion, if the land is wet, or so damp by laying the furrows flat and smooth, as not to expose the thistle, only encourages its growth. C.

### Wire Fence.

A correspondent sends the following queries :—

"I have a house road leading from a public highway, and running north-east by south-west, which always drifts up in winter. I propose putting up a wire fence to prevent this, and I wish some information in answer to the following queries :—

How far should the posts be separate?

Should there be a board at bottom?

What size and how many wires to use?

How stretched?

How fastened?

Should the top wire be heavier than the others?"

In regard to most of the above particulars some variety in practice exists. In reference to the first query, eight feet apart is perhaps the most suitable distance for the posts.

Some persons put on a bottom board, and it has the advantage, where the fence borders a road, of keeping sufficient snow on the ground to make good travelling. Some also use a scantling for top rail, to prevent colts and other stock from injuring themselves, as they will sometimes do against a wire that they cannot see. Both top scantling and bottom board are, however, often dispensed with.

The size of the wire very frequently used is No. 7. Some prefer it stronger, using No. 6, while others find No. 8 sufficient for all purposes. The number of wires and distances apart must depend upon the kind of stock intended to run in the adjoining fields. Where no top scantling is used, the fence need not much exceed four feet. Animals seem afraid to jump the wire fence, and are easily hurt in the attempt. With a bottom board, the first wire three or four inches above it, the next four, the next five, and others, according to the height, from eight to twelve inches apart, make a thoroughly efficient fence, capable of keeping out any kind of stock; but where only the larger animals are to be restrained in bounds, fewer wires will suffice.

Different methods of fixing and stretching the wires are adopted. Some bore holes in the posts at the required distances, and pass the wires through, by this method they cannot be forced out of place. But more commonly staples are used, driven into the face of the posts, where required. These staples may be made out of the wire itself by cutting off pieces about three or four