TILLAGE.

A few days after the sets have been covered by the plough and before the plants have been above ground, but not until the weed seeds have germinated, the soil should be harrowed with the smoothing harrow to level it and to kill the myriads of weeds which usually germinate about that season of the year. If possible, the soil should be harrowed twice before the potatoes are far enough up to be injured. If two harrowings are given there should be little trouble from weeds afterwards, and harrowing is a much more economical way of getting rid of them than by hand hoeing. As soon as the potatoes are far enough up so that the rows can be readily distinguished, the cultivator should be put in and the soil loosened between the rows to as great a depth as possible the first time and as near the sets as it is safe to go without disturbing them, so as to loosen the soil for the tubers. All future cultivation should be quite shallow to prevent injury to the roots and tubers. The soil should be cultivated every week or ten days, depending on the weather, the object being to keep the surface soil loose until the tops meet well between the rows. If the soil becomes baked evaporation of moisture will be very rapid.

Conservation of moisture is very important in growing potatoes and thorough cultivation is one of the best ways to retain moisture. The potato vines would not suffer from drought, as they often do in the middle of summer, if the soil were properly prepared to begin with and well cultivated during the early part of the season. The vines must be kept growing thriftily from the time they appear above ground until autumn if a maximum crop is to be obtained. If growth is checked in the middle of summer the crop suffers and the tubers when they start to increase in size when the rains come are very likely to become misshapen. A good cultivator is very essential in growing potatoes.

LEVEL *VERSUS* RIDGE CULTIVATION.

Many farmers owing to lack of help and sometimes through lack of knowledge, give no further attention to their potato crop after the beetles are killed and when haying begins, and as an end to the culture for the season they ridge up just before haying. There is no doubt some advantage in ridging over leaving the soil level when such conditions prevail, as the ridging will give the tubers loose soil to develop in, while the soil would soon get hard if left flat and not cultivated.

There are districts in Canada where the climatic conditions in summer are not very unlike those in Great Britain. In such districts ridging will probably as a rule give better results than level culture. There are, however, large areas where droughts are liable to occur and where conservation of moisture is a very important factor in obtaining a good crop. In such districts the best results will probably, as a rule, be obtained if thorough and deep working of the soil be given and by adopting level culture. The reason is easily apparent. The evaporation of moisture is not as great from level soil as from soil in ridges. Few experiments seem to have been tried for comparing level with ridge cultivation, but in the drier parts level culture has, as a rule, given the better results. It should be clearly understood, however, that unless the soil is well worked the better conditions of the soil for the development of tubers when it is ridged will offset the advantage of retaining more moisture by level cultivation.

It would be advisable for each farmer to try for himself whether level or ridge cultivation gives the better results under the conditions on his farm.

"SPROUTING" BEFORE PLANTING FOR EARLINESS AND INCREASED YIELD.

Where there is a demand for early potatoes it is important for the potato grower to know how he can hasten the development of the tubers, as the sooner the potatoes are on the market in good condition the more money he will make out of them as a rule. The method usually adopted by the best growers is to use an extra early variety and