

mer fallow it, sow it with buckwheat, and, when at its proper state of maturity, plough it under as a manure, and if that do not kill the oats, his experience will be different from that of many. I pretend not to say positively how it comes to pass, but I can point to more than one cure effectually made by this means. As to land once contaminated with wild oats being liable to a return of the disorder, it may be admitted, but not more liable than other land. A field near where I am now writing, which several years since was completely overrun by the pest, was cleansed by the above prescription, and has since given no further trouble. D.

**Silver Beet Seed.**

The silver beet seed is now ready for gratuitous distribution, and an ounce will be furnished to all who may send an envelope, with their address on it, and with a stamp attached sufficient to cover postage. Of course I cannot promise more than I have raised, after deducting a few ounces for seed next year. To avoid difficulty, and consequent loss of postage stamps, I may say I have about six pounds of seed, and as the distribution is entirely gratuitous, I will enclose the ounce as long as the seed lasts, taking each envelope in rotation as received. All I ask is that each person receiving it will sow the seed in some rich piece of land, in rows, each seed about 3 to 4 inches apart, and the rows about 12 to 16 inches from centre to centre. When the plant grows and matures its foliage, do not allow cattle to break in and destroy it, but take care of it; and next October or November, just when heavy frost sets in, cover the plant with some straw, and heap over it about twelve inches of earth, first cutting the greens off within about four inches of the crown, and removing them for feed or otherwise.

About the last of April, or beginning of May, the year following, remove the earth and straw, and the plant will bear an abundant crop of seed. When ripening, there should be a pole or two, tied longitudinally, at one and two feet high from the earth, to support the heavy loaded seed stalks. About November the seed will be ripe, and enough for an acre or two will be thus saved. Some of this can be again in part sown for seed, and a fair experiment made of the value of the crop as a manure plant to plough under. To those who only sow the seed to test this point direct the first year, I would say that Messrs. Charles Dawbarn & Co., of this city, say they can import the seed from France, and sell it here at about 30c. to 35c. per pound; but I by no means believe so fine a variety can thus be obtained as the present sort raised on Canadian soil. Saving seed is of itself a business, very difficult for amateurs to be successful in. I have, however, found no difficulty, and profess not to be more clever than my neighbours.

Full description of the growth and treat-

ment of this plant has been given at various times in the CANADA FARMER and WEEKLY GLOBE; and to those who have omitted to file their paper, and who would like to be reminded, I may say the plant in question is grown and treated in all respects like garden beet, with the exception of thinning out, and as it is principally wanted for manure to plough under, and will thrive if left pretty thick, no thinning out need be done, or only enough to be able to get at the seed, until the plant attains some growth, when it will take the matter into its own hands, and smother the weeds out. Therefore, plant in pretty good soil; soak the seed in water twelve hours before planting, and bury it about two inches (not more) in finely pulverized soil. About ten weeks after sowing, the plant will probably be thirty inches high, a perfect mass of green, ready to plough under, an operation which must be conducted with a double chain attached to the plough, as for ploughing down buckwheat or heavy clover. I feel satisfied, where ploughed under for wheat, 30 to 40 bushels an acre will be the probable return.

Address, "C.," CANADA FARMER Office, Toronto. C.

**Profits of Good and Bad Farming.**

The following estimate of the cost and return of two systems of cultivating wheat may prove instructive to those who have been in the habit of farming at random, and who, like too many Canadian farmers, would be wholly unable to say how much it has cost them per bushel to raise the crop, and therefore do not know whether they are losing or gaining money in the sale of their produce. To such we commend the very suggestive comparison.

Least cost of the production of 10 acres of wheat at a yield of 10 bushels per acre:

Seed for 10 acres, 20 bushels at \$1 30 per bushel .....	\$26 00
Rent of 10 acres .....	30 00
Ploughing, at \$1 50 per acre .....	\$15 00
Harrowing, at 20 cents per acre, 3 times .....	6 00
Sowing broadcast, man at \$1 25 per day .....	1 00
Reaping (self-raking machine) at 40 cents per acre .....	4 00
Binding, at 60 cents per acre .....	6 00
Housing, at 50 cents per acre .....	5 00
Thrashing, at 4 cents per 100 bushels to thrashers .....	4 00
" at \$12 per day to hands .....	4 00
Winnowing and bagging up, at \$1 per 100 bushels .....	1 00
Marketing (one day's journey), at \$4 per 100 bushels .....	4 00
	<hr/> \$50 00

Total cost .....	\$106 00
Average value of fall wheat for the past few years being \$1 15 per bushel.	
Full value of crop .....	\$115 00
Balance of profit on 10 acres.	9 00
Or on 100 acres .....	90 00

Maximum cost of the production of 10 acres of wheat at a yield of 40 bushels to the acre:

Seed for 10 acres, 30 bushels at \$1 30 per bushel .....	\$39 00
Rent for 10 acres .....	40 00
2 Ploughings, at \$1 50 per acre .....	\$30 00
Cultivating, at 30 cents .....	3 00
100 Loads barn-yard manure, at 50 cents .....	50 00
Artificial manure .....	20 00
Harrowing 3 times, at 20 cents per acre .....	6 00
Sowing broadcast .....	1 00
Reaping .....	4 00
Housing, at 60 cents per acre .....	6 00
Binding, at 60 cents .....	6 00
Thrashing, at 4 cents per 100 bushels to thrashers .....	16 00
" at \$12 per day to hands .....	12 00
Winnowing and bagging, at \$1 per 100 bushels .....	4 00
Marketing, at \$4 per 100 bushels .....	16 90
	<hr/> \$174 00

Total cost .....	\$253 00
Full value of crop at \$1 15 .....	460 00
Balance of profit on 10 acres .....	\$ 207 00
Or on 100 acres .....	2070 00

We will now, supposing both fields to have been seeded down with the same amount of grass seed, proceed to show the probable profits of each ten acres in the ensuing crop of hay.

Cost of production of ensuing hay crop under the first or poor system of farming, probably 1 ton per acre:	
Clover seed for 10 acres, say 1 1/2 bushels at \$7 per bushel .....	\$10 50
Mowing, at 50 cents per acre .....	5 00
Securing hay .....	20 00
Marketing, at \$2 per ton .....	20 00
Rent .....	30 00
	<hr/> \$85 50
Full value of crop at \$10 per ton .....	100 00

Balance of profit on 10 acres .....	\$ 15 00
" " 100 " .....	150 00

Cost of production of ensuing hay crop under the second or good system of farming, probable return, 2 tons to the acre:

Clover seed for 10 acres, say 2 bushels, at \$7 per bushel .....	\$14 00
Rolling .....	2 00
2 Tons plaster at \$5 50 .....	11 00
Mowing .....	5 00
Securing .....	30 00
Marketing .....	40 00
Rent .....	30 00
	<hr/> \$132 00
Full value of crop .....	200 00

Balance of profit on 10 acres .....	\$ 68 00
" " 100 " .....	680 00

In the two years the profit upon the first system amounts to \$240 upon a hundred acre farm. Upon the better system to \$2,750, leaving the good farmer, on the average of two years' returns, ahead by the neat sum of \$1,250 per annum, besides having his land increased in fertility by the application of 100 loads of barn-yard manure, nearly a ton of artificial manure, and two tons of gypsum; from that date his farm is ever increasing in productive capacity, while that of his contemporary is ever deteriorating.

Does farming pay? Not necessarily; but good farming most undoubtedly does, and that right handsomely.