

(3.) The crop is harvested earlier.

The disadvantages are the cost of labour entailed by transplanting, and the cost of the preparation of suitable hotbeds. Where soil is not well prepared, or moisture becomes deficient in August, or where labour is reasonably inexpensive, this method is worthy of consideration, but is not used at present in this Province.

### THE OLD METHOD OF ONION-GROWING.

Used almost altogether in the Province for commercial purposes, this does sufficiently well, especially in the districts above mentioned, where a long growing season, suitable soil, and a knowledge of the requirements of the business combine to make it a success.

### SELECTION OF SOIL.

The selection of soil is of the greatest importance, as it will not pay to grow onions on poor soil. The mechanical condition of the soil is of first consideration. Heavy clay soils should be avoided because they are difficult to work, usually deficient in organic matter, and often improperly drained. They cannot be worked as early in the spring as is desired, and the surface bakes and cracks after a rain unless stirred at the proper time.

Soils rich in decomposed vegetable matter are the most valuable for the cultivation of onions. A rich sandy loam is a very good soil, especially where irrigation is practised. A black-muck soil that has been well drained is one of the best soils for onion-culture. It has the power of retaining moisture which is so essential to the growth of onions. Fields which have been overrun with weeds should be used for other crops before planting with onions.

### THE SEED.

The seed should be of the very best quality to obtain the best results. Do not buy seed because it is cheap. The cost of seed is very small compared with the other expenditures in growing a crop of onions. It is always best to test the vitality of the seed before planting each year, a very good method being to place a few seeds in a damp woollen cloth or moist cotton, and note the number germinating. Order the seed early, because you are then sure of getting the firm's best quality.

### VARIETY TO GROW.

This depends almost entirely on the market to which you are catering. The onion to grow is the one which will command the highest price on the market. As a rule, this is an onion hard and compact in structure, mild and sweet in flavour, with a thin skin, small neck, and as nearly globular in form as possible. It should also be bright and handsome in appearance, productive, and of superior keeping quality. As a reliable market variety, to be grown in the old way, and for general purposes, the Yellow Danvers has probably not yet found its equal.

### FERTILIZING.

Barnyard manure is indispensable unless the soil naturally contains a large amount of humus. It should be ploughed under in the fall unless very well rotted, when it might be applied on the surface and barrowed in. If