

## CLOVER-GROWING FOR SEED.

POINTS BY A CANTERBURY GROWER.

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ON the subject of clover-growing there are and always will be many differences of opinion. Consideration has also to be given to climatic influences and physical and chemical variations in soil—whether favourable or otherwise to the growing of clover—all of which require a certain amount of attention from the grower. These notes will therefore apply mainly to the class of land I have had experience of in Canterbury.

It is by no means the heaviest soil that grows the best clover-seed—I refer principally to white clover. The best average results I know of were obtained on good medium land with a good loamy subsoil. The seed matures better, and the sample is generally far superior to that growing on wet land. There are many ideal spots in Canterbury and North Otago (the Oamaru district) where white-clover-growing would return a handsome profit. Thousands of pounds have probably been lost to farmers in the Oamaru district alone through neglect to look after their white-clover crops.

### PREPARATION OF THE LAND AND SOWING.

Pasture is often regarded as a last resource for land that is thoroughly exhausted and will not grow anything else profitably. It is also frequently assumed that grass and clover will grow anywhere and anyhow, and farmers are often surprised that the result of their labour is not profitable. The fact is that no farm crop requires more care in laying down than clover, and land that is not in good heart, and thoroughly cultivated and pulverized, often means failure of the crop. White clover, being a very small seed, requires the land to be very finely worked. After working down the soil I always roll with a heavy Cambridge roller, then sow the seed, harrow with light tine harrows, and roll again. By following these methods I have never experienced a failure.

My usual practice is to sow in February or at the beginning of March for autumn sowing, and in August and September for spring sowing. If the indications are for a wet autumn and winter,