Other costs, cultivation, manure, rent, stooking, and stacking have not been overlooked, but these amount to a similar figure with any straw crop, and will not be included.

Therefore, the return exclusive of these costs is in the neighbourhood of £14 per acre, and this from land not heavy enough to grow wheat satisfactorily.

Crops On Heavy Land

Such is the experience of a grower on light land, and figures of a crop on heavy land offer an interesting comparison. The crop under discussion was of excellent length and good quality straw, and was slightly better than the average. Five were drilled, and the crop was ready for harvest in a few days over ten weeks. The average length was 36 inches and the crop was even, and here again hand-pulling was done. The total weight of the crop was 14 tons 15cwt, and, after deseeding, the yield of machine-dressed seed was equivalent to 7 1-3cwt per acre, while deseeded straw per acre worked out at 2 tons 1cwt.

Again taking figures of payments for the season just past we have:-

		£	S.	d.
Seed-7	1-3cwt per acre a	t		
30s	***************	. 11	0	0
Deseede	d straw-2 tons 1cw	t		
	acre at £4 15s per			
	(£4 5s plus 10s			
bonus)		. 9	14	9
			44	_
bonu	s) .,	9	14	9

Debits are the same as above

£18 4 9

2 10 0

These figures give some idea of the possibilities of linen flax with a reasonably good crop and the conditions prevailing at the present time. The writer would like to commend those farmers who persevered with handpulling rather than "put the binder into it," thus making the compilation of these figures possible.

Binder Cutting

Some idea of the loss caused by binder cutting can also be given from the experiences during the season under discussion. Two crops of equal area which, on inspection, appeared to be on a par as regards length, quality, and thickness and freedom from weeds were taken. One was pulled

and the other cut with a binder, during which operation the ground was "shaved" as closely as possible. When the crops were carted and weighed it was found that:-

Four acres of pulled crop gave a yield of 11 tons 17cwt.

Four acres of binder-cut crop gave a yield of 8 tons 11cwt 2qrs.

The difference is considerable, and although it is not claimed that it is all due to binder cutting-some is doubtless due to variations in estimate of crop yield-it is apparent that a large proportion of the loss can be traced to the straw being cut with a binder.

All the work carried out in Marlborough was done on a field basis and not as a carefully-planned experiment, and therefore some of the weights may be only approximate, but for practical purposes the figures compiled give an indication of what the crop will return under our conditions. It seems that the second question, "What return can I get?" can be answered-A good one!



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