

cost of 3*l*. 10*s*. per acre. This is the estimate formed from ample data by one of our first hydraulic engineers.

"A charge of 25*s*. per acre for the water would give the canal owners 37½ per cent. net. At this charge for water the cost of good cotton would be as under :—

				£	s.	d.
Land tax per acre	...	...	...	0	3	7
Water rate	...	...	...	1	5	0
Labour and seed	...	...	...	1	5	0
Total	...	...	...	£2	13	7

"Produce 400 lbs., or a fraction over 1¼*d*. per lb.

"W. B."

Here we have on the banks of a river, equal to the Mississippi in America, 87,000,000 of acres of productive soil, out of which only 16,000,000 of acres are under cultivation, all the rest being in a state of nature, although there are 24,000,000 of people ready and willing to till the soil.

Now let us see what the State loses by keeping the lands in this unproductive condition. Taking round numbers :—

			Acres.
There are in the two districts upwards of	...	...	87,000,000
Deduct acres already in the people's hands	...	...	16,000,000
This leaves in a state of nature	...	...	71,000,000
To avoid exaggeration deduct for mountain, rock, sheep, and cattle-runs, forests, rivers, public works, towns, villages, religious and educational establishments, and generally say	...	...	17,000,000
This leaves	...	...	54,000,000

of cultivatable land to be dealt with as so much property vested in the hands of the Government in trust for the benefit of the Commonwealth; and which might be put by wise and liberal measures into the hands of thrifty agriculturalists, in portions averaging 160 acres to each family of five persons.*

Fifty-four millions divided by 160 gives 337,500 farms of 160 acres, each occupied by five persons; this gives a population of 1,687,500. It is a moderate estimate to take five acres as the area to be brought under cultivation in each farm every year, divided thus :—Two acres for bread-stuffs (this comprises all articles of food for both man and beast except animal food), and three acres for cotton or any other

* I would here remark that the Homestead Law of the United States of America gives all settlers 160 acres free from any payment, on condition of settling a certain distance from town or village, and clearing and cultivating 10 per cent. of it in five years; hence I take 160 acres as the basis of division into farms. Another remarkable fact with regard to Canada: since they became a Federation, their statesmen have gathered moral courage enough to copy the Homestead Law of the United States, and have passed an Act granting 100 acres on similar terms, except that 15 per cent. must be cleared in five years before they can claim their title-deeds.