

lost sight of the fact that the true incitement to wheat-growing is the hope that it may return a profit, and not the desire to benefit humanity. We remember well travelling on the Eastern Counties line up to Mark Lane market, in company with a number of Cambridgeshire farmers, just as the price of wheat was rising in anticipation of the Crimean war. "Ah! said one of them, bread will be dear to the poor man this year." "I don't know about that," remarked the then well-known Tom Webb; "what I do want to know is, have they got them stones out of the Danube yet?" The stones were the rocks that impeded the navigation of the great river, and their removal would lower the price of freight and therefore of wheat, which was already at 80s a quarter—\$2.50 a bushel.

No, there is not much danger of starvation on a large scale. If the price of wheat rises, intensive cultivation will speedily re-inforce extensive cultivation, and when wheat is really worth growing, there is no fear but that it will be grown.

Heat in England.—It was hot enough here last month, and the hot wind of Sunday, September 4th—94° in the shade,—is not to be forgotten; but fancy 80° in doors in England, and the poor soldiers, in their regimentals exposed to the full glare of the sun on the bare space of Salisbury Plain, the scene of the annual manoeuvres! No wonder a good many stacks of hay, both meadow and clover, perished from spontaneous combustion. It may, and probably will, surprise many of our readers to hear that the temperature of the hay in a stack, if the contents are to turn out of the best quality, should rise to 130° F.; if that temperature is obtained, the hay will probably have a nice, rich smell, and a good colour, which in clover should be nut-brown.

Irish crops.—We are glad indeed to see that the crops in the Green Isle, this year, are very good. Out of 66 reports on wheat, 35 are given as over average, 28 as average, and only 3 as under average. Barley, 59 reports: 38 over average, 21 average, 0 under average. Oats, 120 reports: 49 over average, 68 average, 3 under average. Potatoes, 120 reports: 30 over average, 87 average, 3 under average. Hay and pasture equally satisfactory. We had too many County Galway friends in our younger days not to feel a deep interest in the prosperity of their beloved home.

Milk substitutes.—We have never tried any of the numerous advertised substitutes for milk in the rearing of calves, and therefore can give no opinion pro or con on that subject. We have always found skim milk and a little crushed linseed, properly prepared, brought calves forward fast enough, without too much or too little bone. But, we met with a statement the other day, in the *English Agricultural Gazette*, that seems worthy of attention:

ECONOMY IN PRODUCTION.

"The milk substitutes now manufactured are, however, so good that those graziers who are unable to keep even the small number of cows requisite to rear calves on this system can, although they may have to buy the calves at three days old, depend on their satisfactory rearing on soups from these milk substitutes. I write the more confidently on this point, as I recently had an opportunity of inspecting the large dairy herd of the Reading Sewage Farm, where there were over a hundred calves of different ages, the whole of which had been, or were being, reared on milk substitutes. I never saw healthier ones, not a single scourer being among them. They also seemed very thrifty, although, being reared for the dairy herd, they had received no extra feeding stuffs.

"Now, it must be very patent to the most superficial observer that a change of system of this kind made by our graziers would be attended with several highly beneficial results, and that if anything would enable them to make profits when beef sells for only 6d. per lb., its adoption would do it. Among the former must be reckoned the saving of calf life by raising so many calves for beef, which but for the system would be slaughtered at an early age. In the next place Mr. Long's ideal of more general cattle improvement for grazing purposes would be carried out better than it could be in any other way, with the great result that butchers and consumers would have just the kind of meat they crave for, the small joints of young animals not made too fat. The highest classes of consumers have been perfectly willing for some years past to give 2d. per lb. more for joints of this kind, but even, if on the average the wholesale price were only a penny a pound more than the market rate for good ordinary meat, graziers would be able to compete with foreigners all the better. The system is therefore well worthy of trial, especially as feeding animals while in