

## Agricultural Intelligence.

## Irish Agricultural Statistics.

The following statistics are both interesting and suggestive.

According to the census of 1861 the surface of Ireland was divided as follows:—

Arable land .....	12,444,200 acres.
Plantations .....	4,294,725 "
Cities, &c. ....	42,929 "
Rivers and lakes ..	40,823 "
Miscellaneous .....	574,492 "
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>17,800,271 "</b>

Of this only 5,672,980 acres were then under cultivation, and that held in the following way:

1 acre holdings ..	39,210
2 " " " " " "	74,141
3 to 15 " " " "	104,006
15 to 30 " " " "	127,599
30 to 50 " " " "	98,886
50 to 100 " " " "	49,681
100 to 200 " " " "	30,575
200 to 500 " " " "	9,046
Above 500 " " " "	2,487
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>532,001</b>

In 1854, the total value of live stock in Ireland was computed at £30,085,082 sterling, showing a falling off in value of £5,000,000 (five millions) in five years.

In regard to the present state of agriculture in Ireland the Registrar General has made the following return to the British Government, dated Sept. 12, 1867:—

The total acreage under all crops in 1867 was..... 5,468,945  
The total acreage under all crops in 1866 was (revised numbers)..... 5,620,568

Showing a decrease in the extent under crops in 1867 of 61,623

Compared with 1866 the area under wheat decreased by 37,282 acres, oats by 40,283 acres, bere and rye 415 acres, and beans and peas by 1,327 acres. Barley increased by 20,411 acres. In green crops the area under potatoes diminished by 48,808 acres, and cabbage 12,510 acres, Turnips increased by 18,513 acres.

From the same returns it appears that while there has been a decrease of 61,623 acres in the total area of land under crops in 1867, compared with 1866, grass has increased by 52,828 acres, fallow by 772 acres, bog and waste (unoccupied) by 13,176 acres. Woods and plantations show a decrease of 5,153 acres.

The returns of live stock for 1867, compared with 1866, show a decrease in the number of horses of 13,451; of cattle, 43,799; and of pigs, 263,381; and an increase in the number of sheep of 651,733. This increase in sheep is spread over every county in Ireland.

The total estimated value of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs this year was £35,035,224, being a decrease of £114,491, compared with 1866.

These statistics of diminished acreage under cultivation are a sign of capital withdrawn and demand for labour so much lessened; for land under cultivation yields four times the amount of employment as compared with that permanently in grass.

This will always take place where there is insecurity. Fenian troubles and chronic uneasiness and threatenings of revolution and confiscation, naturally make men chary of being at much expense with their land, and such has long been the condition of Ireland. It is very curious that in the north of the island, where the land is comparatively barren—comparatively we say—there is prosperity and general contentment, while in the fertile south there is nothing but decay, depression, distrust and disorder.

The man who will solve the Irish social problem successfully will be a world's benefactor. Meantime, it is very clear that windy liberators who bawl themselves hoarse with outcry about wrongs they do not understand, and trade on ignorance and poverty which they use for their own selfish purposes, are not the men to bring round this result.

## Agricultural Statistics for 1867.

The following has been issued from the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade:—

Agricultural returns for Great Britain in 1867—These returns have just been made up, and under corn crops of all kinds there were in England and Wales 7,947,678 acres, against 7,921,244 acres in 1866; and in Scotland 1,367,012, against 1,366,540 acres in 1866. The land under wheat is returned for England and Wales at 3,255,917 acres, against 3,276,293 acres in 1866; and for Scotland at 115,118 acres, against

110,191 acres in 1866. The number of cattle is returned for England and Wales as 4,017,790, against 3,843,435 in 1866; and for Scotland as 979,170, against 934,401 in 1866. Sheep are returned for England and Wales to the number 22,097,286, against 16,793,201 in 1866; and for Scotland to the number of 6,893,603, against 6,255,007 in 1866.

The large increase in the number of sheep returned in 1867, as compared with the previous year, is to be accounted for by the fact that the returns in 1866 were made, for the purpose of the cattle plague inquiry, at a date preceding the lambing season in some parts of Great Britain.—*Farmer (Scottish.)*

## Combing Wools.—American &amp; Canadian.

The New York *Economist*, a paper devoted to the protection of manufactures, has the following in its issue of the 10th ult:—

"Domestic combing sells at low prices; American manufacturers have found they can use combing wool if it is not raised in Canada, and that class of domestic wools which a year or two ago they thought they could not use at all, they now buy freely. The poorest kind they will take at about fifty cents per pound, and so up to fifty-five. Good Cotswold and Leicester is worth about sixty cents. There is little of this, however, in the market, and the best Canada will not bring over sixty-five cents. There is a sermon with a moral and a very big truth combined in that word sixty-five. During the time of the Reciprocity Treaty, when gold was no higher than now, Canada combing sold for ninety-five cents. Then there was no duty of ten cents and ten per cent ad valorem, making about eighteen cents per pound currency, and yet the wool is thirty cents less. The Canada farmers made money out of the reciprocity treaty. The American farmer now makes something out of his rough, coarse wool, and if he would only take a little more pains with his rough, coarse wool, by obtaining for his ewes a full blooded Cotswold or Leicester ram, he would soon have the American market to himself and a fair price for his wool. We do not think the American ought to despair about his wool crops."

There is a sermon with a moral in that word sixty-five cents, but it teaches the American farmers a different lesson from the one inculcated, to wit: that high duties give him better prices for his wool, and ultimately the market to himself. When the Canadian got ninety-five cents for his wool, American Merino was worth one dollar.

There is a meanness about American manufacturers that I can't comprehend. I sent to Boston last year seventy fleeces from the backs of sheep imported from Canada. I was told it was first rate, but I only got 65 cents when Canadian wool was seventy-five. I sent the fleeces of the same sheep this year, with a protection of eighteen cents per pound, and I am told there is no sale, and the best United States combing is fifty-two to fifty-five cents. For very common fleeces last year I got forty cents; now I have no offer, much less fifty cents.

Let me tell you a practical fact. I saw in your office last year, a strip of very long wool. I asked you what it was. You said it was Cashmere. We walked to it and found it to be Cotswold, with the name of the owner—a Canadian—beneath; it measured eighteen inches long. I sent to the owner, got from him a pair of his lambs, on which I paid a duty of twenty per cent. gold. I sent the fleeces of these two sheep, one weighing sixteen pounds and the other over eleven, with the rest of my wool to Boston, and called the attention of the commission merchants to them, without saying where I got them. I am curious to know if the Canada owner will not get a price in Boston above mine, which will equal the duty he has to pay.

If manufacturers suppose we can be gulled by such stuff as I have quoted, I hope they will find out their mistake. Canadians in Iowa tell me that they can raise wool from combing sheep in Iowa at least as cheap as they did in Canada. I believe them, and if that be so, restore the Reciprocity treaty. Let us import Canada sheep, duty free, and if our manufacturers will pay more for Canada wool than United States combing wool, we can ship ours by the Grand Trunk and sell it to them in Toronto as Canada combing.—*J. G., in Prairie Farmer.*

Over 40,000,000 gallons of sorghum syrup are annually manufactured in the United States.

Ireland is exporting large quantities of oats to France. This is a new turn to the commerce between the two countries.

It is said that "vegetable gas" has been invented which gives a brilliant light, has no offensive smell, and can be generated in any ordinary kitchen range.

THE MUD CROP OF PARIS.—Among the many economies of municipal administration in Paris is the sale of the yearly "mud crop." In 1823 this yielded only \$15,000. It now brings \$120,000, and when left for some time in rotting tanks is sold for manure, at the increased value of \$600,000.

FRAUDS IN SELLING WOOL IN CALIFORNIA.—The *San Francisco Bulletin*, Aug. 2nd, states that extensive frauds have been discovered in selling lots of wool purchased and weighed at Red Bluff, Marysville and other places. They were found to have lost from seven to thirteen per cent. on being again weighed at San Francisco, and careful investigation disclosed the fact that the growers or packers at the first named places sprinkled water on the fleeces before baling. The fraud is said to be difficult to detect without careful examination. It is to be hoped the perpetrators of it will be adequately punished, and their names should be published, to hold them up to public contempt.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—PRIZE ESSAYS.—The following premiums for essays and reports, which are to be sent in not later than the 1st March next, have been offered by the Royal Agricultural Society of England:—

1. Farming of Middlesex. 2. Improvement of grass lands. 3. Woods, mountains and wastes. 4. The domestic economy of the agricultural labourer. 5. Preservation of timber. 6. Arable and grass lands. 7. Retention of moisture in grass lands. 8. Succession of green crops. 9. Devon breed of cattle. 10. Leicester breed of sheep. 11. Any other agricultural subject. The amount of the prizes varies from ten to thirty guineas.

THE MASSACHUSETTS AG. COLLEGE.—This institution was opened for the reception of students the first week of October. A goodly number of young men applied for admission, so that, as far as numbers are concerned, the opening may be considered auspicious; and if the course of study and training accomplishes all that is expected by the friends of the institution, there is no danger but that the number of students will increase as fast as there is accommodation for them. According to a circular issued by President Clark, the daily routine at the college for this term is as follows:—At 6 A. M., bell for rising; at 7, breakfast; at 7.45 prayers; 8, recitation in chemistry; 9, recitation in geometry; 10, recitation in physiology; 11, exercises in gymnastics or military tactics, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and in agriculture on Wednesdays; 12.30 P. M., bell for dinner; 2, study or labor, till 5 P. M.; 6, supper. On Saturdays, exercises in reading and spelling at 8, exercises in English composition at 9, and at 10 an exercise in agriculture, and the remainder of the day, from 11 o'clock, is devoted to recreation. On Sundays, attendance at church will be required in the forenoon, and in the afternoon a Bible class. Every student is expected to labor six hours a week, without pay, for the purpose of learning the operations of the farm and garden; and any student will be permitted to labor for wages for twelve hours a week, provided it does not interfere with his studies, and will be furnished with work at vacation, at fair prices, when desired.—*Country Gentleman.*

FLOUR IMPORTED INTO NEW BRUNSWICK.—The following figures, compiled from reliable sources, make up a significant statement of the movements of the flour trade during the past three years. In 1865 there were imported into our Province.

	bbls.
From the United States.....	205,373
From Canada.....	28,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>233,373</b>

In 1866 the importations were—

	bbls.
From the United States.....	89,815
From Canada.....	144,399
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>234,214</b>

In 1867, for nine months ending September 30, the importations stood as follows:—

	bbls.
From Canada, via Portland.....	123,219
From Canada, via Boston, and New York	11,656
From Canada, via Shelburne.....	5,500
<b>Total from Canada.....</b>	<b>140,385</b>
<b>Total from United States.....</b>	<b>16,021</b>

Total for nine months.....161,426

Up to 1866 our flour imported came almost entirely from the States: in that year the course of trade changed, and the imports from Canada were considerably in excess of those from the States; and this year, or, at least, up to the end of September, the quantity of American flour imported represents but a tithe of the whole. We notice, however, that a number of merchants are again advertising American brands on hand and to arrive.—*N. B. Journal.*