

We copy the following from *The American Farmer*, published at Baltimore, which will give our readers some idea of the distress in the "Fa West." The Illinois fever raged very high throughout a portion of the inhabitants of this Province only a few years since, and some hundreds of families actually sold their property at a very great sacrifice, in order to obtain a portion of the "promised land."

We have heard from many of those persons since, and they invariably express that their "cup of sorrow" is full, and would anxiously return (if they could do so with credit), to the associations of their friends and relatives, and to all that was near and dear to them in their boyhood. We have no doubt as to the correctness of the statement below; as we have seen nearly the same corroborated in almost every American paper that we take. We consider, however, that the item of straw is comparatively worth nothing. At the most it is not worth more than \$1. per ton, which would leave the Illinois wheat-grower fifty per cent. out of pocket at the year's end.

"PRICE OF PRODUCE IN ILLINOIS.—We take the following extract from a letter to the editors of *The Washington Globe*, which was published in that paper a few days since. The picture which it draws of agricultural distress in Illinois is truly appalling, and should serve to reconcile the people of the old states to their condition, however hard and adverse that may now be; for of a truth, if they will study their own interests, and consult the comforts and conveniences of themselves and families, they will find that the day for bettering their conditions, by removal to the West, is for the present, at an end. And surely if they will reflect upon the facts developed in the extract below, they will agree with us, that the inducements to emigrate westward, are not such as to justify a man in breaking asunder the associations of friends, relatives, and home, to seek now once in a region where the products of an acre of ground, devoted to the most profitable culture, will bring at home but four dollars, and but six and two-fifths dollars after all the expense and trouble of wagoning it 140 miles. Well may the writer exclaim when making known these facts to the editors of the *Globe*—"you have no idea of the poverty of the farmers of Illinois!" for no one, who was not familiar with the true state of things in that region, could have anticipated any thing like the sad reality which the writer has disclosed. Let us look at this picture as it stands before our eyes, and endeavour to make something like a computation of the profit arising to the grower of the wheat.

"In the calculation of relative profit or loss, which we are about to make, we can only promise the desire to arrive at the truth, because, in the absence of positive data with regard to the expense of culture, harvesting, thrashing, cleaning, and conveying to market, we have to assume the cost of each particular item, and it is, therefore, impossible to arrive at any thing more than an approximation to these several expenses. In assuming them, however, we shall endeavour to be considerably under what they would be with us. We will presume, in the first place, that an acre of land after being cleaned and improved, is, together with its first cost, worth \$10; that the ploughing it cost \$1—this is one hundred per cent. less than we have paid for the same service, having repeatedly paid \$2—seed wheat, say 1½ bushels at 40 cents, 60 cents; seeding, ploughing in and harrowing, \$1; harrowing, \$1; thrashing and cleaning 16 bushels, the product of the Illinois acre, at 10 cents per bushel, \$1.60 cents; proportioned part of the expense of transporting 20 bushels to market, requiring one man, two horses, and a wagon two weeks, which at \$16 per month, would be \$6.40 cents. These charges we are sure are low. Against them we have 15 bushels of wheat and probably one ton of straw. The price of the wheat we will set down at what it sold for in Chicago, as per statement, and allow \$5 for the

ton of straw, a price much greater, we should think, than can be obtained for it where grown, if we are to judge of its value by that of the grain.

"With such an exhibit before him, we think the man who may have been born in the old states, who can live at all where he is, should pause before he breaks up those ties to which we have before alluded, to go in search of the land of 'milk and honey,' which may, after all, prove as delusive to him as it has proved to thousands of others, who have gone before him, buoyant of hopes, and realized for their golden anticipations of riches, a bountiful crop of disappointment. How much better would it be for us all, to become reconciled with our altered circumstances, return thanks to God that things are not worse, resolutely resolve to stem the adverse current until it shall have spent its anger, and by a strict observance of economy, arm ourselves to meet the exigency of the times—we say how much better would it be for us to act thus, than to turn our backs upon the haunts and associations of our youth—to quit the comforts and enjoyments of present homes, to find discomfort, privations, vexations, and disappointment in a distant and far-off land.

"This is the paragraph upon which we have been commenting, and we ask you to read it attentively:—

"RIDGE-FARM, Vermillion Co.,
Illinois, Nov'r. 14th, 1842. }

"Our most profitable business is raising wheat, which we carry in waggon one hundred and forty miles to Chicago, and there sell it for forty cents per bushel. A good two-horse team will draw twenty bushels and feed for the journey, and thus we go to market; camp out, and cook our own food. A load will bring eight dollars; we make a trip in two weeks. 'Truly you have a hard row to hoe,' you will say; 'why don't you sell your wheat nearer home?' Allow me to tell you, that you could not cash a bushel of wheat in Vermillion county for twenty-five cents; so that, to raise two dollars, it would require eight bushels of wheat—the product of half an acre, and a week's labour; or, to raise that sum from pork, you must sell two hundred pounds."

PAGE'S PORTABLE SAW MILL.

We mentioned, in our last, that we had written to Mr. PAGE, through the editor of *The American Farmer*, Baltimore, for further information on this important and invaluable labour-saving machine, and have since been favoured with a letter from the editor of the *American Farmer*, accompanied with a pamphlet containing a full specification of the Portable Saw and Grist Mills, besides a variety of other machines mentioned of decided merit, which might be brought into advantageous use in this Province. His Morticing and Tenoning Machines would, no doubt, be found an acquisition to Carpenters.

As we mentioned in our last, we have offered our services to Mr. Page as an Agent, to sell his machines to parties who may feel disposed to purchase in this Province; and lose no time in giving them all the information in our power. We feel satisfied that they are no humbug, as they have been favourably mentioned in almost every paper we receive from the South. We give the following extracts from two respectable journals to show the correctness of our statement:—

"Page's Portable Saw Mill is certainly one of the greatest achievements in mechanics of which the present age can boast. Besides the rapidity and exactness with which it does its work, its truly portable size, increases its value greatly, as it can be removed with ease by a common team, and made to follow the supply of timber, thus saving all the trouble and expense of transportation."—*American Farmer*.

"Page's Portable Steam Saw Mill—the first of the kind we ever saw—attracted much attention. It seemed to perform its functions quite intelligently—certainly with more regularity and exactness than some creatures of volition than we have seen. By the watch, we thought it was giving about five feet of plank per minute, from very solid timber—perhaps more, perhaps less. It certainly must be a very valuable machine in sections where water facilities are scarce."—*Democratic Record*.

The following extracts are from Mr. Page's Pamphlet:—

"PAGE'S PORTABLE SAW MILL.—To this hitherto powerful machine, I have recently made additions of such intrinsic value as to entitle them to be emphatically called improvements. They consist of machinery for the cross-cutting and splitting of cord and other wood, which they will do with a rapidity as astonishing as beneficial. This Saw Mill is intended to be propelled by horse power. I state this explicitly, because it has been often confounded, in the public mind, with my Portable Steam Saw Mill.

The cost of one of these Portable Saw Mills, to be worked by horse power, for sawing lumber 12 feet long, including a 4 feet saw and largest sized horse power, is \$500. For all lengths over 12 feet, which it may be desirable to cut the lumber, \$2½ per foot extra will be charged.—Band \$10.

Extra Carriage for cutting cord wood, \$50.
Prices of extra Saws, according to their respective diameters, viz.: 3 feet Saw, \$23; 33 inch do. \$27; 40 inch do. \$33; 42 inch do. \$40; 44 inch do. \$48; 46 inch do. \$57; 48 inch do. \$67; 12 inch do. \$2.85; 16 inch do. \$4.40; 20 inch do. \$6.40; 24 inch do. \$8.60; 28 inch do. \$12; 32 inch do. \$16.50.

All extra head blocks, \$10 a piece, or \$20 per pair.

Long Rollers for scantling, \$7 per pair.
Upright Guide Roller, for long plank, \$17.55.
Wagon body to put horse power on, (which either for transportation or being worked on, renders it more permanent and less difficult to adjust), \$10.

This Saw Mill is, what its name imports it to be, a portable machine, in every sense of the term, as it can be removed, in a common wagon, drawn by 3, 4, or 6 horses, oxen, or mules, from one part of the woods to the other, or wherever else its services may be required, and put in operation again without delay or difficulty, thereby saving the heavy, tedious, and difficult operation of transporting large logs. It is, owing to the strength of its construction, not easy to get out of order, and its great simplicity places it repair within the ability of any country carpenter, or smith of ordinary capacity. To say that such a machine would prove an invaluable acquisition to any gentleman owning timber lands convenient to market, is not to claim for it more than it deserves. With a view of giving to the reader an idea of its intrinsic value, the inventor will state a few facts connected with its successful operations, and he may here observe, that it has succeeded wherever it has been tried. Though this machine is intended to be worked by horse power, it is equally applicable to any other motive power; whether of steam or water, as the following facts and certificates will show.

With a four horse power, it has cut from 1,000 to 1,500 feet of plank a day; with a six horse power, it has cut daily from 1,800 to 2,000 feet in the same time. Six horses have raved of yellow pine boards, 2,800 feet in one day, and have sawed, by pushing, 1,200 feet in one hour, as will be seen by the certificates of the men who have tended the mill. John S. Selby, Esqr., of Anne Arundel County, Md., where one has been set up, propelled by steam, equal to the power of ten horses, connected with which there is one of my Patent Grist Mills, with a consumption of only ¼ of a cord of wood, cut in one day 10,000 feet of lumber, and ground 75 bushels of meal. I have sold within the present year 45 of these machines, and it gives me pleasure to know, that their performances have more than justified every anticipation I had formed of their intrinsic value. To show their durability, I will state a single fact connected with one of those I have sold—it speaks volumes in its favour. I have learned from the purchaser, that from May to October,