

Whether the world is actually richer this day for the modern gold-diggings—in other words, whether the gold actually obtained since 1849 is worth more to it than clearings, grain, cattle, iron, steel, cloth, pork, &c., which the labor devoted to mining would have produced in the absence of gold hunting, is a grave question. We do not doubt that this country would have been richer and more truly prosperous this day if the time and labor, outlay and capacity, devoted to California, had been expended in opening mines of iron, coal, copper, zinc, lead, &c., on this side of the Rio Grande, in wresting farms from the wilderness, and in covering them with stock and growing crops. But, since it is plain that, in the absence of an effective tariff, the labor and capital attracted to California would not all have been devoted to such pursuits in the States, but would, in good part, have stood unemployed or been expended to little purpose, we think the influence of California has, on the whole, been beneficial. Yet no one needs to be told that the seventy millions of gold annually received from California are worth no more to us, nor even to our currency, than would be seventy millions' worth of the coal, iron, steel, cloth, silks, &c., which we now import.

But will prices of food rise still higher? We think not in the average, though the prices of some products may. Breadstuffs especially have been carried up by an unfavorable season and a consequent short crop in Europe, which are not likely to be repeated this year. The war will abstract many hands from production and devote them to destruction; still, the deficiency of food on the Continent will probably be less than it has been. At present, France and Great Britain are drawing heavily upon us for specie, as they would not be if they were deficient in breadstuffs. We see that grain and flour sent here from Canada in bond for exportation to Europe, have been released by the payment of duties, so as to be thrown upon our market. In fact the prices of bread and meat are scarcely higher in Old than in New England, while vegetables in the average rule lower. We doubt that there is a city in Europe where potatoes are so high as in New York.—The backward spring contributes to make all descriptions of green vegetables much dearer than usual.

We think breadstuffs and beef will be cheaper soon, but not so much cheaper as our city population naturally wish them. Farming is shunned by the great majority of our more intelligent and enterprising native citizens; trade, manufactures, invention, shipping, mining, law, physic and gambling (witness the 'Gift' humbugs of all shapes and sizes) are more attractive; and, while this shall continue, we must eat dear bread and be glad to get it at any price. Agriculture, guided by science, and pursued with a noble ambition, is the only effectual remedy for the prevailing dearth; and this, like most effective remedies, is slow in its operation. Let us patiently do the best we can.

There is more fatigue in laziness than in labour.

IMPORTATION OF PURE BRED STOCK.

We are glad to perceive evidence of increasing enterprise among a number of Canadian farmers, more particularly in reference to that most important department of rural economy,—the improvement of live stock.

A short time since, Mr. Dickinson, of Port Hope, imported from England a Durham bull, two Yorkshire pigs, and forty Leicester sheep, all of which are described as being excellent specimens. The charges for freight from Liverpool to Portland, by the steamer *Sarah Sands*, are said to have been, for the bull, £20; pigs, £9 the pair; and £4 10s. sterling for each sheep.

Mr. Ralph Wade, Jr., near Cobourg, had some excellent sheep by the same vessel, and his celebrated young Durham bull, "Sir Charles Napier," sired by the world-renowned bull, "Belleville," the property of John Mason, Esq., of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Wade seems determined that neither trouble nor expense shall deter him from procuring the finest specimens of stock, which England can supply. The reader will find more particulars of Sir Charles in an advertisement at the end of the present number.

We have heard of several other instances of recent importations in different parts of the Province, but not having been made acquainted with the particulars, we are unable to do more than make this general allusion. Mr. George Miller, of Markham, has again imported some very fine Leicester sheep; and we hear that Mr. E. W. Thomson, the President of the Board of Agriculture, has just procured a very fine Durham bull, from the United States.

The farmers of Northumberland and Durham seem determined not to be outdone in this particular department of agricultural improvement, as we have just learnt that Mr. George Roddick, of the township of Hamilton, has recently arrived from Scotland, with three very fine Galloway cattle (a bull and two heifers), a Short Horn bull calf and heifer, with some Cheviot and improved Leicester sheep.

We are pleased to see the importation of new breeds that have not yet been tested as to their adaptation to the climate and pasturage of this country. It is to be hoped that the Provincial Association, and Agricultural Societies, and enterprising individuals generally, will extend a liberal degree of patronage to whatever promises to improve and diffuse the live stock of the country. Times are now vastly different with farmers