

veniently placed, extensive, and well-arranged. Such farms, I think, let to intelligent tenants—the landlord providing for them draining pipes, and subsequently lime, and exacting under occasional supervision, a proper system of drainage and cultivation, but at the same time an easy rent at the outset, augmentable to a certain extent in a specified ratio yearly, as the condition of the farm and its tenant improved—could hardly fail to return a much higher rate of interest than is compatible with anything like good security in England; to say nothing of the prospect of more or less increase to the saleable value of the land, as the resources and riches of the country are opened up and increased by the construction of railways. Thus, land in the neighbourhood of Gottenburg has increased cent. per cent. in the last ten years; and in the event of the expected union of Denmark with Sweden and Norway, when Gottenburg from its central position and advantageous sea-board, would probably become the seat of government and the converging point of numerous railways, must continue to advance in value.

The climate of central Sweden is delightful, the atmosphere being, in the opinion of old Australians, more clear, buoyant, and invigorating than that of their own settlement; and the scenery, without attaining to the wild grandeur of Switzerland or even our own Lake districts, is generally picturesque. The winters, though severer, are drier than ours; the weather in summer steadier and warmer; wet hay-times and harvests are of rare occurrence: and vegetation is so rapid that corn is sometimes sown and reaped in six or seven weeks. Nowhere on the face of the earth will an Englishman meet with more hospitable welcome and hearty kindness than in Sweden and Norway. I say an Englishman: for between the people of Britain and of Scandinavia there seems to be a mutual sympathy and bond of alliance, arising probably from the affinity, and, in great measure, common origin, of race, manners, customs, and institutions. In Scandinavia, alone, perhaps of all the nations of Europe, is England regarded with feelings where envy and dislike have no place; and to that quarter alone must her statesmen look, should ever be deemed desirable to for a powerful and enduring Northern League.

I have spoken of the steadiness and warmth of the climate in Sweden; yet with these advantages they adopt measures for the speedy drying of the crops, which might be copied with benefit in the rainy districts of these islands, especially where access can be had to the thinness of fir plantations. The most simple mode of drying grain is by rearing a number of light poles, about 9 feet high, in holes made for their reception by an iron crowbar. A pair of sheaves are placed upright against the pole to support the other sheaves, which are then linked two and two together and threaded upon the pole at the junction of the bands, so as to rest in a hori-

zontal position one on each side of the poll. The rest are similarly placed till the top is reached, where one sheaf is then impaled through its centre. In the districts bordering on the Baltic extensive frame-works are used. A number of fir poles, about 20 feet high and 4 yards apart, are erected in a row, usually running north and south. At each side of these poles, namely, east and west of them, and 2 feet apart from them, is erected a lighter pole, 1 foot shorter. Across each of these three poles are then nailed or pegged nine cross-bars, 2 feet apart, and two sloping pieces are placed at the top to support a roof, falling two or three feet each way. From each of these nine cross-bars to the opposite cross-bar are then laid four loose poles, generally of split fur, thus making between each pair of uprights a series of nine shelves, 4 yards long and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, on which the fresh cut vetches, clover, or timothy, or in wet seasons, grain, are placed and closely packed, and there remain till dry, proof against any damage from rains. It is of course necessary to prop against every other upright a sloping poll as a buttress: and this on both sides, unless when two parallel ranges are constructed a few yards apart, in which case it is sufficient to spur them on the outside, steadying them on the inside by a few poles stretched from roof to roof, and fixed at the ends as tie-rods.

A simpler and less expensive plan is in use in the western districts. Several couples of fir poles, about 8 yards long, are raised, at intervals of three or four yards, against each other, after the manner of a steep house-roof; the upper ends, which are pegged, cross or overlap each other sufficiently to afford a rest for the horizontal ridge-pole, which combines the couples. On the outside of these couples are inserted, at right angles to the slope of the pole, and 2 feet apart, wooden pins, about 8 inches long, to afford support for a series of loose horizontal bars, which are then laid from one to the other, thus completing the frame or rack. The laying on of the crop (which, whether of grass, clover, or grain, and however laid and twisted, is all cut with a short light scythe, which the mower wields in an upright position, cutting close to his feet) is then commenced by hanging the swathe over the lowest bar (which is two feet from the ground), till it reaches the next bar. The workman then stands upon the first layer whilst he fills the space between the next two bars, and so on till the ridge is reached, where a little straw or thatch is usually laid to turn the water. When grain is dried in this way the heads are put through the bars, the butt-ends being outside and inclining downwards; the whole resembling a thatched roof.

I fear that I have already trespassed too far upon your space, and remain, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. CARR.

Stackhouse, 18th Sept. 1862.