

prefer to use home-grown barley, which is plump and fat, as they express it, and malts well. For it is beyond doubt that barley grown on suitable soil in Ireland, well dressed, and planted in due time, moistened with occasional showers during its growth, and harvested in dry weather, cannot be surpassed in productiveness and quality.

With the object of improving the quality of the Irish barley and insuring a good supply, the brewers and distillers, a few years ago, subscribed ten or fifteen thousand pounds, with which they purchased at a high price seed barley of the best quality, and sold it again at the ordinary price to barley growers all over the country. Some of the seed merchants still give prizes to encourage the cultivation of barley, and import the best seed they can get in England and Scotland, which is freely purchased by the farmers at a higher price than the home-grown. Last spring, Walter Carson & Son, of Bachelor's Walk, Dublin, sold the awnless golden melon, grown in Berwickshire, at from 23s. to 26s. per barrel, and the popular variety of chevalier barley grown in East Lothian, at 20s. to 25s per barrel.

Dublin has the largest barley market in Ireland, or perhaps, in the United Kingdom, and the chief part of the barley which enters its port, comes from Great Britain, the Isle of Man, Germany, Sweden, Norway and the Danubian Provinces, and I hope before long, that Canada will be included in the list. Some time ago, I had samples of Manitoba barley, and No. 1 Toronto, from the High Commissioner, and the brewers and distillers to whom I submitted these samples, stated that they weighed well, 53 to 56 lbs. per bushel, and although not as plump a berry as home grown, it is sound and well coloured, but it is badly dressed. Mr. Lee, the chief maltster at Guinness brewery, stated that it grows well, about 96 per cent., but he thinks it would malt gritty; however, he stated that some years ago he used Canadian and American barley which made excellent malt. And the eminent distillers, Sir John Power & Son, writes as follow:—

“We have carefully examined the two samples of Canadian barley you submitted to us, and we consider the sample from Manitoba to be slightly the best.

“Our maltster has seen these barleys malted, and says that they only require seven days on the floor by getting between sixty and seventy hours water, compared to British grown barley, which requires from ten to twelve days on the floor and only fifty to sixty hours water.

“He also states they make good malt. It grinds well, little or no husk.

“We consider the Toronto No. 1 thinner skinned, but the Manitoba is better color, the Toronto being a little green. We wish to mention that for our own place we seldom or ever buy these foreign barleys, as we much prefer that grown at home; but if these barleys could be sold for say 3s. to 4s. cheaper than the best home-grown, we have no doubt but that a trade could be done.

“JOHN POWER & SON.

I consulted, also, two of the largest importers of barley in this city, Mr. O'Farrell and Mr. Fitzgerald, and they are of opinion that Canadian barley could be sold in the Dublin market, but not at so high a price as home-grown.

The following is the average price for agricultural produce and live stock for the whole of Ireland, collected by the Land Commission during the quarter ending 30th September last:—Wheat is sold in Dublin by the barrel of 280 lbs.; oats by the barrel of 196 lbs., and barley by the barrel of 224 lbs. But the Land Commissioners' averages of prices for grain are per cwt. of 112 lbs.: wheat, 6s. 2½d. per cwt.; oats, 6s. 2d. per cwt.; barley, 6s. 9½d. per cwt.; butter, £4 8s. 11½d. per cwt.; beef, 57s. 2d. per cwt.; mutton, 69s. 7½d. per cwt.; pork, 45s. 1½d. per cwt.; potatoes, 3s. 0½d. per cwt.; hay, 1s. 7½d. per cwt.

The Irish agricultural statistics for the year 1888 give the returns of live stock as follows:—Horses and mules, 595,345; asses, 203,257; cattle, 4,099,241; sheep, 3,626,780; pigs, 1,397,800; goats, 293,920; poultry, 14,437,257. The figures show, compared with 1887, an increase of 8,111 in the number of horses and mules, an