

much encouraged by the treatment their property receives or by the interest they get for their capital invested. Land is held in the old country not because it is a good investment for money, but as a matter of pride, and on account of the social position ownership of an estate confers; in return for these advantages the landlord is content with a return of about 2 per cent. for his money; here all is different, land is plentiful, and the possession of large landed property does not add to a man's importance, and there are so many better investments for money that people will not put capital into farms to be let to tenants.

As private enterprise cannot meet the want, it would be well if some scheme for Government advances at a low rate of interest for the improvement of landed property could be devised; but it is difficult to carry out any plan which will ensure the capital being laid out advantageously, and im provident outlay of these advances would end in ruin to the proprietor, and force the Government to foreclose and sell off the property, or to abandon its claims in occasional instances under strong political pressure.

But the point of my last letter and quotation was, and in this I am happy to see Mr. Thomas agrees with me, that a country could be a good farming country without being essentially a wheat-growing country; to this end I quoted from Mr. Jeffries, himself a farmer. "Corn could be imported, meat could not (at least not in appreciable quantities or quality) and the immediate result, as soon as this was felt, was a rise in the prosperity and importance of the farmer. . . . Gradually in fact England is becoming a meat producing country as opposed to cereal crops, and the land is turned into vast fattening stalls for the city market." And yet no one will deny that England still is a splendid farming country, and if the above view is correct in England, it is also correct in Nova Scotia with many differences in favour of the Nova Scotian as compared with the English farmer; for in spite of all that can be said about the desirability of renting rather than owning land, I hold that if the fee simple of land here can be obtained at the cost of a year's rent there there will not be much more absorption of capital, but there will be much more inducement to improve, and high farming and investment of capital will follow in due course.

Obediently yours,

J. WINBURN LAURIE.

Oakfield, March 21st, 1874.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture:

TRURO, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1874.

SIR,—The subject of Manure should ever be one of deep interest to the Nova Scotian farmer, and its great importance

cannot be over-estimated by him. It has been referred to by the celebrated Lord Erskine in language the most sublime, alike creditable to the genius of the Cicero of the English bar, and worthy of the subject of which he spoke. And who cannot appreciate the eloquence of the great orator, even on a topic considered homely by many, but which, when thoroughly understood, will make our homes more attractive?

"If we consider the subject of manure we shall perceive one of the most striking beauties and benefits of divine ordination, and of that wisdom with which we are blessed a thousand ways without knowing it. This very substance, had it been useless, must have accumulated in heaps, intolerably noisome and perpetually pestilential; but, by the blessing of Providence, it is every man's interest to remove these otherwise increasing mountains of filth, and by decomposition, in various ways, in a great measure concealed from us, it gives increase to our fields, and adds to our means of industry, and the reward of the husbandman."

But while a general treatment of the subject may occupy too much space in the "Journal," and, perhaps, had better be left to farmers to discuss in their Clubs, I would, before dropping it, like to say a word in favour of keeping manure under cover, and believe that I cannot do so in language more likely to convince the incredulous, than by citing an extract from a letter of Lord Kinnaird to *The Scotsman*, which gives some statistics that appear to my mind strikingly irresistible, and if not so regarded by the readers of the "Journal," I am afraid figures have lost their value:

"I was rather surprised, in reading in the *North British Agriculturist* the report of the meeting of the Haddington Farmer's Club, that there was a discussion on covered courts, and that doubts were expressed on the subject, by some of those present, with regard to the general advantages of such a system. I have no hesitation in recommending, as the result of a large practical experience, the adoption of covered courts in every point of view, whether for feeding in winter or soiling cattle in summer. They are by far the cheapest form of construction of farm buildings. I can speak from an experience of twenty years, as to the health of the animals, economy of feeding, and, above all, the value of the manure. I give the particulars of a very careful experiment on a field of twenty acres equally divided, a rich loam lying on the trap. Two acres out of each ten, having been carefully measured, gave the following results:

Potatoes grown with uncovered dung.

First measurement of 1 acre produced 7 tons, 6 cwt., 18 lbs.
Second measurement of 1 acre produced 7 tons, 18 cwt., 99 lbs.

Potatoes grown with covered dung.

First measurement of 1 acre produced 11 tons, 17 cwt., 56 lbs.
Second measurement of 1 acre produced 12 tons, 12 cwt., 26 lbs.

"The next year the weather was wet, ground soft, and not in very good order; but the following was the amount of produce:

Wheat grown with uncovered dung.

Produce in Grain.	Weight per Bush.	Produce in Straw.
First acre, 41 bush., 10 lbs. stones of 22 lbs.	61½ lbs.	152
Second acre, 42 bush., 38 lbs. stones of 22 lbs.	61½ lbs.	160

Wheat grown with covered dung.

Produce in Grain.	Weight per Bush.	Produce in Straw.
First acre, 55 bush., 5 lbs. stones of 22 lbs.	61 lbs.	220
Second acre 53 bush., 47 lbs. stones of 22 lbs.	61 lbs.	210

"With these results, and the appearance of the manure when carted to the field, I have never doubted the great value of covered courts, so far as manure is concerned, and long experience has proved them of great advantage to the health of the animal, whether in being fed for the butcher or reared for the grazer, coupled with great economy of food and labor."

Yours, &c.,

I. L.

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

PROVINCE BUILDING, Halifax,
18th March, 1874, 10 a.m.

Present: Hon. R. A. McHessey; G. S. Brown, Esq., Yarmouth; I. Longworth, Esq., Truro; John Ross, Esq., M. P. P.; John Dakin, Esq., Digby; Colonel Laurie; Professor Lawson.

Professor Lawson read a letter from the Hon. W. B. Vail, Provincial Secretary, requesting that the Board should be called together on 18th March, in accordance with Minute of Council to that effect.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Dakin, and resolved unanimously, that the Hon. R. A. McHessey, be elected President of the Board.

The Hon. Mr. McHessey, President of the Board, took the chair.

Moved by Mr. Dakin, seconded by Mr. Brown, and resolved unanimously, that Colonel Laurie be elected Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. Longworth, seconded by Mr. Ross, and passed unanimously, that Professor Lawson be elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Board. On motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Colonel Laurie, the salary of the Secretary and Treasurer was fixed at \$600, with \$25 for stationery.

Minutes of the last half-yearly meeting were read, and on motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Dakin, were confirmed,