THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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E LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN TE DOMINION

WILLEAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED). ON, ONT., and WINNIPRO, MAN.

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ALL REAL PROPERTY. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or

THE WILLIAM WELD CO.

LONDON, ONTABIO, CANADA.

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winter shows, where, free from the distractions the autumn fairs, they may find examples of as weful and correct judging as can be found any-bare in the world.

Mr. Macpherson's Letter.

We publish for the study of farmers, agricultural students, and investigators, the letter from Mr. D. M. Macpherson, M. P. P., of Glengarry County, . He courts scrutiny, and what s deserves careful consideration. To have a crop value of over \$5,400 last season on a e farm, which a few years ago was unprofitand steadily growing poorer, but which is now teadily increasing in fertility, is a result calcu-d to make some people rub their eyes. We hably need an agricultural "awakening" just and the account Mr. Macpherson gives, at quest, of his experience and his recommendas of that sort. He has the courage of his ons, too, and why not in the light of what succeeded in doing? What he suggests is e hee su hat the Government, or Governments jointly, hould in a small, preliminary way test his plan, and if found workable then extend the system. As ve understand it, this means the stocking and ant, which, for a farm of 125 to 150 acres, uid involve an outlay of from \$2,000 to \$4,000, ogether with its oversight till properly running. The Government would not purchase the farm, ut, we presume, furnish the funds in the shape of a loan, and assume the direction. As to the merits of this scheme we will not enlarge now, nor consider its feasibility in general application. Meanwhile every man who owns or works a farm must be ind in any plan whereby it can be made a payng concern, and Mr. Macpherson intimates that he has done this by a combination of business principles and the best farm practice. There is prob-ably not a township in Canada but where a certain number of men can be found whose success as farmers stands out distinctively in spite of adverse conditions, and the mission of the FARMER'S ADVO-CATE is to spread knowledge of how this has been accomplished, and in this view of the case it affords us satisfaction to be able to bring this subject Fe prominently before the attention of our readers.

Death of Mr. James Rowand, ex-M. P. A large circle of our readers will regret with us the death of Mr. James Rowand, ex-M. P. for West Bruce, Ont., which took place on the 24th January. Mr. Rowand had been failing in health for about two years. He was a man of sterling character, upright, honorable, and of kindly manner. He was highly respected in his own county and wher-ever he was known. Mr. Rowand represented West Bruce in the Dominion Parliament for two terms, and was for many years a useful member of the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Associ-ation of Ontario, where his wise counsel and good judgment was acknowledged and appreciated. He was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, a progressive farmer, and an excellent citizen. Death of Mr. James Rowand, ex-M. P.

How Can the Ordinary Farm be Made to Pay?

THE VITAL QUESTION - EXPERIENCE OF D. M. MAC-PHERSON, M. P. P. - RESULTS PUT DOWN IN BLACK AND WHITE - SOME

PHERSON, M. P. P. - RESULTS PUT DOWN IN BLACK AND WHITE - SOME RADICAL SUGGESTIONS. To the Editor Farmer's ADVOCATE: SIR, --I shall strive to give you a few details of the results of work done on my farm seven years ago, and last year, and how it is done. The nature and kind of soil is light and sandy on the south end, tending to loam, sand and clay towards the north ; had been cropped with grain, hay, and pas-ture from fifty to sixty years. It would, seven years ago, pasture twenty head of milk cows, grow 800 to 1,000 bushels of grain and about forty to fifty tons of hay; the crop value produced would be about \$1,000, and the cash sales annually would be about \$500 to \$600. This would be from 125 acres of cleared arable land. The crop products and value in 1896 were as follows: Milk cows pas-tured, 75; milk produced, from May 1st to October 31st, 236,921 pounds; pork produced (200 pigs fed and pastured on six acres), 24,000 pounds; veal calves sold, 60; cured hay (from 39 acres), 115 tons; corn ensilage (26 acres), 750 tons; grain (oats and barley, 13 acres), 650 bushels (straw, 18 tons). Crop value estimated as follows: Macres pasture for milk cows - 236,921 lbs. netted at factory.

40 acres pasture for milk cows - 236,921 lbs. netted at
 factory
 \$1,506
 25

 6 acres pasture for pork-24,000 lbs, netted \$4.10
 984
 00

 Veal calves sold
 150
 00

Total cash product sold from May 1 to Oct. 1.,\$3,640 25 bis \$600 paid for heavy feed for pork and milk produc-tion during summer.

acres hay produced 115 tons, at \$8.00	8 920	00
 ensilage corn produced 750 tons, at \$3.00 grain (oats and barley), 650 bushels 	2.250	00
18 tons straw, at \$3.00.	162 54	
scres.		

Total crop value produced, summer season of 1896.. \$5,426 25 Total crop value produced, summer season of 1896...\$5,426 25 The above winter feed is all consumed on the farm, and is given to 138 head of cattle, 6 horses, and 170 pigs. No coarse feed, such as hay, straw, etc., is required to be purchased; only some straw for bedding. Of the 138 head of cattle fed, 70 are milk cows and 68 are fattening cattle (steers, bulls, and a few old dry cows). The purchased feeds at the present time are bran, shorts, peas, and germ meal. The fat cattle are sold off at the opening of navigation (10th to 15th May). The milk cows he milk cow havigation (noth to foth May). The milk cows usually begin to calve in March, and continue into May. I have twenty brood sows, which have lit-ters in March and September. The brood sows are half large Yorkshire and Berkshire crossed with thoroughbred Berkshire. The pork sold is bacon— at five and six months old made to weigh 150 to 175 pounds As to the probable results which I expect to obtain from the \$3,386 worth of winter feed stored in my barn, the low cost of purchased feeding steers and the very low cost of purchased feed, and the prospective good price for finished cattle, make the estimate this year a very favorable one and would be far above the average. My steers and would be far above the average. My steers cost in Toronto market, laid down at my farm, \$23.00 per head, averaging 925 lbs. each; feeding county bulls, \$15,00 per head, averaging 1,150 lbs. The feed cost: Bran and shorts, \$10.00 per ton; gluten germ meal, \$11.00 per ton; pea meal, \$16.00 per ton; all delivered at the stable. The following is an estimate statement:

You will please note that quite a large amount of the winter feed goes to supply food to unpro-ductive cattle and working horses. (I will also probably have 20 to 25 tons hay left over, worth \$150.) These cattle are dry cows, which it is necessary to have them rest one to two months each year, and all the working horses. These animals are fed a maintenance ration, and the cost of producing this food goes to the general expense account, which is manual labor, wear and tear, etc.; but the fertilizer account in giving this food to such animals is not affected thereby, only what is unavoidably lost in the turnover.

the turnover.

The time terms of the set of the terms of the articles bought and sold, taking nitrogen at 15 cents per pound, potash 4 cents, and phosphoric acid 5 cents : these figures of cost and value are present commerical values recognized as standard present market cost. I have purposely made out the fertilizer account in a debit and credit form to clearly show how important it is for all farmers to take steps to know how the results of the year's work effects such an (*important*) account whether the farm that he is working is yearly increasing or decreasing in fertility, and to what extent in each case. It seems to me that it should be quite clear to all farmers that if they annually sell one, two or three hundred dollars' worth of fertility in the product that they sell for cash, in such as hay, straw, grain, milk, beef, pork, mutton or fruit, and if this amount, more or less, is not purchased in some other cheap form, in combination or otherwise, and if this condition continues, then the farm sooner or later must become, in an agricultural sense harren for when land will not produce on

wise, and if this condition continues, then the farm sooner or later must become, in an agricultural sense, barren, for when land will not produce on the averave sufficient crop value to pay for cost of tillage, seed, and harvest, then it is practically barren, but not scientifically so; for instance, if an acre of land cost ten dollars for tillage, seed, and harvesting, and only gives a crop value of eight, then that acre of land was a loss to its owner, and hence worse than barren. It is a regretted fact that the most of farm land in Canada and else-where, if measured by this "business" scandard, would be practically "barren." Rotation of crops is an 8-year course, as follows: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 corn corn grain hay hay pasture pasture pasture

The ground is manured twice in the course — at or before the first crop of corn and after the first crop of hay (top dressing); about fifteen to twenty tops on corn land and fifteen tons as top dressing on meadow. The ideal subdivision of 120 acres of land in this eight-year course rotation would be 30 acres corn, 15 acres grain, 30 acres of hay, and 45 acres pasture. The size and position of fields as usually laid out on farms prevent the exact ideal rotation from being carried out in practice. *Outlay.*—The entire manual labor employed during the year is about fifteen hundred dollars; wear and tear and repair, about five hundred. The usual amount of purchased heavy foods annually is now fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars, but is yearly being reduced as the fertility of the land is in-The ground is manured twice in the course - at

now fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars, but is yearly being reduced as the fertility of the land is in-creased. The minimum of purchased food expected to be reached annually is one thousand to twelve hundred dollars' worth. The average annual fer-tility sold off the farm in salable products — milk, beef, and pork — and unavoidable loss would be about five hundred dollars, and the amount of fertility yearly added would be about one thousand dollars, which comes from the result of feeding purchased heavy foods, such as bran, shorts, peas, and the oil meals. The farm did not pay a cash dividend the first five years; all profits and some additional capital went into fertility account to enrich the land. A gradually increased cash dividend from year to year can now be withcash dividend from year to year can now be with-drawn, besides adding some to the stock of fertility. *Returns Then and Now.*—I might state that the manual days labor employed on this farm on the manual days infor employed on this farm on the average eight years ago would be about eight hun-dred days, with five working horses. The present yearly manual days work employed is about six-teen hundred (about double that of the average Ontario farm), with five working horses. Then eight hundred days' work of men with five horses gave six hundred dollars cash, and the farm reduced in fertility by sale of hay, grain, and milk about sixty dollars. Now-sixteen hundred days' work, with five horses—a net cash sale annually after deducting purchased feed is made of over four thousand dol-lars, and selling farm fertility of \$300, with \$100 to \$200 worth unavoidably lost, but return-ing twelve to fourteen hundred dollars. Then a day's work produced about seventy-five cents average, with seven and a half cents per day loss to the farm capital. Now a day's work produces over two dollars per day, with seventy-five cents per day added to fertility or capital value of the farm. The Maximum Crop Value, with ordinary market prices that is expected to be attained, is \$40 per acre on the average of the whole farm, and the maximum cash sales from such maximum crop value is about \$30, or about 70 cents on the dollar; *i. e.*, where animal food products are raised to produce selling products, such as milk, beef, and pork. I have above briefly given you the results of my farm work, past and present, in as true and precise detail as I possibly can. Perhaps some doubts may be entertained as to the accuracy of some of the facts stated. If such be the case, I have no alternative but to invite such parties to visit the farm and see for themselves, and draw their own conclusions as to correctness of statements herein mentioned,

CASH RESULT. Feeding cattle for beef cost. Purchased feed (to make balanced ration) winter.			D1 \$ 1,500 1,200	00
Beef product (carefully estimated) 4½c. to 5c. live Pork " (all raised on the farm) Milk " "	Cr \$ 3,200 800 1,000		\$2,700	
Balance to credit of feed	\$5,000		\$ 2,300	00
FERTILIZER RESULT. Fertilizer value in purchased food (bran, shorts, peas, etc.) Fertilizer value purchased litter (straw)			\$5,000 \$ 2,000 100	00
Fertilizer sold in milk (summer and winter) ""beef increase (winter) "pork " (summer and winter) Fertilizer lost unavoidably by fermentation, soakage and misplaced Fertilizer balance.	128 126 200 1,396	00 00 00 00	\$2,100	00
	\$2,100	00		