

Notwithstanding the present depressed value of grain, the Canadian farmer, if his farm be clear of debt, may, by the exercise of prudence, manage to live, and that too, in a state of independence. He has no occasion for harassing forebodings how he is to meet the demands of the landlord and tax-gatherer; and should self-interest induce him to lay down a large portion of his arable fields to pasture, he is not harassed with the pressing importunities of unemployed labourers. Let the worst come, and he can still manage to obtain food and raiment; and if the latter be not of the finest texture, it is the production of his own hands and soil, and well adapted to his wants.

How different are the condition and prospects of his brethren in the Old Country, under the low price system? With their produce suddenly reduced 25 to 30 per cent, and all fiscal burthens remaining nearly or quite the same, the tenant farmers of England have nothing but ruin staring them in the face; a result that can be obviated only in two ways; either by imposing a sufficient import duty on foreign agricultural productions; (and of this there does not, at present, appear the least probability,) or by reducing rents, tythes, and taxes to the level of the present depreciated value of farm produce. The latter must inevitably take place; but an inconsiderate and unfeeling obstinacy on the part of legislators and landlords may so retard its progress, as to work out the final ruin of a large number of industrious and well-disposed men.

In order to give our readers a view, somewhat in detail, of the present position of the British Farmer, we subjoin a statement from the pen of Mr. Samuel Jones, an extensive and enterprising agriculturist in the South of England, in reply to some remarks in a speech of Lord Palmerston at a recent Agricultural Meeting at Tiverton.

"I take them at what ought to be the amount of produce under good farming, and shall take as their value the prices under which the great change in Church property was based—the value of wheat, barley, and oats—under the Tithe Commutation Act, and compare it with the present value of the same:—

	Per Acre	Per Qr.	Per Acre.
Wheat	4 qrs. at - -	56s. 6d. - -	226s.
Barley	6 qrs. at - -	31s. 8d. - -	190s.
Oats	8 qrs. at - -	22s. 0d. - -	176s.

592s.

PRESENT VALUE.

Wheat	4 qrs. at - -	39s. 11d. - -	159s. 8d.
Barley	6 qrs. at - -	22s. 10d. - -	137s. 0d.
Oats	8 qrs. at - -	17s. 10d. - -	142s. 8d.

439s. 4d.

Total diminished value in these crops 152s. 8d.

or on each crop a diminish of 50s. 10½d. per acre. I thus clearly prove the diminished value of an acre of wheat, barley, and oats is 50s. 10½d per acre. I would, my Lord, leave it to your own consummate ability, deep research, and practical knowledge to prove how much the diminished expenses of production really are; but fearing your Lordship may shrink from such a task, I will endeavour to assist you, leaving it to your Lordship to correct any errors or misstatements; but at the same time permit me to say I shall deem your silence on the subject as a ready and candid admission of the truth of my statement.

And he goes on as follows:—

"The diminished cost on seed wheat, barley, and oats, is 2s. 7d.

"The wages of our labour less.' How and why is it so, my Lord?—unless your accursed system has lessened the demand for labour, which I will take at 10 per cent. The cost of labour per acre has been about 25s.; reduction on labour, at 2s. 3d. per acre.

"Manure cheaper!" How is this, my Lord? This proves the lessened demand for the article, and that the lands are being deteriorated in value. I cannot allow any deduction under this head.

"Poor rates less!" This I deny, and below beg to refer you to a statement upon which my denial is based. Abatement of rent, say 10 per cent. taking the average amount of rent at 20s. per acre, the deduction would be 2s. per acre, making a total reduction in the cost of production of 6s. 10d. per acre.

"Poor's rates. Average amount of poor and county rates for seven years, commencing 1840, to 1846, is £7,643,208, to pay which, with wheat at 7s. per bushel, will require 21,839,268½ bushels.

"Average of poor and county rates, three years, 1847, 1848, and 1849, £8,689,370, to pay which, with wheat at present value of 5s. per bushel, will require 34,757,480 bushels.

Mr. Jones concluded by saying:—

"Thus we find the increased cost, if taken in wheat, to be 12,918,202 bushels, at 5s. per bushel. As to the increased produce arising from the 'progressive development of science as bearing upon agriculture, he is enabled to produce a greater quantity out of the same extent of land than he produced before.' All practical men, my Lord, are well aware that all extra produce under present prices is raised at an increased loss. You further state—'I think the farmer even will find that if he strikes a fair and accurate balance, his loss is far less than he imagines