

The complaints so rife in the country of a scarcity of money appears to arise from an entire misapprehension. With wheat at two dollars per bushel, oats at sixty cents, beef at ten cents per lb., butter at twenty cents, cheese at fifteen cents, and other articles in proportion, and all commanding cash in the market, it is not money but *produce* that is wanted.

Ten years ago, when beef was two-pence, butter five-pence, wheat seventy cents, and *paid for in trade*, the farmers might well have complained of hard times; but if they cannot now live and make money, we fear that no amount of "Banking accommodation" will restore them to a prosperous condition.

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### FISH MANURES

We would call the particular attention of our readers to the following able article from the pen of T. S. Hunt, Esq., on the subject of Fish Manures, which cannot fail to prove interesting, both in a commercial and economical point of view:—

Before describing the results of some enquiries into the value of these manures, and the practicability of introducing their manufacture into Canada, it may be well to explain briefly, certain principles which may serve to guide us in the appreciation of the subject. Modern investigations of the chemistry of vegetation have led to a more or less correct understanding of the laws of vegetable nutrition and the theory of manures, and we are all aware how many natural and artificial matters have been proposed as substitutes for the manure of the stable and farm yard. Foremost among these ranks the Peruvian guano, composed for the most part of the exuviae of sea-birds and employed for centuries by the Peruvians as a powerful stimulant to vegetation. This substance owes its value to the phosphoric acid and ammonia which it is capable of affording to the growing plant; the former element being indispensable to the healthy development of vegetation and entering in large proportion into the mineral matter of the cereals, while ammonia furnishes, in a form capable of assimilation, the nitrogen, which with the elements of water and carbonic acid, make up the organic tissues of plants. Besides these essential principles, plants require sulphuric acid, chlorine, potash, soda, lime, magnesia and oxid of iron, all of which elements are found in these ashes, and are required for their healthy growth. In a fertile soil all of these ingredients are present, as well as phosphoric acid and ammonia, which last substance is constantly produced by the decay of animal and vegetable matters, and is either at once retained by the soil, which has the power of absorbing a certain portion of it, or is evolved into the air and afterwards dissolved and brought down by the rains to the earth.

Many of the mineral elements of a soil are present in it in an insoluble form, and are only set free by the slow chemical re-actions constantly going