

acres, of which thirteen millions are fit for cultivation, and five millions are, in their present condition, unfit for agricultural operations.

I have next endeavoured to arrive at an idea of the comparative productiveness of these different soils. It is necessary to know how much human life an acre will support; and in order to arrive at that, I have classified the soils according to their relative productiveness; and the standard which I have taken is this:—in this country the common mode of judging of the value of land is by the number of tons of hay which it will produce. I have therefore in the first place taken this as a standard for calculation. I have taken this small quantity of first quality land in the Province, (the rich intervalle land,) which is only 50,000 acres, as producing 2½ tons of hay per acre; the next quality at 2 tons per acre; the third quality at 1½ ton per acre; and the fourth at 1 ton per acre; and supposing that these different qualities of soil produce at that rate, that is their absolute value. The fifth or lowest kind of soil we throw out, as not being capable of paying for cultivation.

The next standard is that of *cattle*. We know that a horse or a cow will eat so many tons of hay in a year; therefore, if we know how many tons of hay the land will produce, we have no difficulty in ascertaining how many cattle it will support. But the next question is, how many men will the same land support? To arrive at this, we must take some standard, some kind of food for men. I have taken *oats* as this standard; of all grain oats thrive best in this Province; they are therefore the proper staple grain of the Province. What changes in the relative production of the various grains in this country, may result from continual clearances of the land and consequent changes of climate, we cannot tell; but at present oats are the most sure crop in this country. The principle then is this: that the land that will grow a ton of hay will grow twenty bushels of oats; one is equal to the other; thus 50, 40, 30 and 20 bushels of oats per acre will represent the different ratio of productiveness of the various qualities of the land. We then estimate the quantity of oats necessary to support a man. This is very well known, because it is a common article of food, especially in Scotland, where it is a staple of life. Then we estimate the quantity of oats necessary to support the whole population of the Province; in doing which we allow so much per head for young and old, varying according to age, and taking the average of the whole. Then we take the whole population of the Province, which is about 210,000 people, as far as known at present. Of horses and cattle there are about 150,000, and sheep and pigs we estimate at 250,000. Taking all these together, we can calculate what proportion of land is required to support the human inhabitants and the stock of cattle respectively, if they continue in the same relative proportions as

at present. Taking this, then, as the existing average, the result is this: calculating upon the principles already laid down, and leaving out of consideration the five millions of acres of unproductive land, we find that the soil of this Province is qualified to maintain 4,620,000 human beings, together with 3,500,000 horses and cattle, and 5,500,000 sheep and pigs, supposing all the cultivable land to be cultivated, and to produce in the same proportion as the land at present cultivated in the Province. But I must observe, that in taking this basis for my calculations I do not speak of the ratio of produce only as an opinion of my own, but as the result of enquiries made in the Province; if, therefore, I am wrong in my information, I am not to blame for it; I make my calculations only on the basis of the information afforded me by others; and therefore I want to guard myself against being held responsible for that information. According to the best information afforded me, therefore, it appears that if the four classes of available soil be entirely cultivated, this Province ought to maintain 4,620,000 human beings, and cattle and sheep in proportion, from its own resources alone. I now pass over some important materials of my report, which come in here and which bear on this general point, but which require to be more fully discussed than our time will now allow; and I turn to another point worthy of notice. I have supposed, in considering this number of 4,620,000 human beings, that the whole were supported on the vegetable produce of the soil. I have spoken of oats as the standard food, but the whole sustenance of this number of people need not necessarily be by oats: it might be partly of wheat and other grains, and vegetables of various kinds. The land will produce various kinds of human food. But I have as yet supposed that the vegetable produce of the soil was the only support of the population. But what are the *cattle* raised for? Why, for human food; therefore we must take into account the quantity of *animal* food thus raised for the support of human beings. This animal food, independently of the quantity of vegetable food raised in the Province, would support a large portion of the population.

It is impossible to arrive at a positive calculation on this point, but an approximation may be made. Taking the number of cattle as before estimated; (of course we say nothing of *horses*, because you have not yet acquired a taste for horse-flesh, nor the habit of eating it; although in many countries it is habitually used, and it is said that young colts are very good eating;) leaving out horse-flesh, we will speak only of cattle, sheep and pigs as human food, as you are already accustomed to that. The quantity of animal food, then, now raised in this Province, will support about one-third more people than the vegetable produce alone will support: add, then, one-third or nearly one-third to the 4,600,000

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