

wethers, and wether lambs, pays very well. If fed early and fat enough for the Christmas market, and got to weigh 30 lbs. 35 lbs. per quarter, they are worth from nine to fifteen dollars each. If not fed so early, but brought into the market in the month of March, weighing 26 or 27 pounds per quarter, they are worth from nine to ten dollars each, and good fair wether lambs seven dollars each.

Hogs are kept in limited numbers by the farmers for their own consumption, and some for the market. The grain used for feeding is peas. The first pure breed that was brought into the township was the Yorkshire; these crossed with the Berkshire and Suffolk breeds constitute the present stock of the farmer. The profits of feeding hogs depend on comparative market value of pork and peas; some farmers are of opinion that taking a series of years fattening pork for the market is not profitable. But with a good breed of hogs and a judicious system of feeding, taking into account the extra quality of the manure from the hog-pen, it will pay.

No farmer has commenced the thorough draining system, but a good deal of the wet portions of the land have been drained more or less efficiently. The main drains are dug 4 feet deep, and the other drains leading into the main from 3 to 4 feet, and laid with stone in the bottom, this being the best material at hand for the purpose. The effect of the draining that has been accomplished is highly beneficial. The greatest difficulty that we have to contend with in draining is when we come in contact with quicksand, which is quite common on low wet land.—Tile would no doubt solve the difficulty were they at hand. Stone drains, if they are not particularly well laid are liable to choke in these places.

Quite an improvement has been effected in the ploughs by the importation of a good number from the factory of J. West, Rose Station, near Dundee; also fourteen manufactured by Sellars & Son of Huntley, Aberdeen, Scotland. There have been a number made in the township from the model of these ploughs, supposed to be somewhat improved. There are others made in the township, after McSherry's pattern, St. John's, C. W., and some from the shop of J. Wiley, Thorold. The cultivator has

been almost an indispensable article in farm culture, there are several made by different parties, but those made by Mr. Wm. Crowe, Guelph, are the best. A good number of Mowing and Reaping Machines are in use in the township.

The progress making in raising fruit orchards has been rather slow, and so far rather unsuccessful, the fruit being all destroyed last summer by the frost in June. A good many trees have been killed from different causes; one cause the extreme severity of the winter frost during past winters; another, the extremes of temperature in the spring; very warm weather causing the tree to start and the sap to flow freely, then cold north-westerly winds and frosts succeeding check the sap and crack the bark of the tree. Another cause and perhaps not the least is the over cropping of the orchard lands.

The greatest improvement that could be made in our farm management, would be the thorough draining of all the wet portions of the land; cultivating a greater breadth of land for roots and green crops, converting a much greater portion of the coarser grains raised on the farm, with the green crop, into beef, mutton, and pork, for the market, as well as keeping the store stock of the farm in proper condition, thereby greatly increasing the quantity as well as the quality of the manure heap, and by judiciously applying this extra quality and quantity of the manure to the soil. By attention to these points the farmer would be better enabled to fully develop the capabilities of his fields.

ERIN.—Eighty eight members; subscriptions, \$125.50; balance from 1858, \$32.07; receipts from other sources, \$31.50; total received, \$245.77. Paid in premiums, \$171.50; expenses, \$21.09; balance in Treasurer's hands, \$53.18.

#### *Extracts from Report.*

We suggest to future Directors that they make it, if not compulsory, highly desirable that everything shown be accompanied by a brief account of the soil and seed, when ploughed, and how manured, and the yield, which information should form a part of, and belong to the society, and would form a fund of valuable information to all.

The Township of Erin is making great progress in the improvement of stock.