

AGRICULTURAL DINNERS.—THE BROMYARD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY held their annual dinner on Thursday week. The meeting was rendered somewhat remarkable by the presence of the three county members at the dinner, when a discussion was raised by MR. GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, M. P., Under Secretary of State, on the probable effect of the free importation of foreign corn into this country under the new regulation, which will come into operation at the end of February next. Mr. Lewis, in responding to the toast of the "County Members," said that without undertaking to be a political prophet, he would undertake to express an opinion that the persons who predicted that English corn, when the import duty should be altogether removed next spring, would undergo a great depression in price, made a great mistake. Perhaps they would allow him shortly to state what he considered were two material circumstances which were generally overlooked in discussing this important question. Those persons who entertained these predictions overlooked two things, the quantity of the supply and the cost of the carriage in transit. If he made out these points, he thought they would agree with him that they were two very important considerations to be overlooked. And, first, with regard to the quantity of supply. Suppose the duty was at this moment what it was at the time when the introduction of foreign corn was prohibited as long as the average price of English corn was under 80s. per qr. Suppose the price was 70s. per qr. in England, and at Hamburgh 50s. per qr., then the class of people to whom he had already alluded imagined, that if the prohibitory duty were removed, the selling price of the Hamburgh corn in England would be 50s. per qr. This was the supposition on the note. On the other hand, people in large manufacturing towns exclaimed, "See how the farmers are starving us by keeping up the price of corn." Now, this at first seemed a plausible argument; but he would venture to say that the farmer who thought he should lose by selling his wheat at 50s. per qr., and the manufacturer also, were both mistaken. The price of corn at Hamburgh was determined by the demands of the comparatively small town of Hamburgh; but let them remove the restrictions on the importation of corn into England, and they would find that the small portion of corn at that place would be as nothing compared with the demands of this country. Let the import duty in this country be removed, and at once the price of corn at Hamburgh would go up; the people of Hamburgh would have to pay more for their corn than before, and we should have to pay but little less. They must bear in mind the immense demand in this country for corn. Instead of our prices approaching their standard, theirs would progress towards ours, and a medium price would be established between the two. So much for one part of the question. Another party urged that as the price of wheat in Russia and Spain was as low as 15s. per quarter, when the duty was removed, we should be inundated with wheat from those countries, and farmers would be ruined. On the other hand, the manufacturers cried out that by the removal of these duties they would be enabled to live in abundance and prosperity; their manufactures would flourish, and the prosperity of the country would reach a high point. Here again was a mistake. It was perfectly true that if they took some particular points, the price of some limited quantity of wheat on the spot in certain parts of Spain and Russia might perhaps be 15s. per quarter. Indeed in some parts of India (Hindostan), wheat could be grown at about 10s. per quarter. But would any gentleman like to undertake, as a speculation, to import that wheat into London? If he thought he could afford to sell it at 50s. per quarter, he would find that he was under a mistake. We in England did not know what a country like

India, without roads or canals, was. There everything had to be conveyed across the country upon the backs of horses, so that the cost of produce was doubled by twenty miles of transport. Such was also the case in some parts of Spain and Russia. In certain parts of Spain, for instance, wine was so abundant that in some years it was poured out of the old casks, in order to introduce the new. That simply arose from the enormous cost of carriage, and the want of wood for making casks. Gibraltar and Cadiz, too, were supplied with American wheat at a price below what it could be supplied from the interior of their own country, for want of the means of transport. Therefore it was nothing to tell them that wheat was to be purchased at 15s. per quarter in Spain or on the steppes of Russia. The question was, what could that wheat be sold at when imported into London. These, he thought, were two of the most material elements in the probable price of corn in this country, with reference to next summer, after the intended changes in the laws of importation shall have taken place.

HESSIAN FLY.—This destroying insect is becoming more and more plenty over the whole wheat district, subject to slight variations through the effect exercised over them by the severe and open winters and frosts. That they are extremely local, and when once colonized do not emigrate far, when they can find the proper pabulum for subsistence near home, we have been a long time satisfied. A respectable and extensive farmer in Pennsylvania, states that he has for ten years past, almost entirely prevented their depredations, by burning over the stubble directly after cutting his wheat, and before they had changed from the *larvæ* to the winged state; while fields in his immediate neighbourhood were destroyed.

This view of the subject is remarkably confirmed, by a case related to us a few days since by one of our best wheat farmers in this section. His crop was so entirely destroyed that it did not pay for harvesting, and the land being in fine tilth, he resolved to follow it again with wheat, and consequently turned it over pretty soon after. About the first of September he commenced cross plowing, and when about half the field was finished, the other half looked in such good order that he omitted plowing it, and sowed his wheat. The next summer the grain was so destroyed on the part twice plowed that he did not harvest it, while the other was a full average crop.

The rationale is plain; the insect when in the worm state, was plowed under with the stubble, and on that part twice plowed was brought up again, hatched out, and attached their eggs to the young wheat—while in that part but once plowed they were buried beyond their power of getting to the surface, and were destroyed.

These facts are worth looking at, and support each other remarkably.—*Genesee Farmer*.

CHEAP REMEDY FOR TURNIP FLY.—As soon as it is seen that the fly is at work, procure some soot and sow it broadcast, or sprinkle it over the young plant, when the fly will vanish as if by magic, and will not come near the plant again, so long as the soot retains its pungency; but should rain fall before the plant has outgrown the fly's influence, then when it becomes fair repeat the dose of soot. I can assure you from satisfactory experience, that it is a most effectual cure for the fly, and a fructifier of the soil, as my present crop of Swedes (Skirving's Purple top) bears witness, some of them being now, 28th Sept., upwards of two feet in circumference. Some of my neighbours had to sow their turnips twice and even three times.—*Ullswater*.