

great extent of the island; and the influence of the lease in leading thus to the higher cultivation of the land has been already referred to.

As a last word upon the capital of the farm, it may be well to remind the farmer of his interest in insuring his capital, however it may be invested, against the risks of fire, disease, and death, which will be accepted for him by the various insurance companies on payment of an annual premium.—*From 21st Edition of Arthur Young's Farm Calendar.*

The Agriculture of Sweden.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK-LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—Having just concluded a two-months' fishing tour in the central provinces of Sweden, I extract from some memoranda, chiefly relating to matters piscatorial, a few notes on the farming of the country, which perhaps may not be entirely without interest to some of your readers.

The district I refer to, and which extends from Gothenburg and Uddevalla on the west coast to Northkopping and Stockholm on the east, consists of extensive tracts of table-land, rugged hills, chiefly of granite, but occasionally alternating with primitive limestone, vast pine forests, and lakes resembling in magnitude inland seas. There is soil here of every variety, from the stiff clays yielding heavy crops of wheat, beans, peas, clover, and timothy, to the sandy and peaty soils appropriated to the growth of rye, oats, barley, and potatoes.

The *farms* in Sweden, strictly so called, are not numerous, more than three-fourths of the kingdom being in the hands of peasant proprietors or freeholders, a kind of petty yeomanry holding from 5 to 100 acres of arable land, the average being about 30. This independent class of men generally becomes wealthy by the same process which enriches so many of our pastoral farmers in the dales of Yorkshire and Westmoreland—the keeping down of all outgoings on land, or living and laying by of all the incomings however small. Some, however, whilst retaining their peasant rank, live in comfortable style, keeping good steeds in the stable, and good wines in the cellar, and perhaps represent their class in the Royal Assembly, of which the House of Peasants is the largest if not the most influential branch.

In addition to his arable ground, the peasant has invariably a tract of rough pasture land, generally moor, mountain or forest glade, where he pastures his cattle in summer, cutting the best part of it for hay. The holder of 20 acres of arable will thus keep six or eight cows in addition to a pair of working bullocks and a horse, their sole subsistence in winter being straw and wretched hay; for the peasant rarely grows roots or clover, but cultivates his land, as his fathers have done before him, on the two-course

shift, half-fallow, half-grain alternately, about one-seventh of the fallow being dunged yearly; the great object apparently being to grow as much grain as possible with the least expenditure of labour and manure. Vast tracts of rich loamy clay on the east coast of Lake Wetteren have been so cultivated from time immemorial, and still yield weighty crops of grain.

The Swedish farmer is of an entirely distinct class from the peasant, and, in virtue of his usually superior education and creditable character and habits, occupies an important social position. He is generally the Thane of his district, a man of urbane address and liberal ideas, and does the honours of his house and table, which are seldom wanting in the elegancies and comforts of life, with graceful and genial hospitality. He is often obliged to be as much *merchant* as agriculturist; for a Swedish farm, in addition to its generally large extent of arable land, frequently includes a flour mill, a saw mill, and a roofing and draining tile manufactory, and perhaps a Brunvin distillery, where the potato crop is converted into spirits.

The peculiar features of a Swedish farm may, perhaps, be best understood by a description of one in the occupation of a very enterprising agriculturist at whose house I had the honour of being most hospitably entertained. The farm of Graffnaas, near Allingsås, comprises 9,000 acres, of which 1,000 are arable, 500 pasture, and 7,500 forest. The rent is £800 a-year. The soil varies from stiff clay to light loam, but is chiefly loam on a clay bottom. The fields are large—from 40 to 80 acres; 400 acres are in oats, the land being at a high elevation; 40 in wheat, 80 in rye, a few acres in oats and vetches for horses, and 20 in turnips and potatoes. The land reserved for pasture is not sufficiently good for arable, being for the most part marshy, or cumbered with rocks or brush-wood. All the best of this pasture is mown yearly, without any return of manure, which is never applied to meadow land in Sweden.

The forest portion of the farm is chiefly valuable as affording small holdings for *torpare*, an inferior grade of peasants, who render to the occupier of the farm, in lieu of rent, labour in proportion to the value of their respective tenures. Thus the holder of from 20 to 30 acres works for the farmer, personally or by substitute, every day during June, July, August and September, and two days a week the rest of the year, *extra* labour being paid for at half the usual rates, namely, half a rix-dollar, or 7d a day for a man; one third of a rix-dollar for a woman, and one-fourth, or 3½d for a boy; this scale being reduced in winter. In summer the men work from five in the morning till eight at night, after which they have often some miles to walk home. It is not unusual to see farms advertised to be let or sold, as having the right of five, ten, or twelve thousand day's labour in the year attached to them. In the farm of Graff-