

burn or otherwise hurt the leather. The soles remain like horn, and have never required any repair, and even the thin upper, apparently cracked in all directions from the first, has never torn but a little on one boot at the bend on the outer side of the foot. It has been oiled about once each summer, but the soles received only the one thorough tarring.

Boot soles will take the tar best after having the grain worn off slightly. It soon dries in if exposed to the sun, and the odour even of gas tar is quickly overcome by the all-conquering effects of dry earth. A short walk over a fallow field will remove it completely, and make it entirely unnecessary to imitate the eastern custom of taking off the boots at the house entrance, unless there be some other reason for it than fresh tarred soles.—*Can. Country Gentleman.*

To make Mats from Sheepskins.

A fresh skin is more easily prepared than one a little dry. A strong soap-suds is used to wash the wool, first letting the water cool so as to be slightly warm to the hand. In the meantime, pick out all the dirt from the wool that will come out; then scrub it well on a washboard. A table-spoonful of kerosene added to three gallons of warm suds, will greatly help the cleansing process. Wash in another suds, or until the wool looks white and clean. Then put the skin into cold water enough to cover it, and dissolve half a pound of salt and the same quantity of alum in three pints of boiling water; pour mixture over the skin, and rinse it up and down in the water. Let it soak in the water twelve hours; then hang it over a fence or a line to drain. When well drained, stretch it on a board to dry, or nail it on the wall of the wood-house or barn, wool side toward the boards. When nearly dry, rub into the skin one ounce of powdered alum and salt-petre, (if the skin is large, double the quantity,) rub this in for an hour or so. To do this readily the skin must be taken down and spread on a table or flat surface. Fold the skin sides together, and hang the mat away. Rub it every day for three days, or till perfectly dry. Scrape off the skin with a stick or a blunt knife till cleared of all impurities, then rub it with pumice-stone, or, if more easily procured, rotten-stone will do. Trim it to a good shape, and you have an excellent door-mat. Any intelligent house-wife can dye a green, blue, or scarlet, with the so-called "Family Dyes," either in powder or liquid, and she will have as elegant a door-mat as she could desire. Lambs' skins can be similarly prepared and made into caps and mittens. Dyed a handsome brown or black, they equal imported skins. Still-born lambs, or those who die very young, furnish very soft skins, which, if properly prepared, would make as handsome sacks, muffs and tippets as the far-famed Astrachan. Any farmer's daughter could easily prepare skins enough to furnish herself with a handsome suit.—*Mechanic and Inventor.*

Miscellaneous.

South Australian Agricultural Statistics and Exports.

The complete agricultural statistics for the year 1870-71 have been published, and they afford some information that will prove interesting to many of our English readers. It appears that out of the two hundred and forty-five millions of acres of which the colony is composed, fifty-five millions are actually being turned to account; that the quantity alienated from the Crown is 4,198,999 acres, of which 4,068,064 acres have passed into private hands; that 959,006 acres are under tillage; that 604,761 acres are being cropped with wheat, as against 310,638 acres ten years ago; that the increase in acreage last year was 72,626 acres, that the total product reached the large aggregate of 6,961,164 bushels, being the largest crop ever reaped in South Australia, and representing, at 6s. per bushel, the sum of £1,750,000; and that the surplus for export is estimated at 110,000 tons. These figures will give some idea of the great advance which South Australia has made in regard to agriculture generally, and to the production of wheat in particular. Up to the end of 1870, 130,933 acres had been taken up upon deferred payments, and since then an additional 160,887 acres have been purchased upon the same terms. There is, therefore, little doubt that at the present time there is over one million of acres of land under cultivation for various purposes. Of the 110,000 tons which it is estimated we have available for export from our last season's crop, we have shipped away 74,182 tons, which may represent in round numbers a money value of £920,000. In 1870 we exported for the whole year just one-half of this quantity and value. The total exports for the last five years have been as follows:—1866, 38,132 tons; 1867, 95,463 tons; 1868, 33,846 tons; 1869, 73,379 tons; 1870, 37,012 tons. Thus it will be seen that with the single exception of 1867 we have in seven months of the current year exported a greater quantity of breadstuffs than we have done during any whole year of the preceding five years. The total quantity of wheat and flour exported from the colony during the thirty-one weeks ending August 5, including that from the outports, has been 74,182 tons, being an increase of no less than 49,211 tons on the corresponding period of 1870.

Does Farming Pay?

We often hear it said there is no longer any money in farming. In the course of our experience we have heard similar statements concerning other occupations. A printer, adhering in these days to the old-fashioned hand-press, might make the same complaint, and with as much justice as the present

farmer, who carries on operations in the old style, or a carpenter who makes his moulded things by hand and planes boards. The improvements in machinery of all kinds have so quickened the demand for labour in every branch of industry, that the farmer as well as the mechanic must abandon hand labour and use machinery, or his profit must be eaten up in expenses. Hay may be made and put in the barn by machinery now at the rate of one dollar per acre. By hand the cost would be four dollars. The old style of crop is half a ton per acre; now three times that is a fair crop. The difference is just that between eight dollars per ton and sixty-six cents. The wide-awake farmer has this difference for his profit, eight dollars being about the market price for hay in many places. The same is true of most other crops, grain and roots especially. In feeding stock and making and using manure, equally large differences result. So of breeding stock; the old style rooster, and the modern Berkshire, are not more unlike than are their several values when made into pork. The same of the ill-fed, rough-coated native heifer or steer, and the sleek, well-fed grade Jersey or Ayrshire. The same is true of many farming communities in respect to roads, fences, and schools. All these must be fitted up with modern improvements, or farming, as a business must suffer. We know whereof we speak, when we emphatically deny that farming is an unprofitable business. The capital invested will, if rightly used, return in this branch of industry as good an interest as in any other, besides having the invaluable merit of indestructibility. A workshop or factory may burn up, but land remains not only intact, but from uncontrollable circumstances is ever advancing in value. So the labour of the farmer is sure of some remuneration if properly directed. Poor farms and poor farmers are the ones whose crops fail through drought or excessive wet. On a properly conducted farm these may damage the crop, but will never destroy it. The divine promise of seed-time and harvest is for the especial benefit of the farmer; but it rests with himself in a great measure whether the fulfilment comes to him individually, or whether his more enterprising neighbour secures it.—*American Agriculturist.*

LONGEVITY OF FARMERS.—In a late address before the Farmers' Club of Rutland, Mass., Dr. Nathan Allen said that according to the registration report of deaths in Massachusetts, published now for about thirty years, and preserved with more accuracy and completeness than anywhere else in the country, the greatest longevity is found to be in agricultural life. In the ten different occupations as given in these reports, the cultivators of the earth stand as a class at the head, reaching, on an average, the age of nearly 65 years, while that of the next class, merchants, is only about 49 years; that of mechanics of all kinds, about 48 years, and that of shoemakers about 44 years. Thus there is an advantage of about 15 years on the side of farmers as compared with merchants, and they reach an average age but little short of the three score years and ten allotted by the Psalmist for human life.