

UNITED KINGDOM AGRICULTURAL RETURNS.

Official statistics have been recently issued which show the areas devoted respectively in Great Britain and Ireland to the leading agricultural products, also the number of farm animals in the two main divisions of the United Kingdom. From the table published by "The Times" we have compiled the following condensed statement:

CROP.		GREAT BRITAIN.		IRELAND.		UNITED KINGDOM.	
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	
Wheat	1905	1,796,985	34,039	1,835,024			
"	1904	1,375,284	30,825	1,406,109			
Difference in 1905		+ 421,701	+ 7,214	+ 428,915			
Other Grains, etc.	1905	5,195,040	1,242,760	6,437,800			
"	1904	5,522,036	1,238,890	6,760,926			
Difference in 1905		- 326,996	+ 6,870	- 323,126			
Roots	1905	2,591,867	971,556	3,563,423			
"	1904	2,573,140	980,117	3,553,257			
Difference in 1905		+ 18,727	- 8,561	- 10,166			
Hay	1905	6,877,808	2,294,574	9,172,382			
"	1904	7,088,298	2,255,160	9,343,458			
Difference in 1905		- 210,490	+ 39,414	- 121,076			
LIVE STOCK.		No.		No.		No.	
Horses	1905	1,572,433	608,992	2,181,425			
"	1904	1,560,236	604,930	2,165,166			
Difference in 1905		+ 12,197	+ 4,062	+ 16,259			
Cattle	1905	6,987,020	4,645,222	11,632,242			
"	1904	6,858,298	4,676,718	11,535,070			
Difference in 1905		+ 128,663	- 31,496	+ 97,172			
Sheep	1905	25,257,196	3,749,813	29,060,509			
"	1904	25,207,178	3,827,919	29,935,097			
Difference in 1905		+ 50,018	- 78,608	- 28,588			
Pigs	1905	2,424,919	1,164,322	3,589,241			
"	1904	2,461,644	1,315,126	4,176,770			
Difference in 1905		- 436,725	- 150,804	- 587,529			

The increase of 428,915 acres in the area devoted to wheat is a remarkable change, the extent of this crop in 1905 being greater than in 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1896, 1895. The advance in price of wheat may probably explain this, as it has ruled high enough to enable English farmers to grow wheat at a profit.

The decrease in area devoted to barley and oats was 343,406 acres, after a decrease in Ireland of 15,780 acres has been deducted from the total. The increases in cropped areas this year in the United Kingdom include 428,915 acres of wheat, 1,565 acres of beans, 36,345 acres of potatoes, and 2,167 acres of mangels. Coincident with these there are decreases of 130,620 acres of barley, 213,766 acres of oats, 305 acres of peas, 18,445 acres of turnips and swedes, 136,737 acres of rotation hay, and 39,339 acres of hay from permanent meadow.

The number of horses and cattle in Great Britain this year is greater than any on record.

These official statistics do not give the impression that the agricultural interests in the old country are as depressed and stagnant as is commonly represented.

LONDON & LANCASHIRE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.**ANNUAL OUTING OF STAFF.**

The annual outing of the London and Lancashire Life staff was held on the 9th instant.

The manager, Mr. B. Hal Brown has for the past few years invited, in addition to the staff proper, a number of friends closely allied with the company.

No past outing was more successful, or enjoyable. The weather was perfect and St. Bruno, one of the prettiest spots in Canada, was looking its best, and nothing was spared on the part of the host and hostess to make the occasion memorable.

The Grand Trunk Railway placed a special car at the disposal of the party, numbering some forty guests. Upon arrival at St. Bruno Station, vehicles were in waiting to convey the visitors to the mountain, where the summer residence of Mr. B. Hal Brown is located. The drive over a specially good road through rich farm lands, was specially enjoyable. When the beautiful grounds surrounding the host's residence was reached, various sports were indulged in. In the evening the staff and other guests sat down to a *recherché* repast. This was followed by music and recitations.

A pretty display of fireworks closed the day's pleasures.

LAKE OF THE WOODS DIVIDEND.

FOUR PER CENT. WILL BE PAID ON OCTOBER 2, 1905.

At a meeting of the directors held yesterday, a dividend at the rate of 6 p.c. per annum was declared for the year ending 31st August last, that is, 3 p.c., which together with the interim dividend of 3 p.c. already paid, makes 6 p.c., and a further dividend of 1 p.c. was declared for the broken period of the previous year. This places the stock on a 6 p.c. dividend basis. Shareholders on record on the 23rd of September will receive 4 p.c. on October 2. The company has had a very good year and will, it is understood, carry forward a good surplus after paying the 4 p.c. distribution to the holders of the common stock. This company is well and conservatively managed. It would probably be difficult to get one who understands the milling business better than its worthy, president, Mr. Robt. Meighan, who is backed up by an excellent Board of Directors all of whom are men of ability and sound judgment.

ONE OF THE PLEASURES OF JOURNALISM.—A suit has been brought against "Rough Notes" by the Insurance Law Company to recover \$50,000 for damages owing to an article criticizing that Company. "Rough Notes" claims that its comments on the complaining company were made "in the general welfare of life underwriting." Our Indianapolis contemporary may well say this, for it has a clear record as an exponent and defender of the sound principles of life insurance. We wish it "a good deliverance" from this annoying suit.