

comparatively poor land. Mr. William Cavan, who lives near Toronto, south of Dundas street, says:—"At the time I took my land, nearly forty years ago, it was considered so bad as scarcely to be worth clearing and cultivation. It was very bad at first, but has been getting better, owing to cultivation, ever since. The greatest benefit I ever derived, was from lime—I go upwards of thirty miles for it, and give ten cents per bushel at the kiln. I always go for the lime in the winter, and store it till I want to use it, so that it is, when used, thoroughly airslaked. I spread on the land from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre of the lime, as received from the kiln; by the time I use it, it is greatly swelled, and in fine powder. We spread it from the cart with spades and shovels, and it makes quite a show on the land. We always plough it in; we find the benefit from it for fully seven years. Mr. Dunn, the butcher of Toronto (now dead) was the person who first used it about us. He limed as he used to do in the old country, and put in a very large quantity. I asked him how it answered, and he laughed and said it answered too well, for it laid all the wheat and he lost the crop; but it convinced him that it was what the land wanted; and I then adopted the system, and have used it ever since, but moderately, and with the best effects. I plough in buckwheat largely, and manure all I can. I have always got thirty bushels of spring wheat per acre since the fall wheat failed, and other crops equally good. I am satisfied that lime is the best help to such soils as mine all through Canada. We are growing grapes all through our township; my neighbor put in three acres last year; and we are also, about Oakville, growing strawberries largely."

Mr. Cavan is a well-doing man; he says his crops get better and better all the time. The soil was originally a poor loam on hard clay, with very little black muck from the forest.

Here are the brief notes of a conversation with a farmer from the township of Haldimand, and the Hamilton plains, back of Cobourg. These statements, let it be remembered, are made by men who, besides maintaining themselves and their families in comfort, have paid for the land they own, from the profits acquired by farming it. Speaking of last year's crop, the farmer says:—"Our wheat on the plain land, both spring and fall variety, is very good, but short in the straw, and affords us but little manure. The quality of it is, however, excellent, and it is always formed before the midge can affect it. We manure with barnyard manure as much as possible, but we never have half enough, and we therefore use clover for manure—ploughing in the crop as soon as it is well in flower; then harrow it down, and keep the surface clear of weeds, till the time for preparing for fall wheat; then plough so as to turn the clover up again, and sow wheat. By this means, if the seed of the clover have ripened at all, we get a splendid plant of clover, in the wheat, without sowing it; but if the seed is not ripe, we have to sow clover with the wheat. For spring wheat we always plough our land in the fall; if ploughed in the spring, it is too light to bring a crop. We require the winter to settle it.

When the land is very much out of heart, we sow a crop of peas very early in the spring on fall-ploughed land; let them grow till just in flower, then plough under, and sow a crop of buckwheat, which is also ploughed under the same season, and is followed by spring wheat, and the first and second crop ploughed under. All who have followed this course have got rich. The intermediate years' cultivation are of the usual course and system.

This was a remarkably intelligent man, expressed himself well, and evidently understood what he was talking about. The plains to which he alludes consists of sand, on a hard poor clay; they are ploughed as deeply as possible, but any new soil that is brought up, must be so brought up by fall ploughing. If it is not exposed to the winter's frost, it will not allow the crop to grow.

These plains were at first very poor, but under this management have become very valuable land. Their crops are certain, and the quality of the grain excellent, generally from twenty to twenty-five bushels per acre, of the finest quality of white wheat. They take three crops of grain or other crops off before again ploughing clover or buckwheat under.

We might adduce other similar statements, but should be extending this article to unreasonable length. As evidence of a somewhat different character the following summary of farm accounts may not be out of place. They are not complete, nor kept, perhaps, on the best system, but they will serve to show the results of one year's farming. The farm to which they refer is a short distance from Toronto. It should be understood that it by no means claims to be a model farm either in condition or cultivation. There is no orchard attached, which is a serious drawback. The year referred to, except during the early spring, was dry, and in consequence the root crops were not heavy. Prices, however, for all produce were good. Barley and wool especially were above the average price. The amount by actual sales is set down, the remainder being retained for home consumption either by the stock or in the family. No account, therefore, is taken of the bulk of the dairy produce, or that of the garden and poultry-yard, which were used exclusively at home. The farm consisted of eighty-one acres in meadow or arable land, with about twenty in brush and pasture. From some portion—a low-lying bottom land—a few tons of hay were cut, and used by the stock. This is not set down in the following table. One cow bought for \$22, having slipped her calf, was fattened, and sold for \$50. The difference is set down as profit. No other stock were fattened for sale. Four hogs were fattened for home use. Of sixteen pigs, ten were sold, and six kept. Among the sheep, the wethers were sold in the fall for \$3 a piece. With regard to the extra help, much of it was secured by exchanging work with the neighbours, thus saving actual outlay. With this explanation, the following tabular statement of the year's expenses and receipts will, no doubt, be intelligible:—

RECEIPTS.				
Number of Acres.	Crop.	Yield.	Sold, the rest being retained for home use.	Amount received
10	Meadow	20 tons.	20 tons.	\$240 00
10	Clover & Timothy.	8 tons.	0	
10	2nd Crop.	12 tons.	4 tons.	60 00
12	Timothy.	180 bush.	120 bush.	129 60
10	Spring Wheat.	860	360	216 00
12	Rye.	400 bush.	14 tons.	84 00
10	Oats	400 bush.	300 bush.	120 00
10	Peas.	200 bush.	140 bush.	112 00
5	Barley	110 bush.	110 bush.	88 00
2	Potatoes.	225 bush.	225 bush.	90 00
5	Turnips.	1500	0	
4	Green Crops consumed by stock.	0		
1	Gar. Vegetables consumed in house	0		
				\$1,139 60
STOCK ACCOUNT.				
Wool from 22 Ewes and 1 Buck, 100 lbs.				\$47
Sold 18 Lambs				54
Kept 18 Lambs—value				54
2 Sows, 16 Pigs. Sold 10				30
Retained 6—value				18
Calves, 3				21
Butter—sold 80 lbs.				12
Profit on Cow fattened				38
				274 00
EXPENSES.				
Rent				\$300 00
Taxes				24 00
Seed				75 00
Manure (Superphosphate and Plaster)				30 00
Hired man—8 months				120 00
Extra help in harvest and threshing				32 00
Mowing, 75 cents per acre				24 00
Threshing				20 00
Extra board for hired help				45 00
Blacksmith's bill for shoeing and repairs				25 00
Toll bars and market fees				10 00
10 per cent. on cost of stock and implements				6 26
				711 26
Total amount of Receipts				1413 60
" " Expenses				711 26
Balance of Profit				\$702 34

The above balance of profit, the result of no very extra farming or fortunate circumstances, will be allowed as a fair return for the year's labor, especi-

ally when to this sum is added the very important items of the flour, meat, vegetables, dairy and poultry produce for family consumption, which do not appear in the gross amount above set down. Better farming would be able to show a better balance—more returns from stock keeping, and larger yields of grain. Much might also be added, without very greatly increasing the annual expense, from the growth of fruit, the produce of the apiary, and other methods within the farmer's reach, whereby he may swell the sum total of his luxuries and his gains.

We hope to be able, at some future time, to present from other sources *bona fide* accounts, and other actual experience of farmers in various parts of the country, so as to convince the enquirer that the condition and prosperity of farming in Canada are really encouraging, and will compare favorably with any other new country.

Live Stock Insurance Company.

A MOVEMENT has recently been inaugurated to establish a new company, under the above title, with a view to afford farmers and stock keepers an opportunity of insuring themselves against loss by accident or death among their stock. This is a highly desirable object, and should be well supported by the farmers in the country. Many a poor farmer is crippled past remedy by the loss of a horse, perhaps during the busiest season of the year. In such a case, a policy in a company of this kind would enable him at once to replace his loss. The yearly expense of insurance is comparatively small—the advantages to those who possess valuable stock, and especially to those whose means are small, can hardly be over-estimated. We commend the new society to the notice of Canadian farmers. The Provisional Board of Directors at present consist of Thos. Stock, Esq., Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, R. L. Denison, Esq., F. W. Stone, Esq., John Walton, Esq., W. Hendrie, Esq., John Weir, Esq., and W. A. Cooley, Esq. These gentlemen have been appointed to procure an Act of Incorporation, and to make all the necessary arrangements to secure the proper organization of a Live Stock Insurance Company for the Dominion of Canada.

Act to Prevent the Adulteration of Milk.

AN important Act has recently passed the Legislature to prevent the adulteration of milk supplied to cheese factories, and makes provision against diluting the milk with water, depriving it of its cream, or the strippings, as well as against sourness and taint from want of due cleanliness and care. It is enacted that any two magistrates may convict the offender and enforce the penalty, which is to be not less than five dollars nor more than fifty for each offence, and in default of payment imprisonment for a period of not more than twenty days. Stringent regulations are imperatively called for to prevent fraud in this important matter, and we are glad that a measure which promises to secure the essential element of pure milk for the manufacture of cheese has been so promptly taken, and hope to see, in consequence of this and other changes equally needed, a marked improvement in the quality of Canadian cheese.

NEW AGRICULTURAL BILL.—This important Bill, somewhat altered in committee of the House, has now passed its third reading, and only waits the consent of Her Majesty's representative to become law in this Province. Until this necessary sanction is officially given it would be premature to publish the Act, but if the Governor's signature has not been obtained before this goes to press, it will probably not be many days delayed, and by the date of our next issue we shall be in a position to publish the Bill in full for the information of our readers in all parts of the Province, some of whom may not see the political journals, and to all of whom it will be a matter of convenience to have a copy of the Act to preserve for future reference.