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ON THE APPLICATION OF FARM CAPITAL.

BY ALFRED C. THOMAS, ESQ., WINDSOR.

The great difficulties to be overcome in American Farming, and the generally unsatisfactory results obtained, have hitherto offered almost insurmountable obstacles to the investment of capital in this important branch of industry. In treating of this subject, it would be as well to examine, in the first place, what are the advantages to be derived from the investment of capital in agriculture in this country, or in England. Where a disease is known to exist in the human body, it can only be treated successfully by medical men by a thorough knowledge of its tendencies, effects, &c. With regard to farming, if eight or ten intelligent men were asked to put on a piece of paper their reasons why farming cannot be successfully prosecuted in Nova Scotia, the chances are that not any three of them would agree, one would say, a want of money, another the high rate of wages, another want of a good market, another too short seasons, and then the uncertainty of crops growing, and other reasons. Where there is such an extreme diversity of opinion, and all these objec-

tions have been offered to the author by intelligent men, over and over again, it would certainly be advisable, before offering any advice as to the successful prosecution of farming, to endeavour to lay bare the sore, and ascertain what really are the greatest difficulties the would-be-farmer has really to contend with in Nova Scotia. We may at once say that this article refers to those who would be willing to invest capital, in this business, with the object of making it remunerative, and does not apply by any means to a large class of farmers that at present exist, we mean small farmers working their own farms, employing little or no laborers, and generally consuming nearly all they raise. These men must be generally classed with the small tenant farmers of Europe, and it can only be a question of time as to how long it will be before their holdings will be absorbed by large farms, and the condition of the original holders improved by those who can invest more capital and skill. Neither do these remarks apply to any country where the remnant of a virgin soil still exist, where the operations of the farm are simply confined to sowing and gathering, with satisfactory returns. Men naturally prefer working for themselves, but this day has

long gone past in Nova Scotia, and perhaps in far more of the different States of the Union than our neighbors would be willing to acknowledge; neither do we refer to Dyke Lands, as they can only be looked upon, as managed at present, as receptacles for so much invested capital, the only difference being that the proprietor can increase his returns by turning what labor he has control of to good account. Referring to the different objections offered to farming, we can only touch lightly on one or two, as they come more under the head of practical farming. Want of money cripples many farmers, but, as the whole tendency of this article is to show in what way a farmer can make the most of what capital he has control of, I need not refer to it at present. The objection to farming on account of the high rate of wages is a serious one, but we judge too much by the English standard, where they have been too low for the interest of every one. We cannot understand on what principle a half-fed man, one whose sole earnings went to support his family, leaving himself barely the necessaries of life, could be sent into the fields to follow a well-fed spirited pair of horses all day, and do justice to himself and his employer. But the objection to high labor