

Canada and the Western States.

Some time ago we published a letter from Mr. Crane, a Canadian who had resided long enough in Illinois to become well acquainted with the country, and who wrote a very fair statement of the comparative advantages of Canada and the Western States, showing that, all things considered, there was nothing in the adjacent republic to tempt farmers from the soil and government of this country. This letter has elicited a reply from another Canadian, who thinks Mr. Crane has scarcely presented a just comparison. This writer acknowledges that he has only been in Illinois four months. He writes from Towanda, a place we know well, and near which we resided for more than six years. He thinks that Mr. Crane has laid too much stress on the expense of lumber, and says that in the matter of fencing, at least, the outlay can be avoided by planting hedges of Osage orange, which "in three years would turn any stock." Now, if the writer had corrected the impressions derived from four months' hearsay by a few years' observation, he would have known that it requires at least six years to make anything of an efficient Osage hedge. He would also have learnt that in many parts of the State this, though perhaps the best plant yet discovered for the purpose, is more or less winter killed, and that the question of a thoroughly suitable and efficient hedge plant for the Western States is yet matter of discussion and experiment, and far from being settled. Moreover, even granting that the Osage hedge would in time answer the purpose, a temporary board fence is needed in the mean while, and cannot be put up without a large outlay of money, with the commonest lumber at twenty-four dollars a thousand.

The writer further thinks that the price of farm products in the States is set down at too low a figure, and quotes in evidence the present price of corn. But he must remember that the present has been a very exceptional season—that the corn crop has been almost a failure, and that nearly every year there is a period when the old stock is low, and the new crop has not come into market, when the price of corn will be above the average. In our own experience, we can testify to the extreme fluctuation in the market value of this, the staple crop of the West. We have raised a hundred bushels of shelled corn to the acre, and sold the whole, after vainly waiting a year for better prices, at ten cents a bushel; and we have known the price as high as one dollar per bushel.

With regard to the cereals, there can be no question that the climate and soil of Canada are better adapted to the growth of the small grain crops. In wheat, especially, we have the advantage. Winter wheat is extremely uncertain all over Illinois. Oats are their best crop in this class, but the market price is usually low, as there is comparatively little local consumption where corn forms the principal food of all kinds of stock.

In regard to the cost of living, we do not think that Mr. Crane has at all overstated the matter. The high price of all kinds of imported goods and manufactured materials, and the enormous taxation, direct and indirect, have rendered the United States a dearer place to live in than perhaps any other in the world. An income that would ensure comfort in London or Paris would scarcely keep out want in Chicago; while living in the country, if somewhat less expensive, still bears the same proportion in the respective localities.

Most urgently would we caution all those who are dissatisfied with the state of things in Canada against being tempted, by the glowing accounts of Western prosperity and high wages, to forego the substantial advantages which they may surely attain by industry and thrift at home. There are persons who will not succeed anywhere, but where a man has the qualities that are necessary to achieve success, we believe he cannot find a finer sphere for honest exertion, or a better prospect of establishing a happy home, than in this "woolen country" of ours, whose vast resources are only beginning to be appreciated.

The Barley Crop of 1869.

The high price of barley last fall and winter induced those who could procure seed, even at a high figure, to go into planting this crop pretty extensively this spring. The anticipation of very high prices this year will perhaps not be realized, owing to the large breadth sown. The yield appears to be good, in fact extra good in many places, so far as one can judge from seeing the fields that were being harvested; but the colour and quality will not be equal to those of last year's crop. The prevalence of wet has given the grain a somewhat streaked appearance and dark colour, and at the same time has affected the fructification to the extent of rendering the heads in some instances full of small and imperfect grains.

The crop in Europe is below an average, while in the Western States, although the

commercial reports in political papers speak of a great crop, there is really but very little grown, so far as can be ascertained through our agricultural exchanges. Anticipating that our farmers, having a large crop, will desire to sell as early as possible, speculators from the other side of the line have already made their appearance, and are endeavouring to make contracts for September and October delivery at the lowest possible price they can induce acceptance of by paying in advance.

We notice that quotations of the price of barley are being carefully kept out of the commercial reports of many U. S. papers. Two cargoes of Canadian barley have been sold, to be delivered at Albany in October, on private terms, which leaked out to be \$1 65 per bushel. The market will open low here. One of the largest U. S. brewers, whom we met the other day, said that they would endeavour to get all they could at fair prices before the crop got into speculators' hands; but he thought 85c. to \$1, gold, was as high as they could afford to pay here. This would be a fair price to the farmer, one at which he could afford to sell his crop, and get a remuneration for his labour, but less will hardly pay so as to induce general cultivation of the crop.

We are told that the very exceptionally high price of barley in the States last spring, besides inducing importations of that grain from Europe, has also stimulated the brewers to use various substitutes for malt that, though not making an article of beer that could fairly be called by that name, still made what could be sold under it, the best of which they find to be "French Grape Sugar."

California is expected to supply a good quantity of very superior barley this year, but the cost of getting it either over the Pacific Railroad, or round by Cape Horn, will be a very heavy item of expense. The consumption of malt is, however, increasing to a greater extent than the production of barley, so that in any case a good fair price will have to be given before the crop is all sold.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF PURE BREED STOCK.—An important sale of stock is advertised by Mr. John Snell, to take place on his farm at Edmonton on the 29th of this month. The excellence of Mr. Snell's stock is too well known to need any fresh recommendation, and the lot about to be offered for sale consists of very choice animals, including short-horn cattle, Leicester, Cotswold, and South-down sheep, and imported Berk-shire hogs. For particulars, we refer our readers to the advertisement, and the catalogues which will be furnished by Mr. Snell on application.