

Ornamental Shade Trees.

In driving through some of our townships one cannot fail to notice that the appearance of the country is rendered very desolate by the absence of isolated and ornamental trees. Not to enter here into the question of the ill effects upon the surface of the land of an utter denuding of all trees, we would simply point to the barren appearance that is the result of such wholesale mutilation.

It is urged that it is useless to leave forest trees standing by themselves when the bush is cut down. Doubtless, it is true that most varieties of forest trees will die or be uprooted by high winds, when deprived of the shelter of companions. Where such is the case, though the appearance of certain townships proves that it is not always a necessary sequence, we would have every inducement held out to our farmers to plant out saplings. If owners of dwellings or of farms have not sufficient taste to beautify their own property, let the public at least endeavour to induce such men, by the hopes of pecuniary compensation, to plant trees along the public roads. Let the counties or townships vote a bonus to the planter for every tree which shall be set along the highway, and which shall be living say three years after planting. If a tree survive its removal for three years, the chances are that it will grow to a large and handsome one.

If we live ten years from to-day, such trees as are now set out will do much to relieve the desolate appearance of too many of our landscapes; and to those who are living twenty years hence, and to our children, the appearance of the country will rival the arboreal beauty of old England. We may then, with our old country friends, eulogise "the shady lanes and leafy bowers."

Settlers on Indian Lands.

In consequence of the general discontent of the settlers in the Saugeen Indian Peninsula with regard to the price of their lands and their relations with the Indian Department, the Reeve of Amabel invited the Township Councils of Kippel, Sarawak and Albermarle to meet the Council of Amabel at Hepworth in the Township of Keppel, on Tuesday the 19th of March, to discuss the propriety of taking some united action in the matter. The several Councils responded to this invitation, and though the day was very stormy and the roads almost impassable, the attendance was large and influential.

Resolutions were passed agreeing to petition the Governor in Council to grant to the settlers of the Saugeen Indian Peninsula an unconditional remission of interest to date on lands sold which are actually occupied; to appoint a local agent in some central place to transact all business in connection with Indian Lands, that is at present transacted in Toronto; to petition the Governor in

Council to make a grant of money for the improvement of the roads in the several municipalities, as an equivalent for taxes lost on lands returned by the Indian Department; to cause to be revalued such Indian lands as have been sold at an exorbitant price, or land of inferior quality on which the whole purchase money has not yet been paid; to appoint a Commissioner to confer with the Indian owners of the land, with a view of securing the purchase of the whole Indian Peninsula from them by the Government; and to bring into market all the unsold lands in the Saugeen Peninsula, and that said lands be sold to actual settlers only.

Moved by Wm. Flarity, seconded by F. Mills; that th^r Reeves of Amabel, Keppel, Sarawak and Albermarle and Mr. Bull, Clerk of Amabel, be appointed a committee to prepare a petition and communicate with the Government, with power to call another meeting when deemed necessary. Carried.

Moved by Ludwick Spagg, seconded by Wm. Flarity, That the following persons be appointed a deputation to proceed to Ottawa to confer with the government relative to the resolutions passed at this meeting, viz: Messrs. Allen, Lee, Brown and Ball. Carried.

Moved by R. J. Doyle, seconded by James Allen, That the Secretary be requested to send copies of the resolutions of this meeting to the Toronto Globe. Carried.

British Agricultural Statistics for 1871.

The Agricultural returns for the year 1871 have been laid before the British House of Commons and published in the usual blue book fashion.

The returns are from 519,784 occupiers of lands, and of these 281,920 farm less than twenty acres each. The total amount of land farmed by these small holders was, for Great Britain, 1,897,984 acres, or 6 per cent. of the whole. The horses possessed by these were about one tenth of the whole; cattle, rather more than a tenth; sheep and lambs, rather more than a twentieth; and pigs about a fifth.

The total average returned as under all kinds of crops, bare fallow and grass, in the United Kingdom was 46,667,178 acres. This is an increase on the previous year of 489,808 acres.

In Great Britain 206,583 acres are returned as being orchard land, and 2,175,471 acres as under wood and forest of different descriptions.

As far as can be ascertained, there are seven millions of acres of waste land in England and Wales; but a very large proportion of that is quite unproductive and will never be brought under cultivation.

In Great Britain, 3,571,894 acres were under wheat, and in Ireland 246,354 acres;

while, as a whole, there were in the former 9,675,261 acres under grain crops, and in the latter 2,124,079.

Under green crops there were in Britain 3,733,180 acres, and in Ireland 1,511,532.

Of live stock the total number of horses in the United Kingdom was 2,618,000, of which Great Britain had 2,110,590, and Ireland 537,633. The total number of cattle was 9,346,216 of which 5,337,759 belonged to Great Britain, and 3,973,102 to Ireland. Out of a total number of 31,403,500 sheep, 27,119,569 were in Britain, and 4,228,721 in Ireland; while of 4,136,616 pigs Ireland had 1,616,754, and Great Britain 2,499,602.

For every hundred acres in Britain, there were 6.8 horses, while in Ireland there were only 3.4. On the other hand there were in England only 15.5 cattle to every 100 acres, while in Wales there were 22.9; in Scotland 23.7; and in Ireland 25.3.

Of sheep there were for the same quantity of land, 73.9 in England; 103.9 in Wales; 152.4 in Scotland; and only 26.9 in Ireland.

From the same returns it appears that the land under wheat in the Australian Colonies must be about 1,240,000 acres, which will yield 17,000,000 bushels, or nine bushels a head for the total population of Australia. The wheat crop of Australia is liable to great fluctuations. In 1870 the average yield in South Australia was about 5½ bushels per acre, while in 1871 it was 11½. The difference would have been still greater had not from two to four bushels in the latter year been shaken out by high winds in the time of harvest.

The land under cotton in Queensland for 1870 was 14,674 acres,—a very slight increase on the previous year. There were about 16,000 acres of vineyards in Australia, and as much at the Cape of Good Hope.

Notes on the Weather.

The past month of March has been the coldest of which any record has been taken in this part of Ontario, and the opening of Spring has been delayed to an almost unprecedented degree. The absence of snow and the extent of frost has led to a very general fear among farmers in regard to the condition of the fall wheat, many pronouncing that crop irretrievably doomed; but though considerable damage may be looked for, we do not think the injury will be so general as is anticipated—a very short time must now decide the question. The meteorological report from the Toronto Observatory for March, is as follows:—