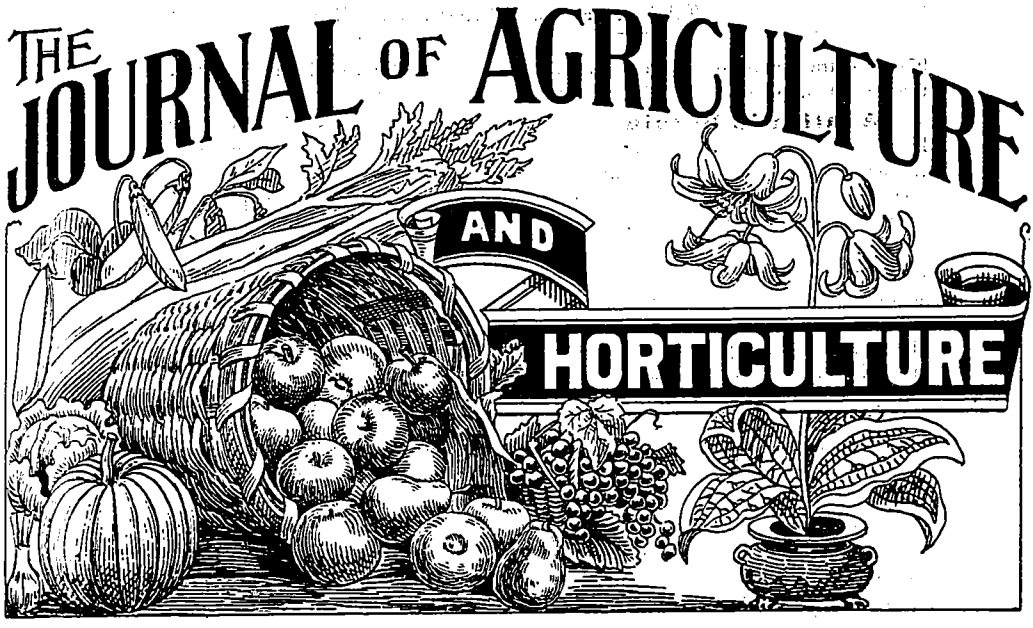

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Notes by the Way.

Price of Wheat.—Why, the farmers of Britain must be rubbing their eyes to see if they are really and indeed awake, or dreaming fantastic dreams of impossible prosperity! Best samples of white-wheat selling at £ 12 10 s. a load? Incredible, almost, but true, nevertheless.

By the bye, the *load* of wheat is rather a peculiar style of measure. It varies according to the district. In the Eastern and South-Eastern counties, where the roads have been good for centuries, it means a cart-load of 40 bushels, —a little more than 2,500 lbs—in the level land of Hertfordshire, etc., where pack-horses were used a couple of hundred years ago, the load is five bushels,—about 310 lbs—but in the hilly country of Derbyshire, the pack-horse could only carry three bushels, —170 lbs.—and there the *load* is still of that weight. We mention these curious facts to show how hopeless was the attempt made the other day to carry a measure in the British House of Commons to compel all farmers and dealers to sell all grain, pulse, etc., by the hundred pounds, or cental, as at Liverpool. As well try to abolish the dear old "pound-sterling," the "three barley-corns make one inch," and other weights and measures dear to our ancestors, and replace them by the *dollar* and *cent*, the *gramme* and the *litre!*

Well, to return to our wheat prices, that cereal has, even in steady old London, been marvellously active. A twelvemonth ago, 30 s. a quarter would have been looked upon as a fair price, and, now, farmers turn up their noses at any bid of less than 54 s.; nay, we fully expect to hear of the best qualities of white wheat, the Talavera, Chidham, etc., of England, and our own Manitoba wheat, fetching 60 s. before harvest. And such prices, mind you, are of no trifling importance to the tenant-farmers of Britain. The average rent of land there is certainly, now, not more than 15 s. an acre; the average yield of wheat is about 30 bushels an acre; the usual rotation is one that brings the wheat-crop round about once in five years; so, taking the above data as well grounded, the rise in price is equal to