

As far, therefore, as the culture of *wheat* is concerned, the settler in Canada West has a vast advantage over the settler in the Illinois prairie, the yield, the quality and the price being all superior in Canada West. The peninsula of Upper Canada consists of soils similar to those of the Genesee valley, in the State of New York, distinguished for the finest quality of wheat, which the American miller eagerly buys to mix with the coarser wheats of the Western States. Canadian wheat makes the very finest flour, whilst Western wheat makes only second and third rate qualities. The area of the fine wheat growing lands on this continent is very limited, and Upper Canada occupies a large portion of it.

But, says Mr. Caird, "Indian Corn is the great staple in Illinois." Let us take him at his own shewing, and let us see the result. The average produce he gives in two places is 50 bushels per acre, and at another 40. The price at page 61. is 8d. per bushel; at page 71, 10d.; and at another place, page 51, one farthing per pound, or 1s. 3d. per bushel; at pages 87 and 89, 1s. 8d. per bushel. Taking the price at 1s. 3d. sterling on the spot, and the produce per acre at 50 bushels (which is far too high an average, 40 being much more like the truth) we have £3 2s. 6d. per acre the produce of a good average corn crop in Illinois. The cost of twice ploughing, planting, horse-hoeing, &c., is at least £2 2s. 6d. per acre, and the prairie farmer has £1 per acre at this shewing for himself for interest on his purchase money, fencing, buildings, &c. Mr. Caird has truly and admirably said (page 64):—"If a man buys 600 acres and has not the means of cultivating more than 60, the 540 acres are a dead loss to him. He has to pay either the price or the interest of the price of this large, unproductive extent of land. The produce of the 60 acres is called upon to bear not only its own burden, but that of the nine-tenths which are idle.—'The lean kine thus eat up the one fat one.'" Probably four-fifths of the settlers buy what is called one quarter section (being 160 acres) and are not able for two or three years to cultivate more than the fourth of it; thus, the 40 or 80 acres under cultivation or whatever it may be, has to pay the whole interest on the purchase money of the 160 acres, and of the house and buildings erected. The rent or interest of course will vary, but taking the price at £3 sterling, and the fencing at 16s. per acre, and the buildings, &c., at £100, the rent of 40 acres cropped, with house built would be about £42 10s., thus:—

First cost of Land, at £3 per acre.....	£480	0	0
Cost of fencing 160 acres, at 16s. per acre, being 640 rods, at 4s. stg..	128	0	0
Buildings, Well, &c., &c.....	100	0	0
	£708	0	0

This £708 at 6 per cent would be about £42 10s., or 21s. 3d., sterling, per acre, leaving the farmer minus 1s. 3d. per acre on the actual cost, giving him barely laborers' wages and no interest for his working-cattle, implements, &c., &c. The fencing of 160 acres, requires 640 rods of fence, which, at a very low calculation, is worth \$1 per rod, or 4s. sterling. Mr. C. makes the expense of fencing £60 pounds per mile (see page 55), but considering that price too high, I have taken £40 per mile. If a whole section is purchased (a mile square) the outside fence on all the sides would be four miles, and the acreable cost of enclosing would be much less than where only a quarter section is purchased; but every prairie farmer as well as every other farmer requires subdivisions of his farm, and 16s. sterling per acre, is a very low estimate of the cost of fencing on any farm. So that Mr. Caird's representations, at pages 89 and 90, where he says: "The third year begins by the prairie farmer finding himself the unincumbered owner of his land, all fenced and improved, with a stock of horses and implements, and the whole of his original capital in his pocket," is a monstrous delusion, calculated to do immense injury to his readers, who may be thereby tempted to settle on the agreeable, treeless, shelterless and arid prairies of Illinois. The idea, too, expressed at page 90, that, "he may continue to crop his farm with Indian corn, from which he will reap very large returns on his capital," is, to say the least of it, a much too glowing and sanguine view of the prairie farmer's prospects. At page 60 he gives the opinion of a Mr. Brown, an old farmer in the country, "that more money has been made, and may be made, in this state by stock farming than by corn growing;" and adds, (page 61) "but he has not found short horned stock so successful on the natural prairie grass, of which, on his own lands, he has no longer any."

To give us an idea of stock farming, Mr. C. tells us (page 71) that "Oxen of 3 years