

## Miscellaneous.

## Agricultural Regions

(BY J. M. DE COURTENAY.)

## ECONOMICAL LIMITS.

ECONOMICAL limits depend upon extremely complicated calculations, the basis of which may be considered as:—

1st. The quantity and quality of possible productions, in the situation under consideration.

2nd. The prices to be expected in the home market for such productions.

3rd. The expense of cultivation.

The results of a comparison of the above considerations have a tendency to extend or contract the limits of the cultivation of such plants, either *beyond* or *within* the boundaries of their *natural* limits. Excellent wine was formerly produced in abundance in the neighbourhood of Paris; but economical considerations have caused vine culture there to become extremely limited. In Belgium, on the contrary, custom house duties have caused the extension of wine and silk culture, beyond its rational limits.

In Lower Canada, the facilities of water communication with the West, have established an economical limit to the extensive production of grain or Indian corn, and, in self defence they are bound to meet such changes by providing a substitute for grain culture,—formerly the wealth of their flat lands. Hemp should be the great staple commodity of such lands; not from its peculiar adaptation to the lands and to the climate, but also from its great value—from its tendency to *improve* the general system of agriculture in those countries, where it has been cultivated *with success*—as well as from the occupation it creates for the long and unproductive winters. The secret of the popularity of the Bonaparte family, in Central Italy, is that they owe the incalculable wealth of their lands to the 1st Consul, who introduced there the cultivation of hemp, and who never did anything by halves. Had we taken the trouble to examine the means employed by that great reformer, we should have long since endowed the Provinces with this source of immense prosperity. Yet, surely, public money enough has been, spent (at least nominally) for this purpose.

Both grain and corn certainly, as well as silk and hemp, enter into the agricultural economy of the wine regions; but the *reasoned* rotation of crops, resulting from a union of the whole, can alone, in this Province, at the same time, overcome the economical limit above-mentioned, and prevent the reproduction of the midge. All other remedies for the latter must be ineffectual, as the *midge* is not the *cause* of a failure in the wheat—but is an *effect* of disease, caused by a disregard of the immutable laws by which all things are governed.

## STATISTICAL LIMITS.

Statistical limits depend upon the distribution of population.

M. DeGasparies and other French authorities, calculate that it requires the labour of two persons to produce 250 lbs. of raw silk. The real labour of such production does not extend over a week, being the last of five, comprising the ephemeral existence of the silk worm. The Department of Gard, France, producing more than five millions of pounds of raw silk (2,700,000 kilogrammes), must employ more than half its population above the age of twelve years, during the *last* week of such production. The statistical limit of silk culture may therefore be fixed by the number of persons capable of being employed at such productions, during *one* week of the year. The extreme brevity of this season of labour would facilitate its introduction into Canada, where it would interfere with no important agricultural occupation. When it is considered that upon the best farms within the wine regions, upon the continent of Europe, the crop of silk is calculated as equivalent to *all* the field crops put together, besides being a *cash* crop, immediately realized, the additional exertions expected from every one during a single week, will never be considered burdensome. The advan-

tage of being able to obtain a large *cash* crop, so early in the spring, is a stimulus to additional exertion, which every farmer will easily understand.

The statistical limit of vine culture, in ordinary cases, is not felt, as it enters into the rotation of ordinary occupations of the farm. The mechanical genius of America has extended by machinery, the statistical limits of most field crops, and in this they have succeeded in a very remarkable manner; but their efforts in the same direction, with regard to the production of wine, and the cultivation of the grape, have been failures. Their attempts to produce "point stock silk," by a *fast* mulberry, (the *Morus Multicaul*), instead of waiting "nature's time," has retarded silk cultivation upon this continent for at least half a century. Their efforts, however, although unsuccessful at the time, may become an ultimate good. In relation to silk culture, they have proved that the fast growing and productive "multicaul" is admirably adapted to the silk worm, during the first stages of its existence. And when (by competition with more favoured climates) the Western States learn that their vine has *too long* a season of vegetation for the production of superior wines, they will, competing along with California, become the brandy producers of this continent, and derive great advantages from mechanical assistance, which in that case will undoubtedly extend the statistical limits of their operations.

## AGRICULTURAL LIMITS.

Agricultural limits are marked principally by the tenure of land. Were you to propose the culture of vine, mulberry, or walnut, to farmers holding short leases, (the greatest curse of a country,) you would only be answered by ridicule. Even small proprietors, who must exist upon the annual produce of their lands, will not dare to make experiments, except upon mature reflection, and having the example of success before their eyes. Agricultural reforms, therefore, must depend altogether upon the tenure of the soil, which, after all, is the only regulator of its wealth. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to develop the agricultural resources of a country, without the assistance of wealthy landed proprietors; and under the most favourable circumstances many acquisitions and great energy are necessary, in order to carry out great projects of agricultural reform. However, I presume the time may not be far distant when it will become generally admitted that upon the intelligent and zealous exertions of the Bureau of Agriculture, must depend our best prospects of immediate prosperity, and future greatness. Under a change of circumstances, the position of Minister of Agriculture will be sought after by our most zealous and able agriculturists—not with the hopes of rendering transitory assistance to this, or that, political party of the day—but with the glorious ambition of raising the general standard of public wealth and happiness, and, indeed, of public morality, as an immense and imperishable monument of their patriotism. Then, indeed, the circle of our agricultural limit will *expand*, and we shall have no other bounds to prosperity than that *invariable* limit, ordained by the Giver of all things.

Having, as briefly as it lay in my power, endeavoured to classify agricultural regions, I must, before entering upon the laws of rotation and details of cultivation, endeavour also to classify soils, and explain, as far as my means will allow, the principles of "Agricultural Geology."

## A Lit-tle Stor-y for Lit-tle Pro-tection-ists.

[IN WORDS MAINLY OF ONE SYLLABLE.]

There was a man in I-o-wa who grew Wheat. One Day he had Need of a new Plough Share. A man in Eng-land said, I will sell you a Plough-Share for five bushels of Wheat. A man in Penn-syl-van-i-a said, Buy your Plough-Share of me. But as it costs me Twice as much as the man in Eng-land to make a Plough-Share, you must give me Ten Bushels of Wheat for it. And the Man in I-o-wa said, No! for I can buy the Plough-Share of the Man in Eng-land for the Half of That, and have the Rest left to buy Something else, or I can buy Two Plough-Shares, and I shall be so much the more rich. It is a waste to give Twice as much for a Thing which can be got for the Half. Then the man in Penn-syl-van-i-a went to Un-cle Sam who ruled that Land and the Lord of I-o-wa; and said, when the Man in Eng-land Sends the Plough-Share, You must not let the Man in I-o-wa have it, if he does not give you Six Bush-els of Wheat. For if the Man in Eng-land Sells Plough-Shares here, I can-not sell mine, for his are more cheap, and there shall be no Work for the Men of our Trade, and your land shall get poor, But if the

Man in I-o-wa finds that he has to give Five Bush-els of Wheat for the Plough-Share to the Man in Eng-land, and has to give Six Bush-els of Wheat to let the Plough-Share come into your Land, then he will buy my Plough-Share instead, and Plough-Shares shall be made here in-stead of com-ing from Eng-land, and your land shall get rich. And Un-cle Sam said, Yes. And when the Man in I-o-wa saw that he would have to pay E-lev-en Bush-els of Wheat for the Plough-Share from Eng-land, he bought the Plough-Share of the Man in Penn-syl-van-i-a. By which he lost Five Bush-els of Wheat, with which he had meant to buy a Blank-et for his Bed, so that he was cold all Win-ter; but the Man in Penn-syl-van-i-a laughed in his Sleeve and grew Fat. Now, was it not a Waste of La-bour and loss to Un-cle Sam to make a Plough-share in Penn-syl-van-i-a, when Half the La-bour would have brought a Plough-Share from Eng-land? And when, too, the Rest of the La-bour might have gone to make Some-thing else, which the Man in I-o-wa would have bought with the Rest of his Wheat, so that the Man in Penn-syl-van-i-a is an un-just greedy Man, and Un-cle Sam a Sil-ly old Man to let him have his Way?—*New York Evening Post*.

## Valuable Suggestions.

SUBSCRIBE for one or more good agricultural papers. The farmer needs papers devoted to his own interest, as much as a merchant or a politician. The farmer who does not take an agricultural paper is decidedly behind the times. He must change his course, take the papers and read them, or he will be an inferior farmer.

Get some good agricultural books to read and study during the leisure of stormy days and the long winter evenings.

If you have children, send them to school; take an interest in their studies, and help them to a good education. A good common sense education never came amiss to any one; and in these times the saying is true, "Knowledge is power."

Keep a record of your farm operations, of what you do each day; especially note the time you begin to plough, plant, &c., the early and late frosts, and of the ripening and harvesting of grain. Such a record may be pleasant to refer to in future years.

Keep your accounts. Be able to tell at the end of the year how much money you have received, how much you have paid out, and how you stand with the world.

Finally, do your business on scientific principles; act up to all the light you have; read, reflect, and study; make home attractive; have books and papers for every member of the family; improve your time and your mind. Act well your part in life and you will not need to envy men in other walks of life, but will have cause to rejoice that you are an American farmer.—A NEW ENGLAND FARMER, in the *Rural American*.

SHELTER THE TOOLS.—Our esteemed correspondent, S. W. A., of Illinois, in a communication intended for the benefit of all *Rural* readers, pertinently says:—Are your tools and machinery all sheltered from the snow and rain? This is very important. Western farmers suffer more loss from the decay of machinery by exposure, than from the wear of it: ten times more. Everywhere we see reapers and mowers, threshers, fanning mills, drills, waggons, and all kinds of farm machinery, lying just where last used—and there many of them will be till wanted. But our soil is so fertile that Western farmers, as a general thing, are prosperous in spite of all this bad management. Yet "a penny saved is as good as a penny earned," says "poor Richard," and I think it would be well to begin the saving process by housing the tools.—S. W. A., of Illinois, in *Rural New Yorker*.

PROVERBS BY JOSH BILLINGS.—Young men, be more anxious about the peddygree yuro going to leave, than you are about the I somebody left you.

There iz only I advantage that I can see in going tew the Devil, and that iz, the rode iz easy, and you are sure to find the way.

When a man's dog deserts him on akownt of his poverty, he kant git any lower down in this world—not bi land.

Men ain't apt tew git kicht out of good society for being rich.

Two common "Yankee Noshuns" are the noshuns that skeul houses are cheaper than Staats Prizons, and that the United States iz liable at enny time to be doubled, but aint liable at enny time to be divided.

There iz a I kind of kissin that has always bin deemed extry hazardas (on akount of fire), and that iz kissin yuro naber's wife. Gitting the wife's consent don't make the matter enny less risky.