

of Edinburgh. Mr. Smith had the honor of obtaining the medal of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, for the best general examination; also medals for the best examination in chemistry, anatomy, and materia medica, respectively. What the Board have particularly in view in getting out a Veterinarian whose professional education is fully up to the present advanced state of the science, is first that he may establish for himself a remunerative practice, and communicate instruction to students and young farmers, in the hope of ultimately forming a regular Veterinary school for the Province.

Australian Farming.

[The following facts, from an article in the *Farmer's Journal*, published at Melbourne, will give the reader some idea of managing rural affairs in the flourishing colony of Victoria, where the advantages of agricultural machinery are beginning to be understood and appreciated.]

"A short time since we paid a visit to the farm of Mr. Barton, situated on the basaltic plains to the southern base of the Anyaghe Yowang, about half way between Geelong and Melbourne railway. Mr. Barton, like some of the most successful farmers in the Australian colonies, as well as in the United States, had no knowledge of farming, practically or theoretically, till he arrived in these colonies; but being a shrewd observer, he has made good use of his opportunities since that period, as will be seen by the sequel. A great deal has been said of late about farming not being a remunerative business, but against the opinions of mere theorists we put the actual experience of a really practical man.

The soil on the ranges, and on the slopes in the immediate vicinity, is of the richest description, and consists of a deep black mould, such as we generally find near the site of volcanic eruptions. The natural grasses are very luxuriant, and support at the rate of about three tons to the acre. One gentleman has 2,000 acres fenced in, and rendered sheep proof, which at the present moment, 3,000 sheep—crops, too, have turned out excellent, and as much as forty bushels of wheat and upwards per acre have been obtained on the slopes of the ranges. Mr. Barton's farm, however, is situated some distance from the ranges, and the soil is a very different description from that referred to.

Here the soil is of a brownish, stiff clay, on the surface, and here and there a plentiful crop of boulders. The natural grasses too are of the poorest kind. In fact, the farm forms a part of the stony plain before mentioned; and

as bleak, barren, and unpromising a plain as one could well imagine. It will be seen, then, that the soil Mr. Barton had to operate upon was not the very best in the world; in fact there are hundreds of thousands, we might almost say millions, of acres similar to this in the colony, considered to be totally valueless except for sheep-grazing purposes. The vast dreary, treeless, basaltic plains, which extend westward from the Moorabool to the Hopkins, at present but partially occupied as sheep runs, are precisely the same description of land as we are speaking of; and there are large tracts of a similar kind in various parts of the colony. The actual working expenses in the cultivation of soil of this description, together with the produce per acre, we shall now endeavor to lay before our readers.

The actual working expenses, then, in ploughing, sowing, and harvesting, on this farm, in 1859 (we take this year because the season following was altogether an exceptional one, from the excessive rains, and Mr. Barton had in the meantime removed to another farm which was already cropped), amounted to £1 4s. per acre. This is allowing one pair of horses to plough five acres per week, the land being previously broken up; and allowing for wages 20s. rations 6s., horse feed 10s., and blacksmith work 4s., per week. Total for five acres, 40s. or at the rate of 8s. per acre. In sowing—two teams of working bullocks (four bullocks to the team) and one man, for sowing, managed five acres per day, allowing wages and rations as before, and a little for tear and wear, the expense will be 12s. 2d. for five acres. Then there is the seed at the rate of 1½ bushels to the acre, 12s. 6d.—for the five acres, 62s. 6d.; allow also for contingencies an additional sum, say 5s. 4d. This will make for the whole five acres ££, being at the rate of £1 4s. per acre. In harvesting, Mr. Barton employs one of Mellor's Adelaide stripping machines, along with one of Hornsby's spike roller winnowing machines, and so the reaping, winnowing and bagging operations are carried on in the field at one and the same time. By using these machines he was able to reap, clean and bag his wheat at the rate of from seven to eight acres per day, and at a cost of (what to many may seem incredible) only 9s. per acre!—Mr. Barton estimates that the whole of the plant and machinery requisite for farming, say 150 acres of wheat, on land similar to his own, may be purchased for £200; and he believes that £50 per annum, or 25 per cent., for tear and wear, depreciation of stock, &c., would be amply sufficient. On 150 acres, then, this would amount to 6s. 8d. per acre. The wheat crop on this farm yielded from 20 bushels and upwards per acre, and the price obtained on the farm was 7s. 3d. per bushel on the average.

We think we are now in a position to ascertain whether farming, as carried on under such conditions as we have referred to, and accord-