

ial. The linen trade, thus conducted, has deserted those districts, and left them burthened with the subdivided farms and a pauper tenantry, till the potato rot, and the emigration which has followed in its train, produced another social revolution.

The great obstacle to the growth of flax in England is the want of an intermediate interest to buy the straw from the grower, and to prepare the fibre for the spinner. Conducted on the old system, it is only adapted to small occupations, like those of Belgium and Ireland. Even in Ireland, the want of this immediate interest is strongly felt, and strenuous exertions are being made to supply it. New processes of preparing the fibre are moreover being introduced, which cannot be carried on upon the farm, but require separate establishments, and which appear likely to supersede the old method of steeping, just as the steam-driven spindles and powerlooms have superseded the spinning wheel and handloom.

Two years ago the most promising of these new processes appeared to be that of Schenck, which consisted in steeping the flax in hot water, and thus effected in from 72 to 96 hours what under the old system occupied from two to three weeks. In 1852, 20 retteries on this system were established in Ireland, besides several in England.

Since then two other processes have been patented, which as far as trials on a small scale have gone, appear to be superior to Schenck's, both as regards the saving of time and expense. One of these is by Watts. It consists in steaming the straw, instead of steeping. The other method is Buchanan's, who operates by means of repeated immersions (about 10) in hot water, kept by a very ingenious contrivance from exceeding a certain temperature. The process is conducted by means of cheap and simple machinery, by which labour is saved, the risk of loss from carelessness avoided, and the time required for the preparation of the fibre is reduced to 12 hours. The system is now being tested on a commercial scale in Scotland.

It has been well observed that the chief impediment to the growth of flax consists in the question "Who is to begin?" The farmer does not grow flax for want of the rettery, and the rettery is not established for want of the flax. Another difficulty arises out of the continued improvements which are going on in the processes for preparing the fibre, and the perplexity which this occasions among those who are disposed to embark in the undertaking, as to which they shall adopt. The scarcity of flax, however, which the war is producing, will probably lead to a cutting of the knot. The manufacturers, in their eagerness to obtain a supply, will be inclined to make a little dash in establishing retteries.

They will commence with Schenck's, as that which has been the most tested; and if they find that either of the new processes

proves better, they will, with the usual manufacturing enterprise, remodel their establishments and adopt the new processes without delay and regardless of cost.

The manufacturers are the parties who should make the first move, by establishing retteries and offering a liberal price to the farmers for their straw. The districts best suited to the experiment are those in which the cultivation of flax formerly flourished, and in which the agricultural population are not wholly strangers to its management.—*Mark Lane Express.*

POTATO CROP.—We are happy to state that up to this time, July 22nd, after nine years' unsuccessful cultivation of the potato, we have no reason to pronounce a recurrence of disease in the tenth crop of 1854. About a fortnight ago, during the time of a remarkable humid, lurid, and sunless atmosphere, we heard of the actual presence of spotted leaves, and here and there a diseased tuber, and some unmistakable infected leaves have been sent us in letters from distant parts, for ocular demonstration. By this time we hope and trust that this fungus on such specimens is now starving, or absorbing, and is overcome by the present and welcome hot sunny weather, and that the tubers are mostly thus preserved. In short, in this district (Essex), where most people have availed themselves, by our advice, of the opportunity of procuring early dwarf kinds, they are now fast ripening with a healthy yellow hue, and bidding defiance to the disease; and none are in danger here, except late varieties. which we are not so mad now either to venture or recommend. We have no doubt that by future adherence to dwarf early varieties and early planting we shall then be free from potato disease. Of about ten selected early varieties we cultivate, all are at this time (July 22) fast maturing, and are free from tainture. We are also equally successful this season in raising sound lillywhite, and fresh early varieties from our selected seed (not tubers), which have hitherto baffled our imaginations, by sharing the same fate as others. It is a most remarkable fact that this year such crops as are most susceptible of blight, mildew, louse, and numerous other insects, are, with exception of the beans, and hop, and a few others, comparatively free from those pests, which are now so prevalent. Instance the ill-fated potato, the pea, and the cabbage, and some others.—*Abraham Hardy & Sons, seed-growers, Maldon, Essex.*

FARMS AND FARMERS.—Farms occupy two-thirds of the land of England. The number of the farms is 225,318; the average size is 111 acres. Two-thirds of the farms are under that size, but there are 771 of above 1,000 acres. The large holdings abound in the south-eastern and eastern counties; the small farms in the north.

There are 2,000 English farmers holding nearly 2,000,000 acres; and there are 97,000 English farmers not holding more. There are 40,650 farmers who employ live labourers each; 16,501 have ten or more, and employ together 311,707 labourers; 170 farmers have above 60 labourers each, and together employ 17,000.—*Census Report.*

#### CAMBRIDGE CATTLE MARKET.—AUG 23.

Market Beef—Extra, (including nothing but the best large Oxen, well stall fed at least one year,) \$8.50 per cwt.—1st quality, (consisting of large fat Oxen, stall fed at least seven months.) \$8.—2nd quality, (consisting of the best grass fed Oxen, the best stall fed Cows, and the best three old Steers, \$6½ a \$7.—3rd quality, £5½ a \$6—ordinary, \$4 a \$5. Hides—\$6 a \$6½ per cwt. Tallow, \$8 a \$8½ Pelts—37 a 62c. Calf Skins, 14 a 15c per lb. Veal Calves—\$5, 6, 7 a \$8; but few at market. Stores—Working Oxen—\$62, 68, 71, 74, 75, 76, 82, 84, 97, 105, 112, 115 a \$210. Cows and Calves—\$18, 22, 28, 31, 36, 42, 44, 48, 50 a \$68. Yearlings—\$7, 8 a \$9. Two years old—\$14, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26 a \$30. Three year old—\$25, 28, 32, 34, 37, 41, 43, 44 a \$48. Sheep and Lambs \$368 at market. Prices—Extra, \$1, 4½, 5, 6 a \$7. By lot—\$1½, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½. Swine—Wholesale, stall fat hogs 1½c, and corn fed 5c per lb.

#### MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES.

*Rates at which produce is purchased from the Farmers.*

Hay per 100 bundles, old, none offering.  
Do. do new, from 12 to \$13  
Straw do 7 to \$8½.  
Eggs, per dozen, from 7½ to 8d.  
Fresh Butter, per lb, from 1s 1d to 1s 3d.  
Salt Butter, do from 10d to 11d.  
Country Cheese, do 6d to 7½d.  
Wheat, per minot, from 8s 3d to 8s 6d.  
Barley, do none in market.  
Rye, do do do  
Oats, do from 3s to 3s 3d.  
Indian Corn, do from 4s 3d to 4s 6d.  
Buckwheat, none.  
Peas, from 5s to 5s 6d.  
There is no new grain coming in as yet.  
Beef, per 100 lbs, from 4 to \$7.  
Mess Pork, do from 19 to \$19½.  
Mutton, per carcass, from 2½ to \$6.  
Lamb, do from 1½ to \$2½.  
Veal, do from 1½ to \$6.

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