

## Australian Agriculture

We are indebted to the *Mark Lane Express* for the following interesting details respecting the present state of Agriculture in the Australian colonies. From an official copy of the agricultural statistics of Victoria for 1867, it appears that although some attention is still given to gold-mining, the exports of gold averaging about £6,000,000, agriculture and sheep-farming occupy now very prominent places in the industry of the colony. The export of wool now reaches 43,000,000 pounds, or more than double what it was at the time of the gold-seeking mania in 1853. The horses in the colony have quadrupled, there are double the number of sheep, and the cattle keep steady in number and quite adequate to the wants of the increased population; the population in the colony having doubled in twelve years.

The occupied land in the colony now amounts to 7,947,455 acres. The area occupied during the last ten years amounts to 5,840,930 acres, or more than three-fourths of the whole extent of land at present under occupation. The average size of holdings is 325 acres; that of the lots usually devoted to farming pursuits, 104 acres. The average area in occupation to each individual in the colony is 11.5 acres. In the last ten years, settlement has progressed in a faster ratio than the population.

The land enclosed amounts to 6,970,106 acres; of this 1,151,228 acres were fenced-in in 1867. The average area cultivated by each holder is 21.7 acres, of which freeholders contributed 70 per cent., and non-freeholders 30 per cent. The average area cultivated by farmers is 25½ acres, and by squatters 52½ acres. Farmers cultivated thirteen per cent. of the land they occupied, and squatters one per cent. of the alienated land attached to their runs. The extent cultivated by each occupier was the greatest in the year 1861, when the average was nearly thirty-one acres; since that period the tendency has been for settlement to outstrip cultivation, so far as the number of occupiers is concerned. Comparing the land in cultivation with the population of the colony, on an average, 100 acres are cultivated to every 109 individuals. Should cultivation advance in the same ratio, in relation to the increase of population, the next returns should show a proportion of not less than an acre under tillage to each head of the population. This proportion has already been exceeded both in New South Wales and South Australia. In the former colony, according to the latest returns, with a population of 431,000, the number of acres placed in cultivation amounted to 451,000, or a fraction over an acre per head; and in South Australia, during the last season, no less than 4.37 acres were placed under tillage to each individual in the community.

The numbers of live stock returned for Victoria are as follow: Horses, 121,381; cattle, 598,968, of which 140,414 were milch cows; 9,833,139 sheep, and 74,708 pigs. In ten years there has been a net increase of 73,649 in the number of horses, of 4,791,591 in the number of sheep, and of 22,481 in the number of pigs, but a falling off of 47,645 in the number of horned cattle. There are nearly fifteen head of stock of all descriptions to each man, woman, and child in the colony, consisting of about one-fifth of a horse, one head of cattle, fourteen sheep, and one-tenth of a pig; and about 111 head to the square mile, namely, one and a-half horses, nearly seven cattle, 102 sheep, and less than one pig.

In all the Australian colonies, including Tasmania and New Zealand, there are upwards of 600,000 horses, nearly 4,000,000 cattle, 38,500,000 sheep, and nearly 400,000 pigs, or more than 43,000,000 head of stock of all descriptions distributed throughout the group. New South Wales still heads the list in thirteen and three-quarter millions; Victoria stands second, 9,628,000; Queensland third, 8,264,000; and New Zealand fourth, 5,297,000. New South Wales and Queensland are still the great grazing colonies, as they own 2,700,000 head of cattle, and Victoria has under 600,000. As a sheep-breeding colony Victoria stands in an equally good position, surpassing Queensland by nearly 2,000,000, but outstripped by the older colony New South Wales, which owns more than eleven and a-half million sheep.

Passing now to an examination of the agricultural resources and production of Victoria, we find that the most important crop cultivated is wheat, which covered 208,588 acres, and produced 4,641,205 bush. The average produce per acre was—wheat 22.3 bush.; oats 30 bushels; barley 30.2 bushels, potatoes 2.7 tons; hay 1.7 tons. Four years ago vines only covered about 2,000 acres in Victoria, less than one-half the extent of ground now devoted to that culture. The vines numbered 8,231,022, more than half of which are in bearing. The grapes gathered last year amounted to 60,659 cwt., of which 43,395 cwt. were made into wine. The cultivation of tobacco is not increasing in Victoria, the acreage having declined from 623 acres in 1864 to 243 acres in 1867.

In all the Australian colonies, including Tasmania and New Zealand, we find that close upon 2,500,000 acres are under tillage. The greatest amount of cultivation (739,714 acres,) and of lands under vines, wheat, and miscellaneous tillage is in South Australia, as is also the largest extent under hay, if New Zealand (which only returns sown grasses and not hay) be excluded. Victoria can boast of the largest extent under oats and potatoes, and New South Wales the largest under cereals, exclusive of oats (chiefly maize,) and under tobacco. The whole acreage under wheat in all the colonies is nearly 1,000,000 acres, whilst vines now cover 13,319 acres. The acreable yield of wheat, oats, and hay is highest in Victoria; New South Wales gives the highest acreable yield of maize and other cereals; the average yield of potatoes and tobacco is highest in Tasmania; and most wine per acre is made in South Australia.

Returns of the machines and implements in use upon farms and stations in Victoria, and of their value, are given: from these, it appears that 165 steam-engines, of an aggregate power equal to that of 1,239 horses are used by farmers, and twenty-two steam-engines of 142 horse-power by squatters. The total value of the plant or machines and implements possessed by farmers amounted to £804,515, whilst that in the possession of squatters is only valued at £61,182. The crops reaped and sown by machinery covered 160,649 acres, of which all but 1,100 acres were upon farms. The number of persons employed upon farms is 42,211, and upon squatting stations 9,640.

There are 114 mills for grinding and dressing grain in the colony; 106 of these are worked by steam and eight by water-power. The amount of horse-power employed is 2,952. There are 355 pairs of stones at work, and the quantity of grain operated on was 4,000,000 bushels. The flour made during the year was 85,586 tons. The approximate value of the machinery and plant of the flour mills was £176,425. There are now 86 breweries in the colony, employing 648 hands and 471 horses. Nearly 9,000,000 gallons of beer are made, and in the manufacture of which 539,000 bushels of malt, 603,289 lbs of hops, and 6,290,000 lbs. of sugar are used.

In closing this summary, it may be added that as there are stated to be officially 4½ million acres of land available for agricultural or pastoral purposes in the colony, and as not eight million are yet occupied, there is ample room for expansion of population and stock, even at the rapid rate at which they have been shown to be increasing.

## The "Prairie Farmer" on Reciprocity.

SEVERAL influential interests in the United States oppose the renewal of Reciprocity. Foremost among these is the wool interest. As its mouthpiece and advocate, the *Prairie Farmer* says in a recent issue:—

"Various mercantile, shipping and fishing interests are laboring with the powers at Washington for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. There is at least one branch of farm industry that stands fundamentally opposed to this Treaty. This is the wool branch. Since the passage of the present tariff granting protection to the producers of combing wools, an immense amount of capital has been invested in the long-wooled breeds of sheep, such as are universally bred in the Dominion of Canada. This business and capital would suffer immensely if Canadian wools were brought into the States free of duty. It therefore becomes the duty of wool growers, through the Associations, to act in opposition to the effort to include wools in the Reciprocity Treaty. The manufacturers who joined hands with the wool growers in securing the present tariff on wool and woollens, at the meeting of their Association on the 7th of October, gave evidence of their good faith by passing resolutions opposing the movement, on the ground that the advocacy of renewal of the Treaty for the purpose of obtaining Canadian wools free, would be a violation of the spirit of the agreement with the wool growers, upon which the present tariff on wools and woollens was founded,

and they say, 'that any advantage which might accrue to the worsted manufacturers from free introduction of combing wools under the proposed Treaty, would be more than counterbalanced by checking the impulse which it has already given to the growth of combing wools here. If the manufacturers oppose the treaty, how much more should wool growers?'"

Our contemporary also speaks in terms of high approval of the resolutions against Reciprocity lately passed by the National Wool Growers' Association. All this looks very uncalled-for and absurd, in view of the fact that upwards of nine million pounds of wool have to be imported to meet the wants of American manufacturers, and the other fact, that some seventeen million dollars' worth of woollen goods are brought from abroad to supply the wants of citizens of the United States. When demand and supply are more equally balanced, there will be more consistency in high tariffs and anti-reciprocity.

THE RURAL NEW YORKER.—This ably-conducted and popular agricultural journal is to be enlarged to sixteen five-column pages, and otherwise improved on the 1st January next, when it commences its twentieth year and volume.

EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Our contemporary, the *Country Gentleman*, in a recent issue, acknowledges the receipt of "a valuable and rare collection of hyacinth and other bulbs," from Mr. James Vick, of Rochester; half-a-bushel of "large and beautiful upland cranberries," from Mr. O. C. Cook, of South Milford, Mass., and "a box of the best honey we have seen in a long time, even better than that received from the same source last year, from Mr. Jasper Hagan, of Albany." Fortunate editor!

PROPOSED LEGISLATION.—In addition to the Free Grant Question referred to in our last issue, there are other most important measures bearing on agriculture and the rural interests of the Province at present before the Ontario Legislature. In the mining interest very material changes are proposed, especially the abolishing of all royalties and taxes on minerals. A Homestead Exemption Law is also under discussion, which has for its object the exemption of homesteads, to the value of \$1,000, from sale or execution for debt. These bills are not yet in a forward state, but by our next issue we hope to be able to report fully and favourably on these important matters. An Act will probably be passed to prevent the setting out of fires during the dry period of the year. Modifications are also contemplated in the sheep and dog law, and a few slight changes in the game law. To these and other kindred subjects that may come before Parliament we will refer again.

## Agricultural Intelligence.

### Trade with the United States.

EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1868.

We subjoin a carefully prepared statement of the principal exports to the United States from this port for the present year, as compared with 1867. Statements of the exports from Port Hope and Cobourg are also given—the three ports being selected as having Consular agencies attached, and forming what has been mapped out by our American friends as "the District of Toronto." As far as it goes, the results shown are complete. It will be observed that this year there have been no exports to the United States in several articles which were largely sent there in 1867; and this is partly accounted for, as far as we can gather, not from any falling off in the exports generally, but from the fact that the traffic in question—with a good deal not here indicated—has sought Canadian rather than American routes of transit. Other markets have probably been found this year, in the varying course of trade, and it is to be hoped that they have all been better. This year