

As the settlement consists of 30 families, the average extent of land prepared for cultivation in 1892, including the heads of families, and the younger members thereof, is 119 acres per family, a result which could certainly never have been attained in the Hebrides.

In many other ways the settlement has considerably improved since our last report, and the holdings have consequently much increased in value. There are now 60 houses in the settlement (besides many additions to the buildings originally erected on the arrival of the crofters), of which 30 belong to the heads of families, and 30 to the younger members of the families who are now farming for themselves; and there has also been a substantial addition to the number of stables, granaries, and other buildings.

Reference must also be made to the considerable increase in the live stock in the possession of the various families, especially those under the headings in the statement of horses, oxen, and cows. The additional 38 oxen chiefly belong to the younger members of the families, and have been acquired out of their earnings. It will be noticed that the young stock has also shown a satisfactory increase, and now numbers 63 heifers, 53 steers, and 7 bulls.

In connexion with the very satisfactory condition of the Killarney settlement, it must not be forgotten that, for the first two years, its progress was comparatively slow, and that the crofters had to be assisted during the winter of 1888-89, and also with seed grain in the following spring.

It is perhaps a matter for regret that the settlers have acquired so much machinery on credit. They were warned against doing so, but the allurements of implement agents seem to have been difficult to withstand, and the scarcity of labour often makes it difficult to harvest the crops with rapidity, especially if reliance has to be placed on machinery not entirely under the control of the farmer.

The value of the land in the settlement, the buildings, stock, &c., is estimated at a low valuation, at about 16,000*l.*, against an indebtedness of about 5,000*l.*

Saltcoats Settlement.

The following table refers to the Saltcoats settlement for 1891:—

—	Acres.	Estimated Average Yield (Bushels).	Estimated Total Crop (Bushels).
Wheat - - -	271½	—	—
Oats - - -	223½	—	—
Potatoes - - -	19½	—	3,592

The report so far as it concerns Saltcoats is, as was to be expected, not quite so satisfactory as that relating to Killarney. There were 166½ acres more under wheat in 1891 than in 1890, 103 acres more of oats, and 3½ acres more of potatoes. Manitoba and the North-West Territories, with a few exceptions, enjoyed a bountiful harvest last year, but unfortunately the Saltcoats district was one of the exceptions, the entire crop of wheat being seriously damaged by frost in the last week in August. The crofters are, however, self-supporting, and have not required any assistance from the Board.

The oat crop in 1891, although slightly damaged by frost, is said to be a fair sample, and the root crops are stated to be good.

The acreage in cultivation is not so large as could be wished, and it will probably not increase with the rapidity shown at Killarney, until a good crop has been obtained. In 1889, owing to inexperience of the country and to the dry season, the crofters did not get much crop. In 1890 they had not so much ground under cultivation as could have been expected, but the crops were excellent in quantity and quality. The grain, however, was somewhat damaged at harvest time by heavy rains, and owing to its not having been properly stacked. This naturally caused some disappointment. The crofters, however, had enough grain to supply their wants during the winter, for seed grain in 1891, and to pay the store debts they had incurred.

The acreage prepared for 1892 is 692½, an increase of 178 acres over the preceding year.