

## SMALL AND LARGE FARMS.

The comparative value of small and large farms, is seldom made a subject of serious investigation, especially in Canada, where lands can be purchased for a trifle. Farmers in this country, are very apt to boast of the number of bushels of seed sown, or the acres ploughed; but when you enter into the details of their management, and expose their want of skill, you then confound them at once. Owing to the high prices of labour and farming utensils of every description, and the very low prices which the produce of the farm generally command, arable culture cannot be carried out to that extent in Canada that is successfully practised in Britain. The profits of a provincial farmer, much depends upon the amount of labour performed by himself and the branches of his own family, and of course, the skill brought to bear in the business, consequently, small farms are the most profitable, unless the branches be very extensive. The largest farmers in the country are in a much worse condition than small ones the present year, owing to the fact, that it requires all the produce of the farm, to pay a few greedy labourers.

The largest and one of the best farmers in the Gore District, in the neighbourhood of Paris, who has between five and six hundred acres under cultivation, assured us that the whole of the produce from his farm, would not pay the labourers which he employed during last year. This is a deplorable state of things indeed, but we know of a truth, for we speak from experience, that it is true to the very letter. Scores of similar instances have come under our notice, and we are led to predict that the class of farmers, who have the largest expectations, will be sadly disappointed next autumn, owing to serious changes which have taken place in England, over which we have not the slightest control.

The best possible plan for large farmers to practice, to get rid of the impending difficulties, which will be out of their power to check, unless they nip them in the bud, will be to seed down into cultivated grasses, as much land as possible the present year, and only keep as much under the plough as they can well cultivate themselves; ten acres thus cultivated and sown in season, and harvested and taken to market by the owner of the soil, will bring more real profits than fifty acres badly cultivated by hired labourers. A person cultivating a large farm can do but a very small proportion of the labours supposing that he be ever so industrious; but the cultivator of a small farm, consisting of but fifty or sixty acres, can do the whole, with the assistance of a lad sixteen years old.

It is folly to talk about expensive modes of preparing lands for cultivation, or even expensive culture, unless the majority of the work be executed by the owner of the soil; this argument would not apply a few years since, when every description of produce amply remunerated the farmer; but now things have materially changed—the lumber trade has received its death blow—which made a market for much of the produce from Western Canada. And the corn trade has been so seriously affected, that we have no hopes of realizing as much as formerly, by at least twenty-five per cent., for either wheat or flour.

The safest policy for every farmer to pursue, is to lay as much of his lands as possible down to clover and timothy, and instead of allowing his cattle to pick a living on the road sides or the woods, should turn them into good fat pastures, and sell them off in the fall to the butchers for what they may bring. By this plan, the lands will receive rest, and if a change for the better should come around in the farming business, those lands may be broken up in their turn and be sowed with wheat as usual.

We conceive that we have a responsible duty to perform, in laying before our readers facts, as they really exist: and our readers in return, are bound to correct us whenever we fall into error;—the advice we have given above, will be found practical and correct, unless some very unexpected change should transpire before the lapse of another year, which would open a market for the produce of this country on more favourable terms, than the appearances would at present indicate. Let the farmers of Canada bear in mind the old proverb, "that what is worth doing is worth well doing," and the only way to do this, under present circumstances, will be "to do but little, and do that little well."

Suppose a farmer is desirous of sowing ten acres of wheat, if he ploughs his land only once; he may, by chance, get twelve bushels per acre, if he ploughs it twice, he may get twenty; and if he ploughs it three times, he may anticipate thirty. Lands may be ploughed in Western Canada for seven and six pence per acre; and, it will be seen, that the cost for the two extra ploughings, bear no comparison to the difference of the supposed product;—besides, when the land is thickly covered with a crop, the weeds are choked, and by that means the lands are much cleaner and better for subsequent crops.

A gentleman who has 600 or 800 acres of cultivated lands, had much better divide them off into small farms of 100 acres each, and let them out at a moderate rent, and cultivate only as much as he can cultivate well, unless he turns his attention to the dairy business, which will be found a profitable investment, if the article which he makes be of a good quality. A farm of three hundred acres of cultivated land, might keep 100 cows in good condition during the whole year, and the profits from cheese and butter, would equal twenty per cent. on the gross capital invested; and the proportion of manual labour, required in the business, would be trifling, when compared with a farm of the same description under arable culture; and the most novel part of the results, from the dairy business would be, that there would be no occasion to complain of the *rust*.

## RULES WORTH BEING OBSERVED BY FARMERS.

1. Perform every operation in the proper season, and in the best possible manner.
2. Always keep your implements and tools in the best order.
3. Finish one job before you begin another.
4. After finishing a job always return your tools to their proper places.
5. Don't put in a crop too large to cultivate well.
6. Personally attend to every operation, and see that it be effectually done.—*Baltimore Am. Farmer.*

## HEMP AND FLAX CULTURE.

The cultivation of hemp and flax, as articles for export, have been so frequently brought before the Canadian public and with so little effect, that it may be considered almost a hopeless affair, to further discuss the matter! We, however, see clearly that an entire change in farming must be brought about in this country, in consequence of certain alterations made, and likely to be made in the English corn laws. In recommending this change, we by no means wish it to be understood, that the farmer in this country must cease growing wheat; but it is clear to our mind, that other important staples will have to be introduced and cultivated to a great extent, if we expect to meet the heavy demands, which are already sorely pressing against us for imported goods, for which the country, at present, is unable to pay. It is well understood in Western Canada, that capital cannot be profitably invested in lands, and those lands properly cultivated and sown with wheat, unless the price be at least four shillings currency per bushel. It is preposterous to suppose, that on an average of seasons, that the price will equal that sum, under the present arrangements, and we do not feel backward, in giving it as our opinion, that the average price in future, will not exceed three shillings currency. It would be necessary to give a full description of the mode of farming on the continent, and the very peculiar circumstances which the lands are held and managed, in order to point out to our readers the grounds for the above prediction. As the limits for this article, forbid such a course, we would merely advise our farmers, that they must raise other crops as well as wheat, if they wish to make their business profitable. The colonists have no control over imperial legislation, and consequently must only take things as they are prepared for them by their royal mistress without grumbling; and if this country is to be deprived of being looked upon as the granary for England, as a few wild theorists have supposed shortly would be, the only course left for its inhabitants, will be to turn their attention to the growth of such articles as will find a ready market in England, and at the same time handsomely remunerate the producer. The articles which should in a great measure take the place of wheat and flour, are hemp and flax, nicely cured hams, bacon, cheese and butter. We conceive that Canada is admirably calculated for the growth and production of all the articles above specified. Hemp or flax culture, and the dairy business should, in most cases, be coupled together;—as those plants exhaust the soil nearly as much as wheat, without making any return in manure, and would require a great amount of time for due attention to the retting and dressing, and preparing the fibre for market.

We conceive this subject of such vast importance to this rising colony, that we earnestly draw the attention of the Provincial Government to it—and also agricultural societies and gentlemen of extensive property throughout the Province—in the hope that some encouragement may be given, by which a new and profitable trade will be opened between this and our parent land. Agricultural societies are unprecedentedly liberally aided by the Government in furthering their laudable objects, and from them we expect an unanimous action on this subject. If each district society, would purchase thirty