

management of the best herds, and the utilisation of the milk, we shall hope to report more fully in the Society's journal.

We must not omit to notice an extraordinary case of successful thrift, and that too, so far as we were enabled to judge, by no means niggardly thrift. Mr. Mason, who is now only about 43 years of age, left home as a boy with 4s. 6d. (1) in his pocket. He arrived at Kendal with 7½d., and as a farm labourer, he saved in time sufficient money to purchase two cows, and has ever since continued to improve his position, notwithstanding the depressed condition of agriculture during the last ten years. He has now felt himself in a position to compete for this prize, paying the entrance fee and the fare of the judges from London to Kendal. He is farming 80 acres, and has 32 cows upon them; his rent, including tithes, &c., averages about £3 10s per acre. The management of the farm, and the selection of his cows, does him very great credit.

E. C. TISDALL.  
J. WILLIAMS BELL.  
ALGERNON FAWKES.

English Agricultural returns.  
COMPARISONS FOR YEARS 1884-5.

Taking the figures for the whole of the United Kingdom, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, it will be observed that there is an increase over the returns of last year of 54,000 acres as regards the total cultivated area. Corn crops have a less acreage, while green crops have a larger one. There is an important extension in rotation grasses due to large additions in each division of the United Kingdom, but permanent pasture, for the first time since 1870, has diminished in area by about 51,000 acres owing to the decreased acreage under this head returned for Ireland.

Cattle and sheep have again increased considerably in number, but in pigs there is a further decline both in Great Britain and Ireland.

The following table shows a comparison of the figures for the United Kingdom, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, between the years 1884 and 1885.—

ACREAGE.	1885.	1884.	1885 compared with 1884.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Total cultivated area ...	Acres 47,895,770	Acres 47,840,977	Acres 54,793	—
Total of permanent pasture	25,616,071	25,667,209	—	51,135
Total of arable land ...	22,279,699	22,173,771	105,928	—
Corn crops ...	10,014,625	10,113,264	—	98,639
Green crops ...	4,765,195	4,733,860	31,335	—
Clover, &c, under rotation	6,738,206	6,392,402	345,804	—
Flax ...	110,639	91,444	19,195	—
Hops ...	71,327	69,259	2,068	—
Bare fallow ...	579,707	773,512	— (2)	193,835
<b>LIVE STOCK.</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Horses ...	1,909,200	1,904,515	4,685	—
Cattle ...	10,868,760	10,422,762	445,998	—
Sheep ...	30,086,200	29,376,787	709,413	—
Pigs ...	3,686,028	3,906,205	— (3)	219,577
Turkeys ...	1,288,174	1,210,343	77,831	—
Geese ...	3,029,137	2,783,237	245,900	—
Ducks ...	6,080,325	5,006,711	73,614	—
Fowls ...	20,542,564	19,943,958	598,606	—

(1) Come! It is invariably half-a-crown that these lads start with

(2) A most important decrease.

(3) A most important increase, showing that the *rol* has disappeared.

A. R. J. F.  
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**Sugar beet.**—The extended acreage of sugar beet mentioned in last year's report as having been returned in Suffolk, does not appear to have been continued. It appears that the average yield per acre of all countries for the years embraced in the table is rather over 217 cwt. The rate of produce of sugar per owt. of beet root used being for Austro-Hungary and Germany—the only countries for which this information is available—taken together, about 10½ lbs., (9 per 100 lbs.) while the total quantity of sugar produced per acre averages nearly a ton.

The average value of sugar produced from an acre of beet (at import value, in 1884, viz., 14s. 2d. per owt) appears to be about £14 sterling.

Cultivation of No Use.

A. P. Paine of East Bethel, Vt., says in the *Mirror and Farmer*:

I have read a good deal by different authors of the benefit of stirring the soil, but in my own case could never realize any benefit except to kill weeds or to prepare land for crops. I have left several rows of corn in a cornfield, a section by itself, without hoeing or cultivating, and could see no difference in the yield of such sections and other parts of the field. Have talked with experienced farmers in this part of the town (Randolph), and all seem to agree in the same experience as mine. Would like to hear from others, to know how to obtain benefit from such practice of stirring the soil, if there is a difference in localities as to amount of benefit derived, &c. Also would like to have you enumerate and explain the scientific principles involved in stirring the soil which induces fertility, and explain, if consistent, why some soils may not be affected thereby.

Haven't any of our readers a different experience?

Cheap roof for Sheep-shed.

Principals placed 13 or 14 ft. apart, with light purlins, 4 in. by 3½ in., about 4 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. apart. The covering material consists of rough ½ in. deal boards, 9 in. wide, which are placed vertically, but do not actually touch. About ½ in. openings are left; about ¼ in. from the edge of the board is a groove ¼ in. deep. The boards are nailed to the purlins, but prevented from actual contact by the presence of three clout nails which carry the boards about ¼ in. above the purlins, and thus any moisture which forms on the under side of the boards can run down without injuring the purlin. It is quite remarkable how little rain, even when driven by wind, penetrates: much less than if the boards were in actual contact. The groove also catches some moisture, and the globules of water run down the open space without breaking. The origin of this very cheap roof was a discovery made by a brick-burner in Nottingham, that shelter boards placed round the kiln protected best when not touching each other, and, requiring a shed in which the men could work in hot weather, he covered the roof with rough boards placed close but not touching. This shed was erected 22 years since, and, without any repairs, is doing duty still, and appears to have many more years service.

NON-OFFICIAL PART.

A NEW WONDER

is not often recorded, but those who write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, will learn of a genuine one. You can earn from \$5 to \$25 and upwards a day. You can do the work and live at home, wherever you are located. Full particulars will be sent you free. Some have earned over \$50 in a day. Capital not needed. You are started in business free. Both sexes. All ages. Immense profits sure for those who start at once. Your first act should be to write for particulars.