

STOCK FARMER

IN CANADA.

Correspondence Reprinted from the "CANADIAN NEWS."

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1864.

STOCK FARMING IN CANADA.

(To the EDITOR of the CANADIAN NEWS.)

SIR,—I am a heavily-rented, heavily-taxed tenant farmer in Somersetshire. My business is chiefly with breeding and dairy stock, but I am by no means satisfied with my position. Some of my friends say I may improve it by emigrating—others say this is doubtful.

A near neighbour of mine has a brother in Canada, but he writes home that farming there does not pay so well as in England; but as he gives no reason for this, I incline to doubt it. Since I have been in town, I have procured some books about Canada, as well as some copies of your journal, which I have attentively perused. In the work called "Letters from Canada" I read—"Mr. Rannie carries on dairy operations on an extensive scale, keeping *as many as 100 cows.*" This would be about my figure, so I am anxious to know something more about such pursuits in British North America. In the same page of the same book I see a very interesting comparison made by two very eminent and trustworthy authorities on rural affairs at home and in Canada, viz., Mr. Caird and Mr. Hutton. The former, as representing the "Illinois Railway Company," wrote strongly against Canada, but in favour of the prairies of the Western States; while Mr. Hutton, the able Secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture in Canada, answers Mr. Caird most conclusively in figures, demonstrating—if his facts may be relied on—that by clearing 100 acres of wood land in Canada a profit of 269*l.* may be realised in two years on an outlay of 680*l.* 5*s.*; whereas Mr. Caird allows only a gain of 6*l.* in two years on an expenditure of 760*l.* on a prairie farm of similar extent. The following passage in this statement seems to require explanation:—"In Canada West capitalists can bring 100 acres into cultivation as well as in the States, *although such is seldom or never done that I am aware of.*" Now, sir, I wish to know *why* it is this is not done by capitalists? This certainly seems to imply a doubt, and, so far as I have read, all books say that *small working* farmers are the men for Canada.

Whether rightly or wrongly I cannot say, but I find a vague sort of impression seems to exist that agriculture on a large scale is unsuited

to Canada—and I wish for your high authority on this very important point. Unless I could purchase and profitably clear from 600 to ,000 acres of wild land so as to convert it into a fine farm, I could not turn my capital to good account in Canada. It is absurd to think of agriculture on a large scale in any of England's colonies, if Canada be not really suited to it. My own opinion is that the climate, land, and position of the country all combine to make it pre-eminently an agricultural country, but when you hear of failures or its suitability chiefly for small farmers, the real cause is to be ascribed to want of ample capital, want of knowledge, want of industry and energy, or of personal supervision on the part of the capitalist farmer. I certainly can conceive no reason why a good cleared farm of 1,000 acres, rent, tithe, tax, and rate free, should not pay *better* than a similar farm heavily burdened in England. It is true labour is very much higher in Canada, but then I think the imposts on land here should balance the item of expenditure on the farm. Mr. Hutton allows 3*l.* 10*s.* per acre as the amount necessary to "clear, fence, and seed" the land *by contract*. Now if I purchased 1,000 acres of wild land at 3*s.* 3*d.* per acre, would it be a safe and profitable proceeding to contract to have it thus reduced to a state of cultivation, *or may I do so?* Mr. Hutton names 3*l.* per acre as the fair average *clear gain* to be expected the second year of cultivation under barley, rye, oats, peas, and potatoes. Now I should like to know where is the land in England that will average such profit as this to the tenant farmer? For 1,750*l.*, according to Mr. Hutton, a capitalist may fence and crop 500 acres of land, and this land for and after the second year may be expected to return a *clear profit* of 1,500*l.* per annum. This is stated by a man than whom "no higher authority can be quoted," so I assume it is an incontrovertible fact; of course it is understood in average seasons. In your journal of 2nd July last, I find Mr. Buchan, Bursar of the Toronto University, states:—"The class of farmers better adapted to this country are those generally known as *small farmers*, men who do their own work or part of it, whose wives are also accustomed to the work of the house and dairy."

Now I beg to ask if this is to be understood as meaning that a superior class of educated, energetic men of capital and skill, but who are unused to manual labour, are not suited to the soil of Canada? If such men can farm and *live by farming alone* in England, paying something like 5*l.* per acre in the shape of rents, rates, tithes, taxes, &c., cannot succeed on *their own freeholds* as well as a class who are nothing superior to ordinary farm labourers—if this really is so, then

I want the reason for what seems to me an anomaly. Why should not skill, capital, and energy succeed on a large Canadian farm as well as in England? The only real difference I can see in the *modus operandi* in the two countries is this—in Canada seed time is very short, so the farmer must there be much more active and energetic to get in his crops, but the crops and seasons are identical.

Most books recommend the emigrant to purchase cleared land, rating at from 5*l.* to 10*l.* per acre; but if he has capital to clear it by contract, having it fenced and cropped for 3*l.* 10*s.*, why should it not be better to purchase wild land at 3*s.* 3*d.*? Thus, with capital you may have it made ready for operations at 3*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* per acre. "Letters from Canada" state the farmers in Canada West neglect to breed stock and think much more of wheat growing than of dairy produce—this implied there is a good opening *there* for cattle breeding and the dairy. Now, small plough-holding farmers can hardly be good stock breeders, so perhaps it may be owing to the absence of men with capital that the costly work of breeding is neglected. The same book states—"One of our most pressing wants in Upper Canada is a race of country gentlemen." I presume this means capitalist farmers, who are here known as "gentlemen farmers," and those are the very men who make more by agriculture here than any others. I have read that there is now no Government land to sell in the best locations, as private capitalists have secured it all. Assuming this to be correct, I should much like to know the terms on which—say 1,000 acres might be purchased in one block in the peninsular portion of Canada West, or if any such land is now in the market there? I should much like to see some remarks on these matters from your able and experienced pen, for I only wish to know *the truth* about the capabilities of this fine country for a

STOCK FARMER.

THE foregoing Letter having appeared in the CANADIAN NEWS, the following valuable communications on the subject of "Stock Farming in Canada" were addressed to the Editor of that Journal, and have since been published in its columns:—

I.

SIR,—The mails which brought the number of your journal containing the letter from a "Stock Farmer" have just been delivered. No man was better able to answer Mr. Caird than Mr. Hutton, who was articled or apprenticed to one of the late Mr. Coke's principal tenants in Norfolk; he afterwards rented a farm in the north of Ireland, and then he farmed many years in Belleville, C.W., I think, therefore, "Stock Farmer" may be satisfied that his "facts can be relied upon." A more upright, good man never came to this colony. Hence his selection to the Secretaryship of the Bureau of Agriculture, where he conferred immense advantages on Canada by his truthful reports of its resources. The "Stock Farmer" could hardly get a block of land of 1,000 acres from any but individuals or land companies, and in either case would have to pay from 500 to 1,000 per cent. more for it than from the Government. Again, as we have no prairie land in Canada, it would be the work of a generation to clear it. If he had 20,000*l.* and brought a small army of labourers, he might clear it sooner and make it ready for the summer feed and winter subsistence of his stock. Mr. Hutton's statement that the clearing of 100 acres at once is never done may be accounted for by the fact that the early settlers who have lived upon the same 100 or 200 acres for 40 years never had any capital to start with. They were day labourers, private soldiers, *cottiers* from some nobleman's estate in Scotland or Ireland. The Canadian landowner was then too wise to clear his farm and denude it of the wood which warmed his house and made his fences. The prairie farmer of Illinois never had and has not now wood enough growing on his farm to make a bundle of matches; he has to buy all the materials for making his fire or fencing his farm. I do not believe there "is a good cleared farm of 1,000 acres" to be had in Upper Canada, and there is scarcely a district of which I do not know something. But there are 100 good farms of from 200 to 400 acres to be had with suitable outbuildings and family residence, and taking into consideration the length of our winters under the happiest climatic

circumstances, the cost of labour, and the impossibility of getting it in many localities at all, my "Zummerzetshire" "Stock Farmer" will find he has quite enough to do with the acreage I mention. For his comfort, I would say that from my experience in Canada stock farming would pay him handsomely. If the prices of farm produce should disappoint him or discourage him, let him remember that the persons who supply this produce are landowners who have neither rent, nor tithe, nor church rates, nor land tax to pay; a few cents per annum in the pound, not in the dollar, pay all their outgoings—the repair of the roads and the maintenance of a school almost at their doors. Even these outgoings they grumble at, and if you want some reason and proof why they do not get rich, call at the nearest tavern. These places of entertainment and ruin are more plentiful than the school, and we convert about ten million bushels of grain per annum in Upper Canada alone into alcoholic drink, commonly called whisky, the beverage which we Christians consume and upon which town cows and pigs live and thrive and grow fat. I have no doubt that in this city there are two thousand cows kept upon whisky swill who never saw a blade of grass, an ounce of oil-cake, or a turnip. This day's *Globe* contains an advertisement from a family wishing a daily supply of eight quarts of milk from cows not fed upon slop. *They cannot get it.* The letter of Mr. Buchan, the Bursar of University College, and who has a farm near Brantford which he does full justice to and farms with profit, is quite right about "small farmers." They came and come here without enough capital, they cannot get labourers, and are, therefore, compelled "to do their own work on the farm, and their wives to attend to the housework and the dairy." These are the kind of people whose capital is in themselves in a stout heart, a good hard pair of hands, abstinence from too much liquor, and, lastly, what I should have placed first, a firm reliance upon God's helping hand, who will hear and answer His people's prayers in the backwoods of Canada as readily as from the most finished temple ever raised to His honour and devoted to His service.

"Stock Farmer" could not spend his 80% to 100% better than by arriving in Quebec in September with a return ticket, visiting some of the state fairs the other side of our beautiful Lake Ontario, and our Provincial Exhibition, which takes place about the end of September or early in October.

II.

Toronto, May 20, 1864.

II.

SIR,—In your issue of the 5th of this month I notice a letter from "Stock Farmer," requesting information from practical sources of the possibility of farming on a large scale being made profitable in Canada.

I have been in Canada many years. I came here determined to follow the pursuit of agriculture on an extensive scale, but until within about three years my attention has been turned partially to manufac-

turing, and I have no reason to complain of the returns made, but the one great difficulty in manufacturing here has always been the impossibility of realising on the business and plant, good-will, &c., all of which are so easily disposed of in England. This and the continued change of tariff deciding me to relinquish manufacturing, I have for some years past determined to turn my attention entirely to agriculture, more especially stock raising. Some years since I therefore purchased from the Canada Company 600 acres of land, and commenced clearing it in the end of 1860 and beginning of 1861. I have now cleared 350 acres, having 250 yet in wood and in progress of clearing, and having begun at the very beginning, even to making roads to the farm, I am probably capable of giving a sound practical opinion on the subject. Moreover, my attention as a boy in England had been directed to farming before leaving home, and I have always felt a great interest in everything connected with agriculture. Any and every part of the work I thoroughly and practically understand and can do with my own hands, but I have never considered it profitable to work myself, except as much as is required for health. Many of the observations of "Stock Farmer" seem to assert that farming in Canada can only be made profitable by persons who do their work (or the most of it) themselves. If such is the case, then the profits must be slender indeed; no man that has not been bred up in the capacity of a labourer can do as much work as one who has, and I can and have hired all the labour I want at from \$120 to \$140 a year, and board, which costs by my foreman's account nearly \$1.20 a week for each man when everything is charged to the house at the under-mentioned retail prices:—Pork, \$6 per 100 lbs.; sugar, 10 c. to 11 c. per lb.; tea, \$1 per lb.; flour, \$4.50 per 100 lbs.; butter, 12½ c. per lb.; rice, \$6 per 100 lbs.; currants, 10 c. to 12 c. per lb.; coffee, 20 c. Other articles of groceries are not so much required—of course there are others used, but these are the heavy staples of housekeeping here in the woods. The wages and board of a good man will thus cost about \$210 a year, all articles being bought or raised and paid for, or about 43l. 15s. sterling. Now, as no man not bred to labour can do as much as one who is by at least 25 per cent., take the whole year through, it follows if the assertions referred to by "Stock Farmer" are correct that the success or otherwise of farming one 100 acres of land, with say about 60 to 80 cleared (this being the ordinary size of farms in Canada), depends on the sum of about 30l. sterling, after deducting the difference of value of the man who has been bred to labour and the man who has not, leaving out of the question the fact that if the owner of the farm farms a large tract of land and works hard himself he cannot superintend the general minutiae to any advantage. The idea of necessarily doing all the work himself is, therefore, absurd.

With regard to the relative profit of Canadian farming and that of the United States, there is at present no need of comparison, as the conviction must be of all who think about it that "the present state of inflation in the States is utterly unreal, and a great crash must come sooner or later;" and, moreover, there are (thank God) many British subjects who would hesitate before leaving the just and mild rule of British laws and institutions to go to the "United" or rather *dis*-United States of America.

We pay taxes here in Canada on a hundred-acre farm on the average of about \$15; in some localities they reach higher, but the probable amount paid by any one clearing up a new farm would not be more than \$15 for each 100 acres, and in many localities not more than one-half. Our Customs and excise taxes, according to the tariff, are reckoned in the cost of boarding the labourer, so far as the farmer is concerned with those articles; and as the prices therein named are retail prices, 20 per cent. may with safety be deducted for wholesale purchases—and the capitalist would of course buy wholesale. The taxes both of Customs tariff and excise in the United States are monstrous, and are continually on the increase, with no prospect of any diminution. So long as gold is at such a premium in the States will the bushel of wheat be worth there just as much more as gold is worth more than the money that buys the wheat; and hence all articles are influenced by the same rule—a coat that costs here in gold \$5 is worth there about \$8 in green-backs. It therefore follows that at present prices no real comparative statement of profit between farming in Canada and the United States can be arrived at to be relied on for a year together. We will, therefore, drop the relative comparison, and try and prove that farming in Canada by men of energy and capital can be made both a profitable and a respectable undertaking.

I have now arrived at the point of laying before your correspondent "Stock Farmer" my experience in farming in Canada on a large scale with but very moderate capital, much less than was wanted; but first I may mention that my conviction of the profitable return for capital was based on moderately good crops and fair price—say \$1 for wheat and from 25 to 35 bushels per acre. At these quantities and prices I had seen so many men do well and realise a good return for their outlay and the land on which it was done raised from dollars an acre to pounds in value, that no one of any industry and energy, when combined with capital, could for one moment fear failure. It is true we have the midge and Hessian fly, and lately the wheat aphid, but these pests almost always bring their own remedy. Some other insect will soon be numerous enough to keep them down, or a kind of wheat will be grown too early or too late to be injured by them; in fact, four years since the belief was general that wheat growing would have to be abandoned, but remedies have arisen as above stated, and no one fears so serious a result will follow.

In November, 1860, I let a job of clearing one hundred acres of land to a contractor for \$12 an acre, I to find all the teams and utensils necessary, and seed also, and he to do the work, and at harvest after threshing he was to have one-half of the crop and I the other. The

potash also was to be divided in the same manner. This part of the proceeds of clearing up a new farm is quite an important one, the gross return being about \$5 an acre if the ashes are carefully saved, and as one-half will more than pay for the manufacturing of the other into potash, it follows that the potash is worth from \$2.50 to \$3 per acre. I made more than this all through, and there was not as much potash timber on my land as on some other. One yoke of oxen was considered sufficient to do the work of logging on the farm, exclusive of bringing to the farm food for the oxen and supplies for the men.

On the 20th of November, 1860, the men went on the land and commenced building a shanty to live in; this was finished in about a week, the men living meantime at a neighbouring farm-house. When the shanty was completed the men (six in number) moved in, and with a blazing log fire in the centre and a hole in the roof for the smoke to pass out were as warm and comfortable as could be desired, the interstices between the logs being stuffed with moss.

The snowy weather set in very early that winter, and no underbrushing having been done we were obliged to cut down all the large trees, leaving the smaller ones untouched, to be cut close to the ground when the snow went off the following spring. In April all the chopping, or nearly so, of the 100 acres was completed; as the days lengthened more men were put on. Precautions were, however, taken to leave a grove around the contemplated homestead to afford shelter when all the rest of the timber was cut; those trees were also left which formed a most picturesque looking place, pretty as well as useful—indeed most necessary. When the snow was entirely gone the smaller trees and brush were cut close to the earth; this was a very bad plan and cost at least \$1 (one dollar) an acre more than if the underbrushing had been done earlier and before the snow fell or the large timber was cut down. The latter part of May and during the prevalence of a high wind (after some very dry weather) the brush heaps and tree tops, all carefully thrown together (one great art in chopping), were all set on fire, and a most appalling and fearful sight it was, 100 acres of brush blazing up forty feet high with a loud roaring noise, the fire flying from heap to heap, each burning more furiously than the last, as the great heat produced almost a gale of wind.

After the conflagration had exhausted itself—the lighter and smaller wood being nearly all consumed, whilst the green bodies of the trees were only blackened, the leaves and small twigs being entirely consumed—the ground presented a black, charred appearance, quite clean and free from small stuff or rubbish of any kind. In this instance we had an excellent burn, as it is called, a thing most to be desired in clearing new land, as it often saves \$2 an acre or sometimes more. In June the logging was commenced, and with one thoroughly good yoke of oxen well fed, one man to drive, and four good "rollers" (as the rest are called), an acre a day can be readily done where the ground is dry and well burnt. The 100 acres, therefore, could all have been logged that summer; but from circumstances not necessary here to enter into and a deficiency of capital, only about sixty acres were completed at that time, and during the fall the second 100 acres were

commenced by the same contractor. In this latter case the underbrushing was all done before the snow fell—about the beginning of November and into December,—and the difficulties complained of previously were not felt. In May following—about the 1st—we commenced sowing spring wheat and dragging it in. This is the ordinary course, and everything bid fair for a good crop—of at least 30 bushels to the acre.

The quantity of seed sown was small, only one and a half bushel (six pecks) being required per acre. From the time we commenced sowing until the middle of June not one shower of rain fell that I remember; this was the driest time that was known for many years in Canada. Much of the wheat never vegetated at all until about July. An entirely new insect in Canada—"the wheat aphid"—attacked the wheat and covered the heads until they were quite blackened with it. This was in my opinion produced by the very dry weather or very much aggravated by it, as I noticed that each heavy shower that fell thousands and thousands were washed off, and about the middle of August all were gone. Meantime we had been busy building barns, houses, and stables. Our largest barn was 100 feet long by 40 wide and 24 high—two threshing floors and four bays or divisions. The raising of the heavy framework was at first thought best to be accomplished with ropes and pulleys, but after a time it was found better to make a "bee," as it is called, and about 40 men were speedily got together by sending a man round the settlement and appointing a day—three days from the day of notice. All were on the ground by nine A.M., and by twelve o'clock the whole building was up. At those "bees" where the proprietor is popular there is an extraordinary amount of energy and activity displayed, and as no stimulating drink was allowed there were no accidents, although the men were running about on the building more like squirrels than men. As a general thing, I do not approve of "bees;" they are too often only used as a license to get intoxicated; and every day's work that is given must be returned when asked for, and, no matter at what inconvenience, your own work must be left to send a man to return the day to each of the men who helped you. This, therefore, was my first and last "bee." Our harvest was much delayed by the different time at which the wheat ripened. Of course, as at least one-third did not vegetate until rain came, there would of necessity be a great difference in the time at which the wheat could be cut; some was ready the last of August, while much could not be cut until the middle of September, at which time the autumn rains often commence. The weather is generally most beautiful all through October and November, but there is always rain in September, although the weather is still very warm. It was so in this case. After the wheat was all cut with the cradle (each man cutting nearly two acres a day and another binding it), the thocks got many a sound ducking before they were fit to haul into the barn. In cradling wheat it is a most wonderful sight to see the men swinging the cumbersome cradle (with fingers, as they are called, nearly 4½ feet long) about amongst the stumps and rarely breaking it, although every few feet they must necessarily strike the cradle fingers through the standing corn close

to the stumps. We derived great benefit from the precaution of capping the thocks, which prevented much, if any, injury from the heavy rains. Meantime all hands were again on logging and making ready for the following year's crop. Eighty acres more were ready and sown with wheat and peas by the 27th May the following year. The great need to stir the land more than the drags accomplish and the very short time that the season allowed (we having to log and burn before we could sow) for such a large portion of new stumpy land to be logged, and some with limited means, caused us to set our brains to work to meet the difficulty. The best and richest lands in Canada are often what is called "cradle knolly"—that is, the trees have in former ages been uprooted and decayed away, and others have grown again on the turned up portion of the roots, causing a rough hummucky appearance to the surface almost like the waves of the sea in broken waters. The depths of the depressions are sometimes three feet, and they often occur, although of smaller size and depth, almost every square rod. It will thus be seen that a drag could not effectually reach the bottom of the holes, and often pulled off the top of the high parts and buried the seed too deep. To amend and get over these difficulties we constructed a three-legged plough or cultivator, so made that one leg or thone would perhaps be descending a hollow and one working on the hill side of a similar hump, and the whole sufficiently light for one team to pull with ease and so constructed that, like the bows of a vessel or runners of a sleigh, it would rise over all obstructions and roots, cutting off the small ones and passing over those too large to cut off, and again digging into the earth after passing the obstructions. We called this newly-invented implement "the forest cultivator." With this one team would go over lengthwise and across about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres a day, on an average often three, always two, and twice in a place. When the soil was thoroughly stirred up the seed was sown and the harrow passed over twice, once each way, and the job was most complete.

The necessity for this new implement was more apparent from the fact that the contractor failed in getting his job done at the time agreed on, and one-half, therefore, laid over uncropped until the following spring, and of course grew up weedy and grassy. I mention these circumstances, as it may be hereafter necessary to allude to and to account for the deficiency in the quantity sown, according to the quantity cleared during the first and second summer in my statement of profit and loss, hereafter to be furnished if required, and without going fully into the matter it could not be readily understood and the reason made apparent. Harvest, meantime, was approaching, and the second 100 acres being all chopped and part logged, and about 50 acres of the first 100 cropped the first year and about 90 acres of the second 100 cropped the second year, about 40 acres still being unlogged on account of the second failure of the contractor, as before alluded to. This latter portion, however, now comes in for wheat the third year, and is all sown this spring. The part sown to wheat the first year was well summer-fallowed last year and again cultivated this spring, and an abundant crop may be expected if wheat grows anywhere. This piece of about 30 acres I

let to a person on shares—he to do the cultivating, sowing, threshing, &c., &c., and to have one-half the crop at harvest. As the farm was selected ultimately for a stock and dairy farm, parts were rather low and wet owing to some high lands in the neighbourhood discharging their surface water across the farm in two or three places. This I saw would be of great value for stock, as running water could be obtained in every field. We, therefore, before the trees were all chopped down (subsequently to the first winter), cut surface drains across the lot in length about two miles, three feet deep, four feet wide at top, and one foot at bottom—a sharp spade and a hard-working Irishman readily digging four to six rods a day—at a cost of 25 to 30 cents a rod and board—through the rooty, wet, uncleared land, the water draining away as fast as he dug. Of course, horses and stock had meantime to be purchased, waggons, harness, and all the plant necessary to cultivate 200 acres of land.

I have not here yet alluded to some other portions of the land that were being cleared as those were completed by contract and occupancy—for the clearing, but which now come into my hands, nor would an account of this in any way be necessary or useful for "Stock Farmer" to know, our present object being not to show the thousand and one snifts an energetic man may use to surmount difficulties, but to show the process by which a man with capital may invest his money here and derive a remunerative return from it in making for himself a large and handsome homestead, to be inherited by his children after him, which homestead will always be increasing in value and excellence of quality without manuring until at least six years have passed by. About that time the stumps that encumber the land will begin to come freely out, and the soil will not be at all reduced in its fertility even without the aid of other manure than the farm naturally affords. Another rule of increasing value has been found in increasing population and occupying of the neighbouring lands, no matter what section you choose for an example. Thus a lot of land will be worth say \$5 per acre when there are so many inhabitants to the square mile; as soon as those are doubled, the land will, as a general rule, have doubled in value also. Statistical information proves this beyond controversy, and that it extends to \$15 per acre on wild land. I have this year, or rather winter, chopped about 60 acres more land, at an expense of about \$6 per acre, without board to the men. The logging this summer will cost \$7 more and fencing about \$2, making in all about \$15 per acre. A further tabular and statistical account of profit and loss will be furnished if desired hereafter. Of course, others in the neighbourhood are doing the same (may be in much smaller quantities), but still steadily increasing, and hence the statute labour in constructing and repairing the roads is making places accessible in summer which could only hitherto be reached during the sleighing. I have no doubt that any farm of good land, purchased in a good section in a wild state, will pay 5 per cent. per annum of increasing value above once in every eight years, entirely irrespective of any capital laid out on it. From long practical experience I have proved this, and in many instances to the extent of 10 per cent. per annum.

The cost of the whole work, as compiled from most carefully kept records—Dr. and Cr.,—can be had if required by any one on application, but, to economise our space, we will be content to enumerate the debit and credit of one acre of new land cultivation and crop of each kind usually grown. Multiplication of the number of acres will, of course, give the correct data, but recollect one or even ten acres cannot be done for this small amount; it is only where large quantities are tilled and where all facilities possible are provided that in this, as in everything else, the expense can be reduced:—

ONE ACRE OF WHEAT.

DR.					
To seed 1½ bushel, at \$1					\$1 50
Labour of all kinds, as compiled from proportion of debit account of the whole, including					
horse-feed					2 00
Harvesting					1 75
Threshing					1 00
					<hr/>
					\$6 25
Apparent profit					17 25
					<hr/>
					\$23 50

CR.					
By yield of 25 bushels per acre, at 90 c. ..					\$22 50
Value of straw					1 00
					<hr/>
					\$23 50

ONE ACRE OF OATS.

DR.					
To two bushels of seed, at 50 c.					\$1 00
Labour of all kinds					1 75
Harvesting					1 25
Threshing					1 00
Apparent profit					12 00
					<hr/>
					\$17 00

CR.					
By 40 bushels, at 40 c.					\$16 00
By value of straw					1 00
					<hr/>
					\$17 00

ONE ACRE OF BARLEY.

DR.					
To two bushels of seed, at 50 c.					\$1 00
Labour same as wheat					2 00
Harvesting					1 75
Threshing					1 00
					<hr/>
					\$5 75
Apparent profit					10 25
					<hr/>
					\$16 00

Cr.				
By 30 bushels, at 40 c.	..	..	..	.. \$15 00
By value of straw	..	..	..	.. 1 00
				\$16 00

ONE ACRE OF PEAS.

Dr.				
To seed, two bushels at 50 c.	..	..	..	.. \$1 00
Labour of all kinds	..	..	..	.. 1 75
Harvesting	..	..	..	.. 1 25
Threshing	..	..	..	.. 1 00
Apparent profit	..	..	..	.. 7 00
				\$12 00
Cr.				
By 25 bushels of peas, at 40 c.	..	..	..	.. \$10 00
Value of straw	..	..	..	.. 2 00
				\$12 00

The dollar here is equal to 4s. 2d. sterling. The above yield is in excess of the average of the last two years, but these are entirely exceptional. Even this and last year I can point out 100 persons who have raised 33 per 100 more on their land than the above. We all know that the small Canada farmer, from want of capital, cannot be expected to work to such good advantage as the man with money, and hence more chance of failure.

Having now followed from the beginning the *modus operandi* of clearing up a new farm, with the exception of the details of potash making (which, although a most important part, our space will not admit of), yet my experience goes to prove that on heavy hardwood land one barrel can be made off four acres; if the ashes are properly saved, this is worth at least (exclusive of barrel) \$25, if of first quality, and no more expense is needed to make "first" quality than "third." I have given one-half to have the other half boiled and melted; this would leave at least \$3 per acre that can be made out of the ashes; ours averaged more where proper care to save the ashes was used and the timber burnt whilst green.

In the foregoing account we have not charged interest on plant of any kind. In the synopsis of the whole a fair plan would be to charge the outlay and capitalise it at say 8-100ths to be charged first. If then a reasonable profit can be shown, no one, I think, who wishes to emigrate would object to 8 per cent. as an interest on the outlay of capital.

These observations will, of course, apply to stock, but not to the same extent, as stock are producing and no credit is taken for the feed. As I hire for all that is done and the work has necessarily been very driving, I do not keep more than one cow and no pigs or sheep. I am aware I have lost much by this, but have considered that until this year I could not with advantage keep them. Now the case will be different. I am also aware that the amount it cost to keep my

foreman's family would probably go far to keep mine, and as his wife makes enough out of the boarding of the men to support herself and children, it is clear that the \$1.20 per week is ample for cost.

I cannot approve of "Stock Farmer's" idea of purchasing land at three shillings an acre; all such land will be found on inspection to be, as a whole, inferior; and so remote from public improvements, railroads, market towns, or indeed any of the ordinary wants of civilised life, as to dishearten the most sanguine and persevering. On the easy terms on which he can get land from the Canada Company, which land is always close to all the conveniences of civilisation, he had much better give "three pounds" an acre than "three shillings" in the wild bush. One day's journey over swamp holes and unmade natural roads, a considerable part of which winds about amongst the trees or in the newly-surveyed Government townships, climbing up hills and descending valleys, bumping over boulder stones and rocks, will most satisfactorily show this. Canada is not the unsettled place people at home suppose it, "that is," *in all the available sections*. Where the cheap land is situated, it is cheap because even the hardiest man in the world, the IRISHMAN, will not go if he has capital to buy elsewhere.

I have seen and conversed with many who have been through all these places. My foreman has lived on one of the Government roads and thoroughly inspected it and a great quantity of the adjacent land, which he describes (and his description coincides entirely with that of others) as having many intervals of good land, but for the most part rocky, stony, and hilly in the extreme, with swamps in the low flat bottoms. The evil would not be so much felt at first, but in future years, after battling with many difficulties, the neighbouring poor rocky or swampy lands would be unoccupied, or if settled on, the settlers would be ill-doing ones from necessity, hence roads and general improvements that naturally rapidly follow occupation of good land would not follow in anything like a satisfactory degree. My address lies with the Editor of this paper, and is heartily at the service of any one wanting further information that it is in my power to furnish on this most valuable and necessary branch of industry and enterprise, "Farming in Canada with capital, and on large farms."—I am, &c.,

CANADIAN FARMER.

III.

SIR,—I have noticed in the *Leader* of this city the article copied from a late number of your paper on the subject of "Stock-breeding in Canada," signed by a "Stock Farmer," who says that he is "a heavily rented, heavily taxed tenant farmer in Somersetshire;" and, knowing Canada and its capabilities, especially in regard to its agriculture, well, I gladly avail myself of your columns to reply to some of his inquiries.

1. He asks for a reason why the late Mr. Hutton, when remarking that "in Canada West capitalists can bring 100 acres into cultivation

as well as in the States," said that "such is seldom or never done;" I answer, it is, 1st, because capitalists find it more advantageous to purchase improved farms than to clear them themselves; 2ndly, because they can bring to bear upon such farms the improved systems of husbandry, so universal in the best agricultural parts of England and Scotland, which they could not do if they purchased bush lands till the stumps had rotted in the ground; 3rdly, because such persons prefer to live in a neighbourhood where they have the advantages of churches, schools, markets, society, and good roads. These can all be had on very reasonable terms in the older settled parts of the country, which, besides, are more healthy than the new settlements, because there are less decayed vegetables to be found there than in those settlements. The man whose only capital is a good constitution, plenty of industry, and a resolute will goes into the bush and, by clearing off 8 or 9 acres each year (which he chops down in the winter and burns off when dry next fall), supports himself and his family in a rough way till, in about 10 years, he has a comfortable home and a farm of 80 or 90 acres cleared.

2. I quite agree with "Stock Farmer," that "it is absurd to think of agriculture on a large scale in any of England's colonies if Canada be not really suited to that;" and again, I think he is quite right in taking for granted that "the cause why we hear of failures, or that Canada is suited only to small farmers, is because of want of capital, want of knowledge, want of industry, energy, or of personal supervision on the part of the capitalist farmers." One great misfortune of our country is that it has been largely resorted to by military and naval retired officers, some of whom have purchased large farms and, as might be expected, found them profitless. They expended most of their capital in the purchase of these properties; they had no other knowledge of farming than what they picked up from books; they wanted "industry and energy;" but, above all, generally preferred spending their time in the neighbouring towns and villages to giving their farms their "personal supervision." But there are, of late years especially, others who tell a very different tale of the country. I know a gentleman who was formerly a large tenant farmer in the Lethians, and who, having made a good deal of money on one of our railways as contractor, has invested it in a farm of several hundred acres near Queenston, in Canada West; and who, after several years' toil, tells me that he is being well repaid for his expenditure. He has spent large sums of money in underdraining and liming his land. His large herds of short-horns, his flocks of Leicesters and Cotswolds, and his droves of Berkshire pigs would not disgrace any farm in England or Scotland.

3. I think that your correspondent has a very good idea of this country when he says that "in Canada seed time is very short; so that the farmer must be much more active and energetic to get in his crops." But I think that such a man would find that he could lengthen out the season. I will explain what I mean. Our springs are often

wet; and it is late before most of our farmers can get their crops in on their heavy underdrained clay lands (which, however, are the best when well managed); but when a farmer such as the gentleman I alluded to above has his lands properly drained and limed, he gets his crop in a fortnight earlier than his neighbour on the adjoining undrained land. Then again such lands, affording a deeper soil for the roots of plants, suffer far less from drought (to which we are more exposed than in England) than lands which are undrained. It is notorious that thousands of labourers have come to Canada from England, Scotland, and Ireland, and have left large farms to their children; and I contend that in a country where this can be done, the same industry, judgment, and attention to the large farms by persons possessed of capital will produce the same result. And when I speak of these labourers, I do not allude to parties who have gone into the bush and cleared lands for themselves, but to parties who hired out as farm servants to the military and naval gentlemen alluded to above; saved money enough to take a farm on shares for a few years, then to rent one, and ultimately to own a handsome property of their own. I know a man named James Williams who did this. When the farm, a large one, that he rented changed hands and he was obliged to leave it, he purchased 500 acres of land, and sold, from the stock that he could easily spare, \$600,000 or 12,000*l.* sterling.

4. Those farmers who have entered into stock breeding with a knowledge of their business and good judgment have invariably done well. James Williams was very successful in this way. I don't think that 1,000 acres of wild land, in one block, could be purchased in the province, except in some very remote places, where no capitalist would like to bury himself and family. But there are many places where improved property to the extent of 500 or 600 acres in a block could be purchased at present on very favourable terms; and where the purchaser could have all the advantages of churches, schools, markets, society, and good roads. I take the liberty of enclosing to you my address; and if "Stock Farmer" should like to address me personally, it would afford me pleasure to further his views. — I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CANADIAN.

Toronto, Canada West, May 26, 1864.

IV.

SIR,—In the *Quebec Gazette* of the 20th May I saw a long letter, copied from your paper and addressed to you by a "Stock Farmer" in Somersetshire, asking explanations and wishing information on several matters connected with Canadian farming, as practised in the peninsula of Upper Canada.

As yet I have seen no farming carried on in this peninsula—and I have travelled it over from east to west and north to south—so extensively, and on the same system as that practised in the Lothians of

Scotland. To purchase a cleared farm in C.W. and to stock and crop it would require the same sum that it takes to stock and crop only a farm of similar size in Britain; to make a comparison between the two would be out of the question, as, with very few exceptions, farming here is very far behind. I consider that as capital invested in mortgage on real estate, and yielding a few years ago from 10 to 15 per cent. per annum, held out greater inducements to capitalists than to invest in agricultural pursuits or in clearing up wild land; and capitalists, therefore, preferred to speculate in buying and selling wild lands or real estate. Now, however, that the rate of interest is reduced to 8 and 10 per cent., it may make a change. I have been engaged for the last 30 years in agricultural pursuits, and I am of opinion that farming on an extensive scale in this country will pay much better than on a small scale, provided that the land be well cleared and that all the modern improved implements can be used; but I have my doubts of going too extensively into farming operations on an extensive scale upon a farm but partially improved. I have been over some of the western prairie farms, and must say that the rich deep alluvial soil is magnificent, but there is something about the monotonous, flat, murky surface, especially in wet weather, that I do not like. I much prefer Canada West to any of the western prairies I have yet seen. Mr. Caird as a shareholder, as I believe he was, had a pecuniary interest in the Illinois Central Railroad lands, which may have induced him to overlook Canada. Mr. Hutton, on the other hand, had no such interest. I would not advise any one to invest their whole capital in farming operations here, more especially on a farm that requires extensive improvements. We often have partial failure in the crops, owing to weevil, midge, &c., &c., so that a farmer extensively engaged in improvements has sometimes by these causes to curtail his operations for want of funds, causing thereby serious loss and delay; if he has other sources of income beside his farm, he is so far more independent. Were "Stock Farmer" to purchase 500 or 1,000 acres of wild land, he would find many difficulties to contend with that he may not be aware of. Although he can get his land cleared and fenced for \$15 per acre, he would find his farming operations to proceed but slowly, as he cannot hire men in any great numbers to cultivate his farm and contract for the clearing of wild land to such an extent as he might wish; in consequence of the low price of wild land, the labourer resolves he shall have a farm of his own, so he purchases a lot on credit, then hires himself out during the summer to work on cleared farms wherever he can get an engagement, where he saves as much money as will pay the annual instalment on his lot, and the residue serves to purchase his clothing and keep himself in food during winter, when he engages in clearing up his own lot. Thus thousands of poor industrious men have struggled on for a few years at the commencement till they have by persevering toil and industry become proprietors of beautiful farms with comfortable homesteads, where they enjoy a

competency and many of the luxuries of life they would never have attained to in Britain. If wild lands are situated within a short distance of towns, public works, or railroad stations, parties will contract to clear the lot for the timber, and in some cases will give a premium to be allowed to do so. These lands, however, sell at a high price. "Stock Farmer" has thus another reason why small farmers are most prevalent.

"Stock Farmer" must bear in mind that a cleared farm here is quite another affair to a cleared farm in Britain. What we mean by a cleared farm is the trees all cut down, all timber and rubbish burnt up or carried off, and the land fenced with zigzag fences. All tree roots are left in the ground, with the stumps standing about three feet above the surface, not a stone dug up or removed, and all inequalities of the surface in a state of nature. He would find it no profitable matter to cultivate such a farm by hired labour, in comparison with a thoroughly cleared farm. The proper working, if the lot consist of hardwood timber, is to take two crops after clearing, then seed it down for pasture, let it remain so five or six years, when the stumps and roots will be so decayed that the plough will easily throw them out. Pine stumps will remain entire for 20 or 30 years, so that many go to the expense of digging them out at an extra cost of \$10 to \$20 per acre. Settlers should avoid purchasing a lot with much pine on it, as it costs more to clear and the soil is generally of inferior quality. Although we have a very short seed time in spring, yet we have a long period after harvest in which to plough the land for the succeeding crop, and if properly taken advantage of then, one can get on very rapidly in the spring with the use of gang ploughs, cultivators, seed drills, &c., so by these one span of horses can with ease put in from four to six acres of seed per day if the land has been ploughed in the fall.

Many prefer this mode to spring ploughing, as the drought does not penetrate the ground so much, thereby giving more nourishment to the crop. The breeding of stock has been very much neglected, but of late several enterprising parties have taken it up, if not with advantage to themselves at least very much to that of the province. These breeders exhibit as good stock at our local and provincial exhibitions as can be seen at similar institutions in Britain. Thoroughbred stock sells at a high figure in comparison to the native breeds. These high prices prevent many of our small occupiers from purchasing, but they have crossed with the native breed very advantageously. More attention is paid to stock raising since the failure in the wheat crop, which is now rather precarious, caused, I should say, by overcropping, as plenty of instances can be pointed out where wheat has been raised on the same piece of land for 10 and 12 consecutive years. To a person of capital who wishes a large farm for little money, he must take time to clear and improve it, when by waiting on for 15 or 20 years he could by a judicious expenditure make a fine estate; but to an old-country farmer I should say, buy at first a partially improved farm, when he could at once commence farming and follow out the system he had been accustomed to upon the well cleared portion of it, and on the other he could progress in his improvements and cultiva-

tion. Plenty of such farms are for sale in well settled localities, having all the advantages of markets, churches, schools, good society, &c., at prices varying from \$30 to \$80 per acre according to locality and improvements. Such farms can be purchased that would yield a rental of five to six per cent. on the capital invested, with a prospective increasing value if let on an improving lease. I understand that by late explorations made there is still plenty of good land in the back settlements, though yet not surveyed for sale.—I am your obedient servant,

JOHN DUNLOP.

Woodstock, county of Oxford, C.W., May 31, 1864.

V.

(To a "Stock Farmer" in Somersetshire, England.)

SIR,—In the CANADIAN NEWS of 5th inst. I read your communication asking for information respecting farming in Canada. From your very sensible remarks and queries, I should infer that you know more about Canada, though living in Somersetshire, than many who, from a hasty visit to our fine country, pretend to enlighten the world on its capabilities.

Your neighbour's "brother," a farmer in Canada, may not find farming pay there so well as in England; but there may be reasons for this in his particular case which, if known, could be easily explained, and I think you are right to doubt it.

Now, I am not exactly a "farmer" in Canada, but I was born in the country and have lived in it to a good old age, and a greater part of my life in the country when farming was well and profitably carried on. And as an amateur farmer I was among the first, many years ago, to assist in bringing a better breed of cattle and hogs into the country. I have had the satisfaction of seeing hundreds of labouring men from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland rise rapidly from the humble rank of a day labourer to be an independent proprietor of from 100 to 500 acres of good land, although they brought no capital to the country but industry, frugality, and perseverance. I know scores of emigrants who begun on 100 or 200 acres of wild land, and who by good management and attention to their business have settled their children on comfortable farms of their own—"all made by farming." On the other hand, I admit that I have known very many "gentlemen farmers" who have not found "farming in Canada" pay; and I have often said to them in reply to such statements—"Can you tell me in what country in the world such farming as yours would pay?" Instead of spending their own time and the labour of their farm horses on the farm, more than half the time would be spent driving about visiting their neighbours, &c.; and, in alas! how many instances at

the village inn, drinking whisky and smoking short pipes while dolefully lamenting the sad fact that farming in Canada would not pay. I knew Mr. Hutton well and was surprised to find him stating that farmers in Canada "seldom or never" bring a hundred acres into cultivation, as is done in the United States. This certainly is not the case. You cannot go to any well-settled township without finding many farms where much more than 100 acres are well cultivated. And I have never heard it questioned that farming on a large scale in Canada, if properly conducted, would pay. It is true prices generally rule lower here than in England, but as you very sensibly remark, this is balanced by the absence of such high charges on the land as you pay.

You are quite right in not being able to conceive a reason why a good cleared farm of 1,000 acres would not pay in Canada—proofs that it does pay can be shown you should you ever visit us. But I would correct the impression which you appear to have that you should buy the 1,000 acres of wild land at 3s. 3d. an acre. There is no wild land of good quality near our markets that could be bought for anything like that price, though in the remote newly surveyed townships good land may no doubt be bought for 3s. 3d., or even less. Good land, however, may be purchased in our older counties in blocks of from 400 to 1,000 acres at from \$1 to \$12 per acre; and this in localities intersected with good roads and convenient to mills and market. And in many parts of Canada farmers would sell out at fair prices to relieve themselves from difficulties (not brought on them by farming) or to remove with their sons to the new townships to obtain more land for them at low rates.

To a farmer, therefore, from England with means to purchase land at 3s. 3d. and to expend on it in clearing it 3l. to 4l. per annum, it certainly would be better to save time and money too by profiting by some other person's outlay. And such opportunities always offer.

Mr. Buchan thinks small farmers do better in this country. No doubt very many of this class succeed in making comfortable homes for themselves, and provide for their families too. But this is no reason why large farms, if well managed, would not do equally well. And this leads me to notice a remark of yours that "gentlemen farmers" are those who in England make more by agriculture than any others. Here all our experience proves just the reverse—not that you are not perfectly correct in what you state—but *your* "gentlemen farmers" are farmers no doubt, and understand what they are about, while the term "gentleman farmer" in Canada means one who knows nothing about the cultivation of the soil—generally one who has spent his life in the army or navy and comes to Canada with a few hundred pounds—his all,—and when this is gone, he has nothing but a small farm to show, if he is fortunate to have saved even that; and instead of attributing his failure to its true cause, he abuses Canada as a country where farming will not pay. This fact is notorious here and the class of such grumblers rather a large one.

To your question "Why should not skill, capital, and energy succeed on a large Canadian farm as well as in England?" I answer, without hesitation, there is no sufficient reason. And in nine cases out of ten

the reason why some *would-be farmers* do not succeed is that they bring neither skill, capital, nor energy to the attempt, their capital often being spent in building a fine house, instead of on the farm.

"Stock farming" is by no means rare in Canada East or West, and nothing would, I am sure, surprise you or your neighbours more than a visit to our Provincial Exhibition in September, where stock of all kinds may be seen that would do credit to any similar show in England or any other country.

And why should it not be so, when we have some gentlemen among us who are farmers, and who have at great cost imported stock into Canada from Britain that has taken the highest prizes there, the offspring of which also show that the air and climate of Canada is by no means prejudicial to their growth and perfection?

My advice to all is, if you are well-off and contented, remain where you are. If you wish to become a landlord instead of a tenant come to Canada, which offers as fair a field for legitimate farming enterprise as any country in the world. Such is at all events the firm conviction of

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