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"Our Queen and Constitution."

By James S. Segee.

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VOLUME 3.



REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

> BY J. F. W. JOHNSTON, F. R. S., S.L. & E. (Continued from our last.)

Average rate of Wages for Agricultural Labour, in addition to Board, Washing and Lodging, in the several Counties in the Province.

Lowest for the whole Province by the year, £10. hoths and £36. Average by the month, 31. Haying & Harvest.
21. other Summer months. Average by the day, 3s. 3d., Having and Harvest.

It is not much to our immediate purpose, nor directly connected with the profits of New Branswick farming, that this average in sterling money barely exceeds the average wages paid to good farm servants, who board in their master's house, in the best farmed districts in Scotland. But from all I have been able to learn, the quality of the labour which this average price will command in the most parts of New Brunswick is greatly inferior to some of our best farm servants in Scotland.

The most important question however in regard to this Province is, "can labour, at this average price, or at the prices usually paid for it in the several parts of the Province, be profitably employed in the cultivation of the land

Some of the more intelligent agriculturalists I have met in my tour have assured me "that the modes of culture, the implements of husbandry, and the breeds of stock in the Province, are all defective; and that as a consequence, not only have the agricultural capabilities of the Province never been fairly tested, but its ability to return a fair profit upon paid labour employed in tilling it, has never been properly tried." There may be much truth both in the fact thus stated, and in the inference drawn from it; but I have been unwilling in a matter of so much importance to hasten to a rapid and sweeping conclusion. I have therefore consulted the farming community in reference to it, and I have received fifty replies to my questions on the subject. Of the persons from whom those replies come, twenty five are of opinion that paid labour, at the present rate of wages, may be profitably employed in raising agricultural produce, and twenty five are of opinion that it cannot. As these contrary opinions-often from the same neighbourhood, and where the modes of culture, the markets, and the rate of wages are the same-are various in themselves, and as the reasons assigned by their authors are often different, I here subjoin the whole, giving first those which answer in the affirmative, and next those which answer in the negative.

1st. Opinions of those who think that paid labour at the present prices may be profitably employed in cultivating the soil :-

A man who understands his business, and has capital, may employ labour profitably in farming at the present rate of wages.

D. B. STEVENS, Saint John. Servants can be profitably employed on my farm from the advantages I possess of making artificial manure; the present rate of wages—the markets being very poor.

JAMES STEVENSON, Charlotte. the nature of the soil whether capital invested in improvement is a good investment or not, and above all, whether it be done with a view to your own occupation, or sale at some future time. In the latter case I imagine the price owing to the low price of produce. given for farms in late years will be a sufficient negative answer. If done with a view to settlement, I consider

JOHN FARMER, Charlotte.

Servants can be profitably employed if paid in produce. HOWARD D. CHARTERS, Westmorland.

R. B. C. WELDON. I think servants may be employed in improving the farm present rate of wages.

JOHN TRENHOLM, Westmorland. Servants can be employed with profit at the present rate of wages.

ALEXANDER MONROE, Westmoland. I believe, with judicious management and economy, farming can be profitably followed, even at the present rate of wages, although I consider them altogether too other necessaries.

JOSEPH AVARD, Westmerland. In the Summer season servants can be employed with

HENRY HAYWARD, Kings. Any man who has a capital to start with, even at the present rate of labour, can gain, I should be sorry to say how much, but a great deal, if done with judgment.

ANDREW ALTON, King's. I think servants can be profitably employed in raising produce at the present rate of wsges.

WILLIAM KEITH, King's. Servants can be profitably employed.

ELIJAH A. PERKINS, Queen's. Servants may be profitable in imporving, but not in raising produce.

ROBERT SMYTH, Queen's. Capitalists may employ farm servants to advantage in improving, clearing and raising produce at the present rate

C. L. HATHEWAY, Sunbury. If a farmer has a small capital he can employ servants profitably in improving his farm and raising produce.

EDWARD SIMONS, York. Servants can be profitably employed in raising produce. WILLIAM WILMOT, York.

When near a good market I certainly think that servants can be employed with profit in raising produce. R. D. JAMES, York.

I think that labourers at £20 to £30 a year will pay well. JAMES L. PICKET, Carleton. Servants can be profitably employed on the farm, though few persons have tried the experiment.

JOHN SMITH, Albert. Taking the improvement of the farm into consideration, it is my opinion that servants can be employed with profit. WM. WALLACE, Albert.

Servants can be usefully and profitably employed at the present wages by those who have means to spare for im-

J. G. G. LAYTON, Kent. Men servants could not in former years be employed with profit at the wages demanded; perhaps now they might, at the reduced wages of the present time, by employers of judgment and system.

HENRY W. BALDWIN, Gloucester. It is thought by many that servants can be profitably E. LOCKHART, Gloucester.

In my own experience servants cannot be employed in raising produce clone, but coupled with the improvement of the farm they can; for the servants of this country are better calculated for winter employment than for raising produce or cultivating the soil.

DUGALD STEWART, Restigouche. 2nd. Opinions of those who think that, at the present rate of wages, paid labour cannot be profitably employed in cultivating in New Brunswick :-

JOSEPH WALTON, Charlotte. I do not think servants can be employed with profit at produce of the land is so utterly disproportionate. the present rate of wages-principally for want of a cash Servants can be very profitably employed after the market, the near contiguity of the United States, and the farm has been brought into good heart. It depends on great expense of bringing the land into a fit state of cultivation. and these save done bound but !

DAVID MOWATT, Charlotte.

JOHN MANN, Jr., Charlotte. of the markets. ... MR. ... Westmorland.

Servants at £20 to £30 a year cannot, I think, be profitably employed, either in improving farms or raising pro-Servants can be profitably employed in clearing and duce, owing to the uncertainty of the markets and the low R. K. GILBERT, Westmorland. price of produce.

Servants can be profitably employed if paid in produce, but cannot if paid in money; the reason why it will not and raising produce with advantage to the employer at the pay, when the wages are paid in money, is because the produce sells so low, and the crops are so light.

HOWARD D. CHARTERS, Westmorland. Servants cannot be employed with profit at the present rate of wages. The reasons are, no certain markets for our produce—the price at best below a remunerative one.

ROBERT B. CHAPMAN, Westmorland. If to servants' wages be added the rent of land on which labour may be employed, and taking into consideration the high when compared with the price of farm produce and present price of produce, it will be found that capital employed in agricultural pursuits will not yield a fair return. WILLIAM CRANE, Westmorland.

At the present price of produce, it will not pay to employ servants either at £20 or £25 a year.

CHARLES DIXON, Westmorland. I consider the greatest, and perhaps the only return to the farmer, is the cutting down the woods and clearing up new land, enabling him to turn his old worn out meadows into pasture, which will bring them to, without the aid of manure. The rate of wages is, and always was, too high in this Province. THOS. BEER, King's.

Servants cannot be profitably employed at the present DANIEL M'LAUCHLAN, King's. Servants cannot be employed with profit, in consequence of the failure of the potatoe crop.

DANL. S. SMITH, Queen's. Servants cannot be profitably employed—the sale of the produce not realizing sufficient.

REV. ALLAN COSTER, Queen's. We cannot hire in consequence of the high wages caused by lumbering-the produce of the farm at present high prices will not admit of it.

JOHN ROBERTSON, Queen's. Labourers cannot be profitably employed during the whole year, owing to the failure of the crops in past years. Money expended in clearing land is not worthy to be considered as capital invested, because many years expire be fore any remuneration can be obtained save the first crop, and the interest on the sum expended would, before any profits could be received, amount to more than double the value of the land. WILLIAM REED, Queen's.

Servants cannot be employed with profit, because we have not a secure cash market to take our produce to, and the winters being long. NATHL. HUBBARD, Saubury. Servants cannot be profitably employed, on account of

the low price of produce, and the competition of the United CHAS. H. CLOWES, Sunbury. Servants cannot, I think, be profitably employed on account of the very long winters."

CHAS. HARRISON, Sunbury. If a farmer has nothing but his farm, and employs servants in the spring, and is obliged in the autumn to sell some of his produce to pay them, he cannot do it with profit, as the price of produce at that season is generally very EDWARD SIMONDS; York.

The cultivation of the land with men servants at the present wages, would not be immediately remunerative in the absence of sufficient demand to constitute a market. EDWIN JACOB, D. D., York.

Men cannot be profitably employed at the present wages, produce being so low that it will not pay the wages:

ISRAEL PARENT, York. In consequence of farmers not using compost manure, and the difficulty of procuring stable manure to support large farms, and the want of a ready market, we think labourers cannot be profitably employed.

WM. Dow, York. I do not think it possible, because, with the extravagant I think servants cannot be profitably employed at the opinions of our present class of farm labourers, the returns will not meet the outlay. JAS. RANKIN, Carleton.

Hired labour cannot be profitably employed, because the J. C. WHETEN, Kent.

I do not presume to say which of the opinions above given are deserving of more, and which of less consideration. No doubt, as in all such cases, some of the writers from their skill, judgment and experience, are more trust-Farming altogether by servants we consider unprofitable, worthy than others; but this Your Fxcellency will be better able to form an opinion than I am.

But taking the testimony as a whole, that of twenty five I do not think that servants can be employed with profit persons who affirm on a practical matter of this kind, ought capital could not be more profitably invested, and at the at the present rate of wages, owing to the failure of the to outweigh that of an equal number number who deny. wheat and potatoe crops, and the present depressed state If in circumstances nearly the same as to wages, soils, manures and markets, onec man. says he. cannot empley

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