

BRITISH AGRICULTURE

GREAT DEPRESSION OF PRICES AND LOSS OF PROFITS.

Report of Special Committee of Liverpool District Farmers' Club.

The report of the special committee of the Liverpool District Farmers' Club on the condition of agriculture in the district, drawn up in response to the invitation of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, was forwarded to London Feb. 25. It reads:

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THE CORN CROP.

The Low Price Brought in Free Trade Times.

American Economist.

Having already shown the American farmers that they must reduce their costs by the dollar for their corn worth during the two years that the free-traders have allowed them to sell their crops in "the countries of the world, that stand ready to take our entire surplus of products," as the democratic platform of 1892 teaches us, we now see what they get for their corn crops during the three years of McKinley protection, and also during the two subsequent years under the free-traders.

Here are the figures:

Period.	Average Yield	Average Value
1860-62	474,228,770	\$0.45
1863-65	474,228,770	\$0.45
1866-68	474,228,770	\$0.45

We find that the average value of the corn crop was \$17,167,552 more during each of the three years of McKinley protection than under the present administration of the free-traders. The average price was over two cents a bushel more on the farm and the harvest from each acre was worth \$1.34 more to the farmer under protection.

The effects of depression on landowners are: The rents in the district vary according to the quality of the land, ranging from 25 to 50 per cent above acre.

These reductions in rent have been made. One large landowner, whose land is heavily rented, about four years ago offered his tenants a temporary remission of 10 per cent or a permanent reduction of 5 per cent, with the result that the tenants accepted the latter. Other landowners have been compelled to do the same. There are several occasions granted a reduction of 10 per cent, the last being for the year 1892. Rent is taken as the basis of assessment to poor-rate, and the only decrease in the assessment of land is on one landowner's property. Those tenants receiving temporary remission are unable to obtain a reduction in the rent.

In the estimation of the value of the land is from 20 to 30 per cent at least.

The farms being small to medium size, there is always a demand for them when vacant. They vary from 20 to 300 acres, and a large number being about 100 acres. Farmers' sons have to compete for them with Liverpool tradesmen (retired and otherwise). A great many farmers' sons, being brought up in the cities, being unable to find commercial depression, unable to take to any other business, create a constant demand for these small farms, which places a fictitious value upon them. There are, in consequence, very few farms in landlords' hands. A great many young farmers would be better off were they working as agricultural laborers. There is a great lack of suitable accommodation as regards cottages etc., for laborers, and immediate action on the part of the landowner is needed to supply this deficiency. The effects of the depression on tenants are: The farming profits of today are nil. The value of produce as compared with about 20 years ago is:

Today.	About 20 Years Ago.
Hay15 per ton
Wheat15 per bus
Oats15 per bus
Buckwheat15 per bus
Straw15 per ton
Potatoes15 per ton
Cabbages15 per dozen
Cattle15 per pound

In consequence of our district being in the vicinity of such towns as Liverpool, Bettle, St. Helens and Widnes and also largely intersected by railways, farmers have had to contend with the difficulties of transporting and marketing their produce for laborers, and immediate action on the part of the landowner is needed to supply this deficiency. The effects of the depression on tenants are: The farming profits of today are nil. The value of produce as compared with about 20 years ago is:

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Buckwheat

Straw

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