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Circular: Patent Chemical Manures: Feeding Stuffs, Etc.



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Remarks on Agricultural Statistics

James Rutherford

James Rutherford (1864) *Remarks on Agricultural Statistics* ; Circular: Patent Chemical Manures: Feeding Stuffs, Etc., pp 15 - 15 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-142>

If our Registrar-General, Mr. Donnelly, C.B., would devise some means of combining with his "Agricultural Statistics" a series of tables, embracing, under certain technical headings, the Manures applied to Green Crops, Cereals, and Grass Lands in Ireland, he would be giving fresh proof of the indefatigable zeal and ability which characterize his labours, and would furnish the public with an amount of information which would produce most beneficial results to agricultural interests. Assuming that the collectors of these statistics are supplied with printed forms, containing queries, the answers to which are given verbally by the farmer, and taken down in writing by the public officer, these queries could very simply be extended so as to embrace the particulars above alluded to; holdings could be divided into, say four sections, viz., 10 and under 40 acres; 40 and under 100 acres; 100 and under 200 acres; 200 acres and upwards; and the four provinces could also be distinguished. Manures might be classified into—1st, Farmyard Dung; 2nd, Dung from Towns; 3rd, Ammoniacal Manures, viz., Guanos; and 4th, Phosphatic Manures, viz., Superphosphates and Bones; the results year by year as to the state of the crops, could be sufficiently indicated by "Good," "Bad," or "Middling." On some such basis as this there could be no possible motive on the part of farmers, for either erroneous or evasive replies, nor could any one engaged in the manufacture or sale of manure have a grievance to complain of; and a synopsis of the whole returns, which could be further improved by distinguishing between Landlords and Tenants, would furnish valuable data for most important deductions, on a subject of paramount interest to a country, the prosperity of which depends so much on its yearly produce in Beef and Corn.

FEEDING STUFFS.

Notwithstanding the low price of grain, there has been a large consumption of Linseed Cakes and Rape Cakes as Cattle Food during the past year, and these, partly as the result of corn being so cheap, have been sold at lower rates than for many years previous. I have been at very great pains to secure the best qualities of feeding cakes, having visited, during last autumn, both the home and foreign markets, and procured stocks which have met with the highest approval, and secured a large demand from all parts of the country. In this branch, as in the manure trade, no effort has been made to *force* a trade by "testimonials" or squibs of that nature; my aim is to supply a genuine article at a fair price, avoiding inferior and low priced cakes, which, if they enhance profits, decrease reputation, and have no tendency to