

MR. DVORETSKY'S FARM.

At the request of Mr. Dvoretzky, Mr. W. C. Grasby made a few remarks on his visit to Mr. Dvoretzky's farm in October, 1915. He said that the farm was situated about 15 miles east of Brookton, where the rainfall was between 15 and 16 inches. This point had to be remembered by delegates from the eastern districts where the rainfall was very much less. The country being operated upon was what is known as sandplain. It was undulating country absolutely free of trees; there being only an occasional wattle and a few blackboys. The rest of the herbage consisted of low heath-like shrubby growth. The higher portion of the big slope was at a considerable elevation and overlooked the Upper Avon Valley, with Country Peak lying to the south or southwest. The surface soil was a dark sand and underneath it was yellow, containing a certain amount of clay and gravel. Below it had a good deal more gravel and more clay. It might be defined as a somewhat poor very light soil, but it was a soil and not mere sand.

When he was there, Mr. Dvoretzky's son was operating a 16-furrow mouldboard plough with 14 horses working abreast. The plough was cutting a track 9 feet wide and about 4 inches deep on each trip and was averaging about 18 acres per day. Mr. Dvoretzky endeavoured to lay out the work so that the team did

an average of about 18 miles a day; sometimes it would drop to 16, and sometimes it would go up to 20. Sometimes 14 horses were used. During the season the one team fallowed 1,300 acres.

At that time Mr. Dvoretzky calculated the cost as follows:—He allowed 10s. a day for the ploughman, and 8s. a day for two other men required to clear away

for two other men required to clear away the few large bushes and to throw them off into the fallowed land ready for burning. He allowed 1s. 6d. a day for the horses, and considered that the cost was equal to £2 11s. a day for 18 acres, or less than 3s. an acre for clearing and breaking up the land. One other cultivation was given with two double-gang discs cutting 12 feet and worked with 10 horses. This team did about 27 acres a day; allowing 10s. for the man and 15s. for the horsefeed gave 25s. for 27 acres. The drilling was done with a 20-disc drill covering 10 feet and drawn by 10 horses. The drill did 26 acres a day, the cost being one man 10s. and horsefeed 9s. or say 19s. for 26 acres. 5s. was allowed for super, and 3s. for seed on the farm.

Mr. Dvoretzky thus calculated that he put in his crop at between 12s. and 13s. an acre on new land, or 10s. or 11s. on land which had been cropped before. He followed similar methods in his calculations in taking off the crop, and believed the cost of putting in and taking off was less than £1 per acre, so that a 10-bushel crop at 3s. a bushel left a farm profit of 10s. per acre. Mr. Dvoretzky did not attempt to keep individual accounts for wheat and sheep, because he said a farm must be worked as a whole, and the sheep and crop must go together.