



The Minety Distillery

The following is an aggregation of newspaper reports and notices relating to the formation, in Minety, the subsequent demise, and the asset disposal of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company during the period 1857-1858.

THE WILTS AND GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL DISTILLERY COMPANY LIMITED

Capital, £11,000, in 5,500 Shares of £2 per share.

Deposit, £1 per share; the remaining Capital to be called for and paid by two equal instalments, on the 1st of August and the 29th day of September next.

DIRECTORS

W T K Perry Keene, Esq, Minety House, Minety.
Henry Hibberd, Esq, of Braydon House, Malmesbury.
William Keene, Esq, Minety House, Minety
Henry Blandford, Esq, Baynton, Wilts.
Charles Large, Esq, Leigh Hall, Cricklade.
Mr Thomas Bowly, Cirencester.
Mr Richard Maynard, Taunton, Somerset.

MANAGING DIRECTORS

Henry Hibberd, Esq. William Keene, Esq.

SECRETARY PRO TEM

Wm Dommett, Esq, Chard, Somerset & Minety, Malmesbury.

BANKERS

County of Gloucester Bank, Cirencester
London and County Bank, Lombard-street, London.

AUDITORS

To be appointed by Shareholders.

OFFICES

On the Works, Minety, Malmesbury

BROKER

W Lemon Oliver, 4 Austin Friars, London.

PROSPECTUS

This Company is established for the purpose of distilling spirits from beet root and mangold wurtzel, upon the principle of a discovery by Mons Leplay, and for which a patent has been obtained.

In order to ensure the efficient working of the Patent in this district, the Company has secured (by purchase) 76 Acres of Freehold Land peculiarly calculated for the growth of beet and mangold, on which the works and distilleries are to be erected. The estate so purchased is situate about half a mile from the Minety Station, on the Swindon and Gloucester Railway, in a district where beet and mangold of the best quality may be grown to any extent.

The patent for distillation has been introduced into England by Messrs William Dray & Co, the celebrated agricultural implement makers; and in their prospectus introducing the subject to the public, they state their willingness to take shares in each of the Companies to be established, having fully satisfied themselves of the large profits to arise therefrom.

Under the present Revenue Law, distillation from mangold and beet root is prohibited; but the English government feeling the importance and advantages to be derived by the Agricultural interest of England, have granted to Messrs Dray twelve licences for working the patent in this country; one of such licences has been secured for this district, and will probably lead to immense results, as the business of the Company increases.

The estimated capital of the Company being £11,000, the Directors, for the satisfaction of the public, after careful inquiry and consideration, put forth the following statement as to the appropriation of the above sum:-

Purchase of land (76 acres, freehold), erection of a 20 ton distillery, with steam engine, and all necessary buildings, and complete plant for rectifying the spirits.....	£6,900
First purchase of 2,300 tons of mangold and beet, sulphuric acid, yeast, coals for steam engines ..	<u>£2,700</u>
	£9,600
Leaving a surplus of £1,400 for the purchase of horses, casks, erection of sheds for cattle, water tanks, incidental expenses, first year's wages, salaries, &c, &c.....	<u>£1,400</u>
	£11,000

The following estimated revenue, after the most searching investigation, drawn from the statistics of Messrs Dray & Co who have practically proved the same, and which have been theoretically tested by Dr Letheby and Professor Mitchell, FCS, is as under. The latter gentleman, in a letter dated 5th March 1857, addressed to Messrs Dray & Co, writes:- "In conclusion, I may state that I think the process you have introduced into this country of obtaining spirits from saccharine roots, and the subsequent employment of the residue (pulp) for feeding cattle, is one of the happiest inventions of late years, and is calculated to be the cause of a great increase in the prosperity of the agriculture of this country; for not only is a valuable substance (alcohol) obtained from a root or series of roots not hitherto employed in this kingdom for that purpose, but the residue of the preparation of that alcohol is a much more valuable article of food than the original roots from which it was produced, or in other words, 66 lbs of the residue (pulp) has the same nutritive value as 100 lbs of the fresh root, so far as the formation of flesh is concerned."

RECEIPTS

Produce of 3,000 tons of beet and mangold, at 16 gallons per ton – 48,000 gallons	
Price is 3s 3d – estimated at 2s 6d per gallon.....	£6,000
1,500 tons of residue, for feeding cattle, 10s per ton.....	<u>£750</u>
	£6,750

EXPENDITURE

Purchase of 2,300 tons of beet.....	£2,300
Wages, Salaries, &c.....	£500
Coals, 200 tons.....	£200
Yeast and sulphuric acid.....	£75
Wear and tear of machinery, oils, grease, and incidentals, at most say.....	£325
Royalty of 1d per gallon on 48,000 gallons.....	<u>£200</u>
	£3,600
Balance to profit (equal to 45 per cent) on Revenue, or 30 per cent on capital.....	<u>£3,150</u>
	£6,750

If this is added to 9d per gallon (the present and usual selling price of the spirit being 3s 3d a gallon), the profits would appear to be about 50 per cent per annum on the capital.

It will be seen that these calculations are made upon the assumption that all the mangold and beet is bought at £1 per ton, except that which is to be raised upon the estate. In the present year the Company may fairly calculate on 700 tons of mangold from the quantity of land sown, and in future years 30 acres may be estimated to be annually cropped for consumption, whilst the other parts of the farm not so cropped will, in rotation, yield other agricultural produce, but of which no account is taken in the estimate.

The payments, for safety, are all calculated upon the highest scale, and in practice will no doubt be found to be much less than estimated, whilst the value of the spirits is taken at the lowest price, the present value being 3s 3d a gallon.

The great advantages arising from Mons Leplay's patent is, that the residues of the beet or mangold after distillation remain uninjured as food for cattle. In the process of distillation the roots lose about 40 per cent in weight, so that out of 3,000 tons calculated upon, 1,500 tons of residues, at least, will be left as food for cattle, and this it is proposed to sell at the very low figure of 10s per ton, a preference in the sale being given to Shareholders and those who supply the beet or mangold to the Company. As some doubts may be raised in the minds of parties who have not given the subject consideration, the following opinion of Professor Wilson, Mr Robert Kane, and M Blankett, cited in Dr Turner's "Elements of Chemistry," will tend to remove any difficulty on that head:- "The sugar (which is transformed into alcohol) of beet is a subject which contains no nitrogen, and when pure no organic matter. It is formed during the growth of the plant by the mere concurrence of air and water. And the other materials of the beet root which remain behind after the sugar (or alcohol) is extracted contain the nitrogen and salts, which render beet useful as food, or available as manure when returned to the soil. Hence the waste pulp is greedily purchased by the farmers for feeding.

Messrs Dray have established such a distillery at Farningham, in Kent, and have proved the value of the residues after distillation, by fattening and feeding a large number of beasts and sheep thereon, and during the lambing season they fed 200 ewes principally on the residues; it has also been found to be exceedingly valuable for feeding milch cows. There is every reason to believe that the establishment of such a distillery will be of immense advantage to the two counties of Wilts and Gloucester, and that the agriculturalists supplying the beet and mangold will readily take the residues for feeding. The Company, however, will always keep some cattle to feed on the residues.

Although calculated at the commencement for the distillation of 3,000 tons of beet, a much larger quantity may be distilled by the same apparatus; the time occupied in the distillation of 3,00 tons being 150 days only. It has been found in practice that good beet and mangold produce above 18 gallons of proof spirit to the ton; in the calculations here made the estimate has been taken at 16 gallons to the ton only. As to the means of disposing of the produce — the spirit being plain or neutral when rectified, ranking after grape spirit in value and quality, it is fitted for any use to which pure spirit of wine can be applied. It is used for many purposes where grain spirit is not in favour, such as perfumery, &c. Many thousands of gallons of beet-root spirits, paying a duty of 15s a gallon as foreign spirits, are imported from Belgium annually for the use of perfumers and aromatic spirit makers. This spirit is also employed in the fabrication of brandy in the north of France, two millions sterling in value were employed in this manner last year in France alone.

It is also employed for the arts, for all kinds of chemicals, varnishes, French polishes, tinctures, &c, &c.

Immediate application for Shares should be made to the Secretary, Chard, or Minety, near Malmesbury; or to W Lemon Oliver, Esq, Stock and Share Broker, 4 Austin Friars, London, EC.

The Company has been established under the Limited Liability Act — so that no Shareholder is liable beyond the amount for which he subscribes.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES

To the Directors of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company --- Limited, Minety, Malmesbury.

Gentlemen, -- I request that you will allot me ---- shares of £2 sterling each in the above Company , and I agree to accept such Shares, or any less number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the Deposit of £1 per Share on allotment, and two instalments of ten shillings per Share on the 1st day of August and 29th day of September next, and to execute the Articles of Settlement of the Company.

Name.....

Address.....

Occupation.....

Dated theday of1857

Berkshire Chronicle 20 June 1857

Inland Revenue Department, Excise Branch

Mr Andrew Turnbull, officer of Newent Ride, Gloucester Collection, has been specially appointed to take charge of the Root Distillery, about to be opened at Minety, Wilts.

London Standard 9 January 1858

THE DISTILLERY, MINETY

Important to FARMERS, GRAZIERS, and OTHERS

MANGOLD, WURZEL and CARROTS

To be Sold by AUCTION, by CHARLES BLACKWELL, upon the premises, the Distillery, Minety, on SATURDAY next, the 24th of April 1858, 150 TONS of MANGOLD, WURZEL and 30 TONS of RED CARROTS, being the surplus Stock of the present distillery season.

The whole will be sold without the slightest reserve. The sale will begin at two o'clock.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 22 April 1858

In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Bristol District

In the matter of the WILTS and GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL DISTILLERY COMPANY (Limited), and in the matter of the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856, 1857 and 1858.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition was presented on the 21st day of September 1856, to Her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Bristol District, by a Contributory of the said Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Company (limited), praying that the said Company may be wound up by the said Court, pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856, 1857 and 1858, and that such petition will, by order of the said Court, be heard, before Mr Commissioner Hill, on the Sixth day of October 1858, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Dated this 21st day of September 1858.

ABBOT, LUCAS & Leonard, Solicitors, Bristol, Agents for WILLIAM STEPHENS JONES, Solicitor, Malmesbury.

Wiltshire Independent 23 September 1858

The Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company (Limited)

This matter was further heard at the Bankruptcy Court of Bristol, on Tuesday last, when a number of proofs by contributories and creditors were tendered. The whole of the former were allowed, but several of the latter were ordered to stand over for inquiry. W F Perry Keene, esq., of Minety House, one of the principal shareholders, was chosen (without opposition) the contributories liquidator, and Mr Jones, of Malmesbury, was appointed solicitor. It is understood that it is intended to realise the whole of the Company's assets forthwith.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 21 October 1858

IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY FOR THE BRISTOL DISTRICT

In the matter of the WILTS & GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL DISTILLERY COMPANY, Limited
To Distillers, Agriculturalist and others.

SALE of very superior SILESIAN BEET ROOT and MANGOLDS, RICK of HAY, ditto of OATS, capital FARMING IMPLEMENTS, DRAUGHT HORSES, HARNESS,. Large quantity of BRICKS, WEIGHING MACHINE, BEAMS, SCALES and WEIGHTS, HEAPS of MANURE &c, &c.

Mr PANTING has received instructions from the Official Liquidators of the above Company, to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the premises, (the Distillery, Minety), on Thursday the 11th day of November 1858, the undermentioned VALUABLE PROPERTY.

Comprising about 400 tons of Silesian beetroot and mangolds, rick of oats, ditto hay, a capital draught mare with a very promising colt at foot, powerful draught gelding, nearly new thill, trace, and plough harness, well-made drags and carts, Cambridge's crusher, cultivator, Howard's drags and harrows, iron ploughs, ditto pig troughs, hurdles, tools, wheelbarrows, hog tubs, straw, heaps of manure, &c, &c. ABOUT 1000,000 BRICKS. Capital weighing machine, beams and scales, a large quantity of weights, and a variety of other valuable articles not enumerated.

The Auctioneer begs to draw the attention of Distillers, Agriculturalists, and others, to the fact that the above roots are principally Silesian beet, which is well-known to possess more saccharine matter and better flavour than ordinary mangold, therefore more valuable for distilling or feeding purposes; they will be sold in convenient lots to suit large or small purchasers, and, in consequence of being within half-a-mile of the Minety Station, GWR, will be easy of removal to any distance.

In consequence of the number of lots the sale will commence at twelve o'clock punctually.

The remainder of the Company's root crops, and other property, will be sold at a future date, of which due notice will be given, and full information respecting the same may be obtained in the meantime of Mr Jones, Malmesbury, Wilts, solicitor to the Liquidators, or of the Auctioneer.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 28 October 1858

MINETY, Wilts

Freehold Estate, comprising 75 Acres

Distillery recently erected thereon, with Steam engine and other Plant attached thereto, suitable for carrying on Distillation, or convertible into a Steam Flour Mill or a Brewery.

Mr Panting is instructed by the Official Liquidators of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company (Limited) to offer this eligible property, either together or in Lots, for PUBLIC COMPETITION, sometime in the month of February next (unless the same shall be previously disposed of by private treaty). The Estate is within half a mile of the Minety Station, on the Cheltenham Branch of the Great Western Railway, has been recently drained, is in a high state of cultivation, and comprises the following particulars:-

Field	Condition	Quantity		
Great Green's Ground	Arable	10a	3r	20p
Great Coalpit Hill	ditto	21a	0r	12p
Middle Coalpit Ground	ditto	6a	3r	23p
Little Coal Pit	ditto	7a	1r	15p
Distillery Field	ditto	4a	0r	28p
Sheep Ground	ditto	8a	0r	3p
Clover Ground	ditto	6a	3r	23p
Coalpit Hill	ditto	9a	3r	23p

		75a	0r	27p

The Distillery was erected in 1857, by Mr Dray, for the purpose of distilling 20 Tons in every 24 hours, under Lephy's Patent, at a cost of upwards of £2,000. The Plant consists of Stills, Steam Engine and Boiler, Vats, and other apparatus.

The works may be adapted, with little outlay, to the method of Distillation known as Champonnois' process, and might also be converted into a Steam Flour Mill or a Brewery, as above mentioned.

The Official Liquidators of the Company are willing to sell the whole property by Private Contract. If desired, the purchaser might take to the crops, comprising between three and four hundred tons of Mangold Wurtzel and Wheat, and other Tillages, at a valuation, and immediate possession would be given.

If the property should not be so disposed of, the Estate will be Sold by Auction as above mentioned, and the Crops, Plant, &c, will be afterwards also Sold by Auction.

The Premises may be viewed on application to Mr Smart, or to W P Pericottin both of Minety. Further information may be obtained of the Auctioneer, and Messrs Abbot, Lucas & Leonard, Solicitors, Bristol.

To treat for the purchase of the property, and for full particulars, application must be made to the Liquidators' Solicitors, Jones & Forrester, Malmesbury and Tetbury.

Wiltshire Independent 13 January 1859

In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Bristol District. In the matter of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company, Limited. MINETY, WILTS

TO DISTILLERS, AGRICULTURALISTS & OTHERS, SALE of superior SILESIAN BEET ROOT and MANGOLDS.

Wm PANTING has received instructions from the Official Liquidators of the above Company, to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the premises, (the Distillery, Minety) on Monday the 14th day of February 1859, about 500 TONS of very superior SILESIAN BEET ROOT and MANGOLDS.

The above will be sold in convenient Lots, to suit the convenience of large and small Purchasers, and being within half a mile of the Minety Station GWR, will be easy of removal to any distance. Sale at one o'clock, precisely.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 10 February 1859

IN BANKRUPTCY, WILTSHIRE, Close to Minety, FOR PEREMPTORY SALE.

A Compact Freehold Farm of 76 Acres of Rich Arable Land.

Messrs CHINNOCK & GALSWORTHY WILL SELL by AUCTION, by direction of the Official Liquidators of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Company (Limited), at the Mart, in the City of London, on Tuesday July 19th, at 1 o'clock (in consequence of the dissolution of the Company), a compact FREEHOLD ESTATE, Land-tax redeemed, comprising 75a 3r 6p of rich Arable Land, close to the Minety Station, on the Cheltenham Branch of the Great Western Railway, temporarily let to good tenants, at rents producing £124 14s per annum.

The Estate is well worthy the attention of Capitalists, and particularly of any gentleman desirous of commencing Farming operations, the soil having been recently broken up from the rich pasture, and admirably adapted for growing corn and root crops. A rich Meadow and a large Arable Field adjoining the Estate, with a frontage to the high road, may be purchased at a moderate price, forming a capital site for a farm house, and the building forming the Distillery may be easily converted into good farm buildings.

The Estate may be viewed on application to Mr SMART, of Minety, of whom particulars and plans may be had; also of Messrs JONES and FORRESTER, Solicitors, Malmesbury; of Messrs ABBOT, LUCAS and LEONARD, Solicitors, Bristol; of Messrs PRICE, BOLTON and FILDER, Solicitors, New-square, Lincoln's-inn; at the Auction Mart; and of Messrs CHINNOCK and GALSWORTHY, Land Agents, 11 Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London.

Wiltshire Independent 16 June 1859

In Bankruptcy. FOR ABSOLUTE SALE, MINETY, WILTSHIRE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Messrs CHINNOCK and GALSWORTHY, (Assisted by Mr PANTING)

By direction of the Official Liquidators of the Wilts and Gloucester Agricultural Distillery Company (limited), in Lots, upon the Premises, close to Minety, on the Cheltenham Branch of the Great Western Railway, on Friday, July 22nd 1859, at Two o'clock precisely.

THE Valuable DISTILLERY PLANT, all newly-fixed, and comprising Barrett & Exall's 6-HORSE POWER TABLE ENGINE. 20-horse power CORNISH BOILER, double Rectifying Boiler, with Copper Column and Water Tank, Galvanised Iron Receivers, Cylinders.

14 FERMENTING VATS, 2000 Gals each. Crane, Root Crusher and Washer, Force Pump, portable Forge and Bellows, Vice, Anvil, Tools, Sykes' Hydrometer, Ball's Saccharometer, Thermometers.

MILINER'S PATENT SAFE

Spirit Pump and Syphon, sets of Copper Measures, Gutta Percha and Iron Tubing, small, Waggon, quantity of Sulphuric Acid, together with the

ERECTION OF DISTILLERY

Built of Corrugated Iron, Spirit Store, and numerous Effects.

May be viewed two days prior to the Sale, and Catalogues had of Messrs JONES and FORRESTER, Solicitors, Malmesbury; Messrs ABBOTT and Co, Solicitors, Bristol; Messrs PRICE and Co, Solicitors, New Square, Lincoln's Inn; and of Messrs CHINNOCK and GALSWORTHY, Auctioneers and Land Agents, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 27 June 1859

WILTS AND GLOUCESTER DISTILLERY COMPANY

This estate at Minety was offered by Messrs Chinnock and Galsworthy, for sale by auction, at the Mart, in London, last week, pursuant to advertisement, but no bidding was made, and the property remains unsold. The plant and moveables, &c, were sold on the premises, but we have not heard the sum realised. The building itself was bought in, but we believe has since been sold for £105.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 1 August 1859

WILTS AND GLOUCESTER DISTILLERY COMPANY

The estate at Minety, the property of this Company, was sold by auction, on Tuesday last, at the King's Head Hotel, Cirencester, by Mr Panting, of Malmesbury, for £1,665. The estate was sold to the company by Mr Hibberd, two or three years since, for £4,440, including the crop and license, valued by Mr Hibberd at £800, leaving £3,600 net for the land. On petition being presented to the Bankruptcy Court for winding up the Company, Mr Hibberd made an offer to re-purchase the land at £3,000, which was refused. Subsequently the land was offered for sale by auction at Minety, when Mr Hibberd bid £2,100, but the property was bought in. At a still later period, the land was offered at the Auction Mart, in London, but without inducing a single bidder. The estate has now been actually sold for the reduced sum above stated, viz, £1,665.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 26 September 1859

BEET ROOT DISTILLERY

Under this heading the "Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England," just issued, includes a paper contributed by M F R de la Tréhonnais, at the conclusion of which is appended the following description of an English experiment and its results. The most noticeable point in it is, the obstacle which Excise regulations offer to all experiments, and consequently to all improvements. If the farmers of England wish to relieve themselves of the intolerable burdens which now oppress their industry, they must in the first instance insist on a reduction of expenditure. Until this is effected, it is idle to hope for relief:-

"For the following particulars of an English experiment on this subject we are indebted to Mr Henry Hibberd of Braydon House, Minety, Wiltshire. It will be seen that though they do not correspond entirely with the results of beet-root distillation in France, yet that they are much more encouraging than the analyses given above would have led us to expect. The main facts are, that during the winter of 1857-8, 7,000 gallons of proof spirit were distilled from rather more than 700 tons of mangold-wurzel, averaging, therefore, nearly ten gallons per ton, and that during some weeks the produce exceeded thirteen gallons per ton; that the slices, after fermentation and distillation, amounted to sixty per cent of the original roots, and were saleable at 10s per ton for feeding purposes; that the spirit was not worth more than one shilling per gallon, owing to the impossibility of separating from it an acrid essential oil which made it unfit for drinking purposes; and that owing to this difficulty, and the impossibility of reaching the market price of good neutral spirit, then worth 1s 10d to 2s per gallon, the experiment entailed a loss."

"The method adopted was that of Leplay, in which the fermentation is carried on in the sliced root, and the spirit is separated by superheated steam passed through the mass in closed vessels. The "cossets" of residual material removed from these vessels after the process of distillation is completed are thrown together in a heap, and remain unaltered and fit for food after the lapse of months. In this respect Leplay's method is believed to be superior to that of Champonnois; the residual matter, after his process, being extremely liable to further fermentation ending in putrefaction, and therefore needing to be immediately consumed."

"Mr Hibberd states that during the winter of 1857-8, he fed twenty-nine milch cows on hay and pulp from the distillery, and that the whole did uncommonly well. On one or two occasions he ordered some of the cows to be fed on hay only, and they at once showed a considerable falling off from their ordinary yield of milk; so much so, that the cowmen, who were at first much prejudiced against the use of pulp, ultimately declared their preference of it to roots of any kind. The cows not only milked well, but kept their condition better than usual, and the pulp was cheap at the 10s per ton charged for it."

“It is the ordinary experience of cattle feeders, and of Mr Hibberd among others, that mangold-wurzels are unsuitable as food till late in the winter, owing to the laxative effect which they produce upon animals fed upon them early in the season. This effect was not produced by the pulp remaining after distillation, at whatever season it was given; the cows while feeding on it, continuing all the time in excellent health. It would seem, therefore, that the root, in losing its sugar, had not lost its value as food for cattle.”

“Mr Hibberd’s experience was derived from the distillation of large roots, the crops having exceeded twenty-five tons per acre; so that, in fact, he does not estimate the cost of growing them at more than 7s per ton. It is from these large roots that he declares his produce to have been ten gallons of spirit and 12 cwt of food, of equal quality to the original root per ton. His failure was due to the unsaleable quality of the spirit, not to any deficiency in quantity or strength. When, as he confidently anticipates, some method shall have been discovered of separating the mischievous essential oil, to which the inferior quality of the spirit is owing, there will be no hindrance, in his opinion, to the profitable prosecution of beet-root distillation in England. In order, however, to the success of any new enterprise of this kind, liberty of experiment at every step of the process must be allowed. At present the beet-root distiller is tied down by the Excise rules, which may be well adapted for distillation from malt, but which are not necessarily fit for so different a process as distillation from fermented beet-root pulp.”

“It may be stated, as a reason for caution in this matter, that no instance is known in which this manufacture has proved profitable in the long run on English ground; but it may also be stated, as an encouragement to the further prosecution of the enterprise, that the reasons given by Mr Hibberd for this failure seem quite sufficient to account for it, and yet are of such a nature as to hold out a strong probability of their removal.”

“The yield of ten gallons per ton of roots has been, in Mr Hibberd’s case, obtained over a sufficient quantity of the crop, and from a crop of sufficiently bulky character to justify considerable confidence in it as a probable future average result. When experiment shall have discovered some method of purifying the produce, so that it shall fetch the ordinary market price of neutral spirit, there will, apparently, be a sufficient return from the manufacture to make it profitable; and English agriculture will certainly derive a great advantage from any plan by which the whiskey and the gin at present obtained from barley shall thus be derived from the fallow crop.”

Wells Journal 1 October 1859

OPC Note: The site of part of this enterprise is still known as Distillery Meadow.