

FARMING

VOL. XVII.

DECEMBER 5th, 1899.

No. 14

Farm Implement Department Commended

Mr. R. D. Cowan, Gould P.O., Compton Co., Que., writes: "I think your Farm Implement Department will be a great boon to farmers. I am in hopes of getting you some new subscribers."

Notice to Subscribers

The year that is just about closing has been the most successful one in the history of FARMING. The advertising patronage has largely increased, as has the subscription list, each mail bringing numbers of new names, and that without any undue effort on our part, thus showing that the paper is growing in favor and popularity in its constituency. We publish each week a reliable and useful paper, and so far have dealt in a most liberal manner with farmers, live stock men, live stock organizations, and everyone and everything connected with the great agricultural interests of this Dominion, and we are prepared to do so even to a greater degree than we have done in the past.

In order that more farmers may become acquainted with FARMING, and interested in extending its circulation, we have decided to send two or three copies of each issue to a number of influential and reliable farmers in various sections of the country with the hope that they will take the trouble to hand the extra copies to probable subscribers. We make this request believing that every farmer is interested in bettering the condition of his neighbor by having him receive each week practical, useful and up-to-date matter connected with his calling. FARMING is essentially the farmers' paper. Its usefulness is just what the farmers make it. As our patronage increases, so will the value of FARMING increase.

Dishonest Apple Packing

Unprecedented Frauds Practised by Packers

It would seem that the good name which has come to Canada and Canadians, by honest and upright methods associated with the development of our export cheese and butter trade, is likely to be entirely lost through the despicable actions of dishonest apple-packers. The deserving castigations heaped upon these unprincipled individuals last spring, by both the press and every honest Canadian citizen, appear to have been without avail, if reports regarding this season's shipments are correct. In fact, these individuals, unworthy of the name of Canadians, seem to have gone several steps farther in their nefarious practices, and to have perpetrated frauds on a par with those practised by one of the New England States half a century ago in shipping basswood hams and wooden nutmegs across the Atlantic. Ever since, the word Connecticut in many places has been a by-word for dishonesty among honest people. And so the good name of Canada will suffer, and our export trade in fruit will be ruined, unless these dishonest practices are put a stop to immediately.

A few examples will be sufficient to show how far these dishonest parties will go in their nefarious practices. Mr. Parmelee, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, has received evidence to show that these iniquities are little else than downright robbery. Old, dirty top boots and bundles of kindling wood in the centre of apple barrels would be bad enough, but Mr. Parmelee announces that these things and things worse than these have been done by some Canadian apple-packers. One reliable firm of apple importers in Edinburgh complain of paying good apple prices for old clothes, hay, old boots and other articles that should have no place in a barrel of apples. Another fraud practised is that of labelling barrels of inferior apples with the names of the best varieties.

These instances are fully borne out by the Lcadon, England, correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, who, writing last week, says:

"It is most discouraging to learn that the packing of apples so far received this season from Canada is again in many cases dishonest. Two or three layers of very fine fruit are put at each end of the barrel and the remainder is trash. As has been often enough pointed out before, every person who buys a barrel of such fruit is a good customer spoiled. It cannot be too strongly stated, and should be brought home by every possible means to those interested in Canadian produce business, that the one thing above all others which the Englishman never forgives is being cheated in this way by fair appearances, and the shortest and sharpest road to the ruin of Canadian trade with this country is to allow such dishonest practices to flourish unchecked."

The time for definite action has come. Moral suasion, exposure, warning or threatening seem to be without avail, and nothing will put a stop to these dishonest practices other than the strong arm of the law. Let that be brought into requisition at once, and if there is any possibility of finding out who these fraudulent individuals are let punishment in keeping with the offence be meted out. We cannot afford to adopt any half-way measures at this stage of the game. The reputation and the very existence of our export trade is at stake. But in addition to this there is a grave danger of this reacting on Canadian trade with Great Britain in other lines to its lasting injury.

We are quite aware of the difficulties that will have to be encountered in enforcing the law and in locating the guilty parties. But the nature of the offences and their far-reaching consequences are such as to merit immediate action no matter what the cost may be. We have stringent laws in this country to prevent the manufacturing of "filled" cheese or "bogus" butter, which are enforced without any difficulty, and it is our proud boast that not a pound of spurious dairy products is made in this whole broad Dominion. Let the same effective measures be adopted in connection with our apple trade and we will soon hear very little of these fraudulent practices.

A few years ago, on the recommendation of the Dairy Commissioner, a scheme was put into effect whereby every cheese factory or creamery in Canada could register and receive a number to be placed on every box of cheese or package of butter shipped from that factory. Some similar arrangement might be carried out in connection with the apple trade, only make the legislation compulsory. Either this or allow no apples to be sent out of the country without the packer's name and address arc stamped in plain letters