

THE FARM.

The Seed and Flour Question in Nova Scotia.

The following notes from Prof. M. Cumming, of Truro, N. S., are interesting, and some of the hints contained therein are applicable to other parts of Canada:

"Correspondence received from farmers of Nova Scotia indicates that in almost every county of the Province more land has been and will be prepared for seeding than for many a year. Moreover, farmers everywhere seem alive to the necessity of greater production in 1915, not so much because of a prospect of greater prices but because there is no more patriotic class of people, and none who are more ready to join in a campaign of any kind which may prove 'the staying power' of the British Empire in the present crisis.

"These considerations lead me to present in this letter a few features of the situation which have been brought to my attention by farmers themselves in the hope that I may at least receive some correspondence and see some letters in the public press in regard to phases of this year's work which may be overlooked until it is too late.

"More land cultivated means more seed this spring. Will there be a scarcity or will already advancing prices become so high as to prove a barrier to the seeding of land that has already been prepared? In regard to this let me say that all our experiments have resulted in bigger crops from well-cleaned, home-grown oats, wheat and barley seed, etc., than from the imported article. Many of our best farmers realize this and have for years been growing their own seed, and the practice is gradually being taken up all over the Province. There are at least two additional reasons why this should be done at the present time—first, the advancing prices, and second, the fact that our Eastern seed was well matured in 1914, whereas much of the Western crop, which may be purchased, was frosted and will not germinate. It will unquestionably therefore be better practice for many farmers to put their ordinary oats through a fanning mill, or even sort out the best by the old-fashioned wind method, and use the oats so selected for seed, than to depend upon much imported seed which they may buy. For those who prefer purchasing it may not be amiss to call attention to advancing prices, which in all likelihood will go still higher. Now seems to be the time to purchase.

"Not a few farmers, influenced by the high prices prevailing for flour, are planning to grow their own wheat next spring. The policy seems a safe one, for while there may be cheaper flour next fall the odds are against it. A couple of acres of wheat will produce enough flour for the average family and some bran and middlings thrown in. In times of cheap flour these two acres might, in many cases, be better devoted to oats or other crops. But should the worst happen, the man with a big family who grows his own flour need not worry very much about food supplies, and in so far as no Western flour will be required to supply his needs, he will save that much for food for the armies across the sea.

"There are difficulties in the way. There is abundance of seed in some counties, Antigonish, Pictou, and parts of Colchester and Cumberland for instance, but, in many counties there is none. If, however, we had the means of knowing how much seed will be required, it would not be difficult to take measures which will insure an ample supply.

"Then there is the difficulty in some counties of getting the wheat ground, and this must receive prompt attention. In regard to this matter I can only say that this problem has been carefully considered by the Government of Nova Scotia, and I may add that should the wheat be grown this Government is prepared to take measures to assist farmers in those parts of the Province remote from mills to get their wheat ground. Several policies to facilitate this have been recommended. Readers of this letter can help in deciding upon the best policy by discussing the matter and bringing the results of their deliberations to our attention.

"To revert again to the seed, especially wheat and oats, I may add that, should the situation become serious, no effort will be spared by the Government of Nova Scotia to see that a sufficient supply is available. It is important, however, that farmers should have their plans well matured so that accurate information as to the needs of the country would be available long before seeding begins.

"There are still other phases of this production question which might well be considered by Farmers' Clubs, Societies, etc., during these winter months. In this letter only a few matters

have been taken up, but it is my hope that it may lead to a discussion of every phase of this greater production question. Farmers, I fancy, feel that they have heard about enough from the public men of the country. This letter is written in the hope that it may lead to our hearing more fully their side of the matter."

Labor Department on January Farm Prices.

The Labor Department's index number wholesale prices was higher for January, standing at 138.6 as compared with 137.3 in December, and 136.5 in January, 1914. The chief feature in the price movement was the rapid rise in wheat and other grains and in flour. Higher prices and strong demand in Europe, resulting in heavy export buying on North American markets, demand from



Exmoor Ewes.

A hardy breed on one of Britain's most exposed spots.

millers, unfavorable reports as to shipments from India and Argentine, importation into Australia and New Zealand, the continuance of the closing of the Dardanelles, preventing the export of Russian wheat, speculative buying, and holding of grain by farmers were reported as the factors in the rise. Manitoba wheat rose from \$1.22 to nearly \$1.50 by the end of January and was still rising. Flour rose 70 cents per barrel and was still rising, while some grades had risen still more. Bread advanced in several localities. Rolled oats also advanced in sympathy with oats. The other principal advances were in poultry, butter and cheese, stocks being lighter, and in raw furs and raw rubber, demand being better. Cattle, beef, and hogs were downward, demand being light and supplies plentiful. Eggs were downward, receipts being larger as the season advanced, except during a brief cold period. Sugar was again lower, on account of weak prices for raw sugar and light demand, but was firmer at the close of the month. Downward tendencies also appeared in coffee, potatoes,



The Right Kind.

Reserve champion cross, at Birmingham, in 1914.

oranges, quicksilver, tin, gasoline, benzine, B. C. shingles, sash cord, wire cloth, turpentine, and pulp. Some upward movement appeared in hay, bran, shorts, baled straw, raisins, tea, raw cotton, zinc spelter, spruce deals, and linseed oil.

In retail prices there was a general advance in flour, and bread rose in several cities. On the other hand sugar declined in many localities. Meats showed a downward tendency in some localities.

In Great Britain higher prices were also shown in January, the greatest increases being noted in cereals. The index number of the London Economist is up nearly two points, and Sauer-

beck's index number, published in the Statist, has risen nearly three points. Bradstreet's index number of prices in United States is 1.2 per cent. higher for January. Dun's index number, including about 200 commodities, although slightly lower on January 1st (\$124.16) on account of weakness in meats, provisions, cotton goods, and some building materials, had risen to \$125.66 on February 1st, as a result of the pronounced rise in breadstuffs, "primarily due to the insatiable foreign demands." Gibson's index number of food prices in the United States stood at 67.0 at the end of January as compared with 63.2 at the beginning.

Use Wide Implements and Let the Hired Man Ride.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With no more help available than what we have at present farmers should use larger machinery and drive more horses. Last spring on this farm we did a great deal with a four-horse outfit. We used four horses on seed drill, an 18-single-disk, and four on harrow with harrow cart behind. Many say it looks as if a man is lazy when he rides behind a harrow. What they say does not make me tired, but walking after a harrow does. I have always used three horses on the cultivator, and, as our land is fairly heavy, and as one requires a fine, firm seed-bed, I have often had to cultivate fields twice and then harrow twice before sowing.

I believe it would be to advantage to use three or even four horses on a riding gang plow to plow the land, provided one only had a land packer attachment to his plow, but a packer is a thing I have never seen used in Ontario, although in the West they are counted equal to two strokes of the harrow in firming the land.

We also found it a great advantage last spring to disk the land for corn with four horses on the disk drill, in which there was no ridging of land, and eight acres could easily be done twice over in a day.

For those men who are going to have hired help the coming season a few remarks may not be out of place. I have often been hired man myself, and from experience with the many different men I have worked for I believe but few men know how to use a hired man unless they have served their time one day as hired man themselves. The one thing that is necessary to get along with a hired man is, keep your temper sweet and use him in a way that he will feel as though he were in his own home. Do not ask a hired man to work day and night, that soon pulls the life out of him. If he is allowed to ride after all machinery he will feel fresh enough at the end of the day when he is done working horses to do a reasonable amount of chores without complaining; and by all means have a bath-

room in your house and let the hired man bathe as often as he wants to. I am only giving a faint idea of some of the things I had to contend with when I was a hired man, and what I have had other hired men tell me. Last but not least, do not dock a man for lost time if he goes to town some afternoon on some necessary errand.

S. M.
Perth Co., Ont.

Soft Water in House.

In your issue of Feb. 4th last there is a cut and sketch of W. T. Whale's beautiful home. I notice in his description the cisterns are placed in the attic, and the soft water forced up by hand. Why placed there? Would it not be better to put the soft water cistern on the second floor, with an overflow pipe leading to the one in the cellar, thereby doing away with the hand pumping, except when the upper cistern is empty. I cannot see the benefit of letting the soft water from the roof into the cellar and then having to force it all up again. If they are no better in Mr. Whale's house at pumping water up to feed the tank on the stove and supply the bath-room, etc., than we are, I am afraid it will often go dry. I saw a water system in a country house in this county where the hard water