

FARMING

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Agricultural News and Comments

Ex-Gov Hoard says that the banker, the merchant, and the lawyer, deal only with laws that man has made, but the farmer deals with God's laws. However, the laws made by man are very often a stumbling-block to the farmer, who very often is tripped up by them.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has received some samples of grain, roots, etc., from the district lying between Lakes Nipissing and Tamagamingue, which indicate that that section of the province is likely to prove well adapted for mixed agriculture. This stretch of land extends into Quebec, where it has been found to be of the same fertile character.

There seems to be conflicting reports regarding the output of wheat in Manitoba. One authority states that it will reach 40,000,000 bushels, while another equally as good states that 31,500,000 bushels is a good estimate. About twenty per cent. of the crop will be number one hard. It is also estimated that about twenty per cent. of the crop will be damaged by rain.

In England one-third of the cultivable land is under crop; in Ireland one-sixth; in Holland more than one-half; in Denmark one-half, and in Belgium seven-eighths, which is five times the amount in Ireland. In Belgium sixty seven per cent. of the entire area of the country is under crops. In those countries where a large portion of the land is under crop the size of the farm is very small.

A doctor of Jersey City claims to have found a tapeworm in an egg which was served for his breakfast. The egg had been cracked in boiling, and, when he took it from the dish, he saw what seemed to be a worm, protruding from the crack. This worm was found to be coiled up, and when stretched out proved to be four feet long. The white and yolk of the egg were in a perfect condition, the worm occupying the large end of the egg, in which the air is stored.

Reports from some of the wheat-growing sections in Ontario indicate a very rank growth. So much so is this the case that there is a danger of there being too much growth before the winter sets in. The fall wheat sown in August is likely to suffer the most, as the recent rains have caused a very rapid growth of the plant, and in some cases the wheat stock is beginning to shoot out. In cases of this kind it is considered advisable to pasture the crop and keep the growth down.

The exports of potatoes from Prince Edward Island once reached one million bushels annually. Last year it had fallen to 150,000 bushels, and it is expected that the crop will be even less this year. Last year the value of the potato exports was \$37,000, while the dairy exports were five times that amount. The value of the exports of eggs in 1897 were \$62,550; horses \$23,500; cattle \$46,500 and sheep and lambs \$27,700. These latter seem to be taking the place of potatoes.

In Ohio Canadian peas and oats are sown on corn stubble and allowed to grow for both mulch and protection. As the peas are legumes, they are expected to leave by their decay some protein in the soil for future crops. Another plan that is being tried is to sow peas and oats

after the crop is off and to turn them under oats and all as soon as the peas are ripe. The peas grow up a second time and this crop is allowed to fall on the land so as to increase the humus the next year.

It is said that of the 1,500,000,000 human beings now living on the earth 90 per cent. of them live directly from the soil. If they were all brought to the United States there would be 1,000 upon each square mile, 900 of whom would be farmers. If this be true, is there anyone who will say that agriculture is not the life-blood of all commerce and manufacturing interests? In this country, especially, the products annually produced on our farms sustain not only farming but every other business.

It is claimed that fence posts will last longer if the top end of the timber as it grew in the tree is placed downwards. The reason for this is that the sap of the wood rises in the tree from the ground and hence the absorbent function of the timber has this course, and consequently a post set with the bottom, in regard to the tree, in the ground will absorb moisture through the cells, while one set with the top (as to the tree) down is not absorbent and therefore there will be no rotting of the wood just above the surface of the ground.

It is almost impossible to over-exaggerate the omnivorous qualities of the ostrich. Oranges, small turtles, fowls, kittens and bones are swallowed with ease. A traveller recently returned from South Africa tells of an ostrich swallowing a box of peaches, two or three tennis balls, several yards of fencing wire, and half-a-dozen cartridges. Most frequently the ostrich does not swallow each dainty separately, but collects several in its throat, and then disposes of them all at once. An ostrich egg weighs about three pounds, and is considered equal in amount to twenty-four hens' eggs.

The continual tampering with grain standards, such as lowering them one season and raising them the next, is injurious to our interests in the foreign markets. For instance, the standard for oats has been raised this year owing to the extremely white color of the Ontario oats, so that the bulk of the oats, which show a better quality than those of last year, now inspect No. 3, though they are a better No. 2 than those which inspected No. 2 last season. This condition of things should be remedied. The present policy of unnecessarily changing the standards is causing no end of trouble.

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898, the net exports of wheat from Canada were 19,500,320 bushels, and of flour 5,463,549 bbls. The total export of wheat and flour in bushels equalled 24,963,869. For the year ending June 30th, 1897, the net exports of wheat were 7,296,199 bushels, and of flour 396,967 barrels, which together are equal to 9,082,550 bushels of wheat. The net exports of oats for the year ending June 30th, 1898, were 9,701,487 bushels, and of oatmeal 157,482 barrels. For the year ending June 30th, 1897, the net exports of oats were 5,456,021 bushels, and of oatmeal 152,509 barrels.

In branding cattle it is better to put the brand on the neck rather than on the rump, as the hide will be of more value. In Australia hides of cattle branded on the neck will realize 25 6d. to 3s. more than those branded on the rump.