

Farming in Foreign Lands.

From the *American Agriculturist*.

The price of potatoes in Australia has advanced to almost seven cents per bushel free on board at shipping stations.

In Mexico, the river Stado overflowed its banks, and thousands of acres of coffee plantations and cattle lands were inundated.

The wool clip of New Zealand was expected, at the end of last year, to be of better quality than the clip of the previous season.

The Central Chamber of Agriculture of England held a national agricultural conference, beginning December 7th, its main object being to consider the present agricultural depression.

A general census of cattle took place throughout Germany, on December 1st, 1892. All fairs and cattle markets were closed during the taking of the census, between November 30th and December 2nd.

The Douglas fir in British America is celebrated for its strength and straightness, frequently growing over 300 feet high. This is being largely exported to California, where it is used in place of Oregon pine.

The expenditure of the South Australian Government, in connection with its woods and forests, agricultural bureau and agricultural college departments, for the year ending June 30th, 1892, amounted in the aggregate to \$75,000.

Mexico shipped nearly 25,000 boxes of oranges, worth \$45,000, to the United States between November 21st, 1891, and April 30th, 1892. This was 18 per cent more than during the previous season, and the average price was ten cents per box higher.

An early frost destroyed nearly the entire products of agriculture in all the northern districts of Finland, and the peasants of the north are already stricken with alarm at the prospects of absolute hunger for nearly one million of the Finnish people.

The total value of pastoral and tillage products in the Argentine last year, did not fall short of \$202,000,000, and the net proceeds are at least half this sum. This, of course, includes what is used for home consumption, as well as the exported for products.

Sheep farmers in France are returning to the pure Merino breed for mutton, as well as wool. They find that mutton sells at the same price, no matter what the breed, and that Merino wool pays better than coarser breeds, both as to quality and quantity of fleece.

In British Guiana no suitable agricultural people have settled in the colony, outside of the sugar planters, while its agricultural capabilities are enormous. There is plenty of good land, suitable for cocoa, coffee, cotton, and rice, the latter being imported in great quantities from India.

Egypt had poor crops last year. The cause of failure may be ascribed to the hot southern winds occurring more frequently than usual. Plants requiring heat did well, such as cotton, sugar cane, and beans. The wheat crop was 15 per cent. less than in 1891, corn was five per cent. short, and barley a failure.

France is endeavouring to ameliorate the breed of sheep in Algeria, thus opening up a constant supply of mutton for the Paris market. The natives of Algeria own about 9,000,000 sheep and the French colony 4,500,000. The government hopes by the establishment of studs to raise a first class quality of mutton.

The principal wheat growing districts of South Australia report the season a late one. In some sections the crop was hardly above ground, and looked pinched and scanty. In another section, although there was hardly a vestige of grass, farmers had not despaired, and thought that crops would recover themselves.

Assuming that each sheep clips four pounds of wool, the English farmer is receiving 75 cents per sheep less annually than his average between 1860 and 1880. This makes a difference of \$75 on every hundred sheep; and, as the sale of wool is estimated to make one-third of the gross revenue to the sheep farmer, this is a very serious factor in his income.

The chestnut crop in France is valued at ten million dollars. One-third of the area that in 1850 was waste land has since been reclaimed. The French peasant is a mechanic as well as a husbandman, it being nothing uncommon to find peasants who have mastered a dozen handicrafts. In many localities it is the unmarried daughter's duty to guide the plow.

New Zealand cheese and butter makers have urged their government to secure the services of a leading expert, to lecture and instruct in cheese and butter making. They also advise the establishment of a model factory, the granting of certificates for skill, also that the produce shipped to the London market should be inspected by a competent judge before being offered for sale.

The weights of last season's cereals exhibited at the Royal Agricultural fair, in England, show that the first prize wheat weighed almost 70 pounds per bushel, and that which secured second prize weighed almost 69 pounds, both these lots being grown in the colony of Victoria, Australia. The two prizes for short oats were also awarded to Victorians, the weight of the best being over 59 pounds, while the second weighed 58 pounds per measured bushel.

Shipments of butter from Victoria, during the season just ended, amounted to about 3,000 tons, and a bonus of two cents per pound was paid on all that sold in London for between 20 and 25 cents, while a bonus of three cents was paid to all that realized 25 cents and upwards. It was estimated that the government would have to pay \$200,000 in bounties, but the public feeling is against this sort of subsidy, because one leading butter company has just paid dividends at the rate of 20 per cent per annum.

The cotton fields of Egypt are artificially watered about eight times during cultivation, generally by taking the Nile water between the ridges on which the plants are growing, thus saturating them completely. The general ripening of the pods begins in September, and the first picking in October. The second picking takes place in November and early in December, and a third one in January and February. The wages of the pickers are from twenty-

to thirty cents daily for men, and fifteen cents for children.

The forests of British Guiana embrace a great many species of trees. The varieties are numerous in color, from dark red to almost pure white, and in specific gravity from nearly double that of water to less than half its weight. The principal building timbers are green heart, mora, and the wallaba. For furniture, there are nearly one hundred different varieties of wood. The exports of timber are worth about \$100,000 annually, and the industry could be developed to almost any extent if the timber could be easily brought down from the interior.

New milk retails for two cents per quart in the Apennine region of France. In this section the farms are all very small, and but very little trade is done. The owners do but little buying or selling, but make their crops and stock almost completely supply their needs. Yet these peasants always have a vacation at a neighboring watering place, where their room costs them only ten cents per day, another dime pays for the waters, and they cook their meals in a general kitchen. Artificial irrigation is practiced to some extent in that thrifty section.

The area of land under corn in Tunis has increased from 946,000 acres in 1881 to 1,825,000 acres last year, the value of the grain having risen from less than \$2,500,000 to over 5,000,000. The area of vineyards in Tunis is also increasing, for while it was only 7,500 acres four years ago, it has now nearly doubled, while the quantity of wine made has gone up, during the same period, from 337,500 gallons to 2,360,000 gallons, and is expected to reach 3,150,000 gallons this year. The cultivation of the olive, which was formerly an important source of revenue, but had of late been much neglected, has been taken up again very actively, and 56 mills, nine of which are worked by steam, have been started during the last five years in the district of Suss and Sfax. Most of these belong to Frenchmen, and, as they make better oil than the Arabs, they can afford to pay more for their olives, so that the natives have a greater inducement to grow them. In the Sfax district the Government have taken steps to grant concessions of land for this purpose, and there have been so many demands made that 43,000 acres will soon be planted.

The Granite skating rink at Winnipeg was gutted by fire on January 29th.

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