

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

### AN OPPORTUNITY.

FARMING is in a better position to day than it has ever been to solicit the patronage and to command the respect of the farmers of this Dominion. It is the only weekly farm paper published in Canada, and it is also the only one which is purely agricultural in its scope, and entirely devoted to the agricultural interests and industries of the country. It contains no extraneous matter, but is, from beginning to end, a practical farmers' paper. It should, therefore, receive, and it has received, the hearty and loyal support of a very large number of those engaged in agricultural pursuits. It has, in fact, become the most popular paper of its class in Canada. This fact makes it possible for us to offer to our subscription agents inducements which enables them to make excellent profits. Wherever we have no agents we want one. But we do not want any who are not willing to put their whole energy and ability into the work, and who are not prepared to deal honestly and fairly with us and with the farmers. We want active agents in every county in the Dominion, and exclusive territory will be given to those who can furnish us with evidence of their ability and integrity, and who are willing to give their whole time to the work. There is no reason why any good canvasser should not make from \$2 to \$3 a day, and that permanent employment should not be the result of their efforts. We are in need of good men and women for this work, and will pay them liberally. To the ten most successful agents who will give this work a trial from now to the 1st September, and who prove their ability to do it satisfactorily, we will guarantee employment for the winter. Write promptly for terms, and send letters of recommendation and copies of testimonials to The Bryant Press, 44-46 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ont.

### Agricultural News and Comments.

Weeds are getting troublesome in Manitoba and the Northwest. Mr. Charles Braithwaite, Provincial Weed Inspector for Manitoba, states that unless the Government of the Territories takes immediate action to destroy the weeds in the eastern and southern part of Assiniboia the tumbling mustard will poison the whole Souris District. The mustard seed scatter so quickly in the open prairie country that it is very hard to keep the weeds in check.

A movement is on foot to establish a creamery at or near the town of Lindsay, Ont. If established, a number of skimming stations will be

operated in connection with it at the various cheese factories in the locality, the object being chiefly to make butter during the winter. A couple of years ago a large creamery was established at St. Mary's, Ont., and skimming stations put in operation at a number of the surrounding factories, and has so far been successful. By co-operating in this way winter butter making can be carried on more economically than having a complete butter making outfit at each factory.

Co-operative pork packing is receiving considerable attention in the Maritime Provinces just now. In Prince Edward Island one or two co-operative concerns are already in operation, and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick several important meetings have been held recently to consider the advisability of starting co-operative pork-packing establishments.

Canada imported from the United States last year goods of various kinds to the value of \$35,495,000, as compared with \$31,933,000 for 1896. The total exports from Canada to the United States amounted to \$24,774,000 for 1897, as compared with \$24,566,000 for 1896. The chief export to the United States is lumber. About one-fourth of our total imports from the United States is coal, and, strange to say, the next important item we import is wheat.

The San José Scale Act does not appear to have affected the nursery business very seriously. The price of nursery stock has not advanced. In fact, so great was the surplus stock in Canada that fine trees have been almost given away. Beautiful pear trees three years of age have been wholesaled this spring for 7 to 10 cents each, and peach trees at 5 cents each. A few years ago they would bring three times these figures. Apple trees have been more largely in demand this spring than peach or pear trees. American nurserymen who had made sales in Canada previous to the Act coming into force bought their stock from Canadian nurserymen, and packed their orders on this side the line.

Leiter, whose gambling wheat scheme collapsed, is said to have shipped 25,000,000 bushels of wheat to Europe within the past year. To get this body of wheat to the seaboard would require 25,000 railway cars of 60,000 lbs. each. It is reported that Leiter's profits up to June 1st were \$4,500,000. His losses since then, owing to his inability to maintain prices in the face of reports of a large coming crop, have been about \$4,500,000. He is wrecked financially and no one has the least sympathy for him.

Canadians, according to the last Dominion census, derive annually wealth from their fisheries to the amount of \$20,000,000, from their mines, \$30,000,000, from their forests, \$80,000,000 and from their farms, \$600,000,000. In Ontario alone the capital invested in agriculture is about \$900,000,000, and the value of the annual product of the farms of Ontario is over \$200,000,000. The number of persons engaged directly in agriculture in Ontario in 1891 was 292,770. Canada is indeed an agricultural country.

The Central Western States are now experiencing a marked revival in the live stock trade. The effect of this revival is being felt in the Eastern States, where stockmen of all kinds are looking forward to an enlarged activity in their own line of business. The stock farmer at the present time has very little occasion for complaint at the con-

ditions which surround him, and the prospects which are ahead. What he must do is to keep his stock up to the top notch in point of quality.

When colts have been neglected until they attain to the age of three or four years their sense of smelling may be used to good account by the trainer. By giving it a small quantity of fine grated horse cassia on its food, and rubbing a few drops of the oil of cumin on its nose, and putting a few drops of the oil of rhodium on its tongue, it is at your service, and may be harnessed, bridled and saddled without difficulty.

Among others there are two chief reasons for making hay early. One is that the hay is better for feeding in every way, and the other is that the plant is exhausted when seed is allowed to approach maturity. Besides, the meadows "run out" rapidly when hay is made late, as the plant has not sufficient power to start a thrifty new growth. This is true of both clover and timothy. A few years ago there was no hurry about making hay till well on in July, as it was thought that early-made hay was not as good as that made when the hay was pretty well matured.

### The Binder Twine Supply Short.

Farmers are advised to make their purchases early.

No other Canadian trade has been so much affected by the Spanish American war as that of binder twine. A large proportion of the raw material used for making binder twine comes from Manila, and as that island is now in a state of siege it is impossible to get supplies. This has caused a shortage of raw material, both in Canada and the United States. So much so is this the case that it is very doubtful at present whether there is enough stock on hand in Canada for the needs of the present harvest. In addition to the lack of supplies from Manila, the production of sisal, another substance used largely in the manufacture of binder twine, has been greatly reduced during the last year or two. Sisal is produced chiefly in Yucatan, and this year the crop is largely a failure. Besides, a few years ago, when the binder twine industry assumed such large proportions, an effort was made to grow sisal in the Bahama Islands and elsewhere with the result that there was an over-production, and the price of this raw material was reduced to two and a-half cents per pound. This low price caused many to give up growing it, and consequently lessened the supply. It takes about three or four years to produce a crop, and therefore, though there is an increased demand for sisal owing to the supply from Manila being shut off, it will be a few years before the growers of sisal can get into shape again.

For this and other reasons we would strongly advise farmers not to put off getting their supply of binder twine too long. Now is the best time to buy, and a supply for this season's harvest should be purchased right away. Many of those in the trade prophesy that binder twine will probably be fifteen cents or twenty cents per pound before harvest is over. The ruling prices at country points now are from eight cents to nine cents. The prevailing prices in the United States at present for binder twine are: Sisal eleven cents, mixed grade, twelve cents and pure manilla, thirteen cents, and these figures are likely to be increased very soon. It is estimated that upwards of eight hundred tons more of binder twine will be required for Manitoba and the North-west this season than last season, and