

## Contributors, &amp;c, to the "Canadian Farmer."

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## The Canadian Farmer.

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## ONE WORD.

We are of course weekly receiving letters from our subscribers upon various subjects, but through the whole lot there runs the one idea with regard to the CANADIAN FARMER, and that idea is that our paper is rapidly improving. We have no hesitation in saying that we publish the cheapest and best agricultural paper printed in the Dominion of Canada, and our watchword is still "onward." We give more first-class reading upon agricultural subjects weekly, than any of our contemporaries in the Dominion do monthly. Just examine the CANADIAN FARMER. Look through its numerous departments and judge for yourselves the value of our paper.

## CANADA AS A BUTTER COUNTRY.

Within the past few years the cheese industry in Canada has assumed enormous proportions. It is not very long ago that the country imported that article, but in the year past the Dominion has exported over sixty million pounds of cheese, and imported none. It is very satisfactory, too, to note that our cheese is much sought after, wherever it is sent. The English markets receive it very gladly, and the American cheese makers and cheese dealers pronounce their own product as slightly inferior to ours. It is only a very short time since our cereals and our timber constituted our chief and only exports, but last year we exported more money's worth in cheese than in any other single article by a couple of hundred thousand dollars. It seems scarcely credible that in a single year, 1883, there should have been manufactured in Canada cheese enough to supply a large demand for home consumption, and at the same time leave over six million dollars worth to be sent to other lands. Yet such is the fact, and that fact has its lessons for us, and they should not go unheeded. Our land has been too much wheated, whilst at the same time we will

shortly not be able to compete in price with some other wheat fields now opening up. In consequence of these facts dairying must very soon take a very great prominence among the occupations of the country. Cheese-making will be more extensively than now carried on, and its sister industry butter-making must also be cultivated. Last year, while we exported six million dollars worth of cheese, we exported only a million and a half worth of butter. Why is it that our butter is not called for as greedily as our cheese? The answer is not far to seek. Whilst we make a superior article in the one, we make in general a very poor article in the other, and it is this difference which makes such a difference in the demand, as well as in the price. This is the point. Canada is a good dairying country, we have lots of energy and will, but the systems of butter-making pursued are many of them erroneous, and, as a consequence, our butter is, when shipped to other countries, often a material libel on the fame of the Dominion. Our readers have many of them been in the collar of a village grocery store and taken a look at the butter table. Color, varying from the deep, rich golden yellow to the whiteness of violet face powder, and tastes from nutty sweetness to rank offensiveness, are all dumped on to that table in promiscuous confusion. Here it all remains, the good to spoil and the bad to get worse, until the merchant has more than he can handle, and then all is "mashed" and "punched" together into tubs and counted ready for sale and shipment. When cut through and brought upon the table, whether it be in trans-Atlantic or American cities, it matters not, the surface of that butter is as streaky and patchy as the variegated sky of an autumn evening, and its taste as muscular as that of the loud-smelling Limburger of the New York provision market. The moment it is discovered that it is Canadian butter, then at that moment our reputation for butter-making suffers in consequence.

There is no substantial reason why we should not make as good butter as we do cheese, except that whilst the one article is manufactured only by those who are master of their business, and have the best appliances and conveniences, the other is largely in the hands of those who are not posted in scientific butter-making, and who, if they be so posted, are lacking in the accessories for good butter producing.

There can be no doubt, of course, that the private dairies will produce better home manufactured butter, but we look upon public creameries as the salvation of the country in this respect. With numerous good creameries and thoroughly skilled and careful makers, our butter exports would far exceed our cheese exports, instead of being only one-fourth as large. It is the duty of the government to see that these creameries are established, and the Ontario Government will doubtless in the early future fulfill their promises to establish them in quite large numbers.

## MANITOBA CROPS.

Reports of the most encouraging kind reach us from Manitoba. Prospects are good there for abundant crops, and the farmers are joyous at the bright prospects for rich harvests. The frosts have there done little damage, and without something very unusual occurs the fields are safe. The agriculturists of our prairie province have been in close straits, and money with them has been very close, but an excellent harvest will put them on their feet

again. We congratulate our readers in Manitoba and the North-west upon their prospects.

## OUR NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Some weeks ago we referred to the necessity of teachers being examined in the subject of agriculture, and mentioned the fact it would be an easy matter to have each teacher to pass a satisfactory examination in the subject at the Normal School before becoming a fully fledged teacher. This is where a reform in our public school system must begin. If we want our public schools to have less of theory and more of the practical, we must have the system used in our Normal Schools thoroughly changed. Take the course through which a pupil is now compelled to pass before he or she can become a teacher: In the public schools—theory; in the high schools and Collegiate Institutes—theory; and we regret to say that even in our Normal Schools the candidate has to prepare another batch of theory. We know whereof we speak. Normal School students spend six hours over books to every one they spend in practical work. Only a couple of years ago we were visiting in a home where a couple of Toronto Normal School students boarded. Did we find them studying? Did they delve into anything practical? The nearest approach to anything of the kind, we saw was two young men, who had about as much ear for music as a mule has for manners, spending their time in learning the definitions of music; in other words learning music by rule just as they had learned vulgar fractions in the old schoolhouses at home. What nonsense! Is this the work our Normal Schools are doing? We answer, as at present conducted, they do little more. We are not unsupported in our assertion, and if the authorities of the two Normal Schools desire it we can from their work select some of the silliest and most useless labor ever done by a human being. The Normal Schools are ostensibly for the purpose of giving us practical teachers, but they fall sadly short of performing the duties for which they exist. Take the Normal Schools of Europe—Germany for instance. In these something practical is done. Every Normal School, and they are very numerous, has a farm attached to it, and the prospective teachers are taught agriculture practically as well as theoretically in the classes, and no teacher is allowed a diploma until he passes a satisfactory examination in this subject. If a little of this kind of thing were introduced into our Normal School system it would be a good deal more productive of good results, and we should have better, more industrious, and more practical teachers. There is, we suppose, no hope of getting our Normal Schools connected with farms, but we trust there is a hope of having our teachers compelled to study agriculture. Let the education department compel every teacher to pass a satisfactory examination in the subject. In fact, we should be strongly in favor of compelling every teacher, who desired to teach in a rural section, to pass a short term at our Agricultural College and to graduate in certain subjects from that institution. There is no use authorizing a text book on agriculture if the teachers know nothing of the subject. The Hon., the Minister of Education, is a good practical man and was raised on a farm and knows the wants of the agricultural community in regard to the training of

the young. To him we look for the careful consideration of these wants and a thorough reform in our educational system.

During the past year Australia had 25,000,000 bushels of exportable wheat; India 60,000,000; and the South American Argentine Republic 10,000,000. These are wheat fields indeed.

## FAIRS.

We shall be obliged if secretaries of township and county agricultural societies will send us the dates of their respective fall fairs. We desire this favor that we may publish them in our columns. Address all communications to THE FARMER, Welland, Ontario.

## AGENTS.

We want agents for the FARMER in every county in Canada. A liberal commission will be paid to good live reliable parties. The FARMER is increasing its circulation every day, and we intend to double its already large circulation in the coming six months.

Your assistance is solicited. For terms, etc., write to the CANADIAN FARMER, Welland, Ont., Drawer A.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

This page will be devoted to the exclusive use of correspondents. All of our readers are invited to write upon subjects of interest to agriculturists.

## A PLEA FOR THE HORSES.

## LETTER NUMBER ONE.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—I agree altogether with numbers of your correspondents, who urge the needed improvement in the stock of Canada, and I hope the plan of forming joint stock associations will have the effect of greatly increasing the horse stock throughout all parts of the country. I am of the opinion, however, that the English coach horse should be paid more attention than some of the heavier classes, which are now being imported. Quality with average size is what the farmers want as general purpose animals. But, sir, I do not write to deal lengthily with improvement in breeds, but rather to call attention to the care of horses in the hot weather of this and coming months. I regret to say that many farmers of my acquaintance are wilfully careless, if not cruel, to their best friends, the horses. I do not know how others feel, but I must say I would not feel myself safe if at the mercy of a man who will abuse his dumb animals. A man's treatment of his horses is a pretty good index of his dealings with his fellow men, and if that treatment is inconsiderate and unmerciful, it is just as well for other men to shun his companionship.

There are three classes of horse abusers. First, the man who drives his horse beyond a considerable speed, and yet this animal attends him well; second, the man who drives rapidly, or works too hard, and gives poor attendance; and third, a man who is careless only on a matter of feeding and care. Of the first class the membership is exceedingly large. In cool weather it does not damage a horse to drive him at a good rate of speed, but in the hot days, beneath the scorching sun, it is cruelty of the worst kind. We have all seen the spectacle: A lazy-looking, sleepy-headed, sanctimonious looking fellow, reclining in an easy cushioned vehicle; a long whip plied with an energy hardly expected from the driver; a poor horse with weary