

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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A Tribute to Canadian Agriculture

THE announcement last week that the British Government had decided to send several representative Boers to Canada to learn farming is a striking tribute to Canadian agriculture. One would have supposed that all that it was necessary for these delegates to know about agriculture could be had in the old land, where we are led to believe the most intensive system of farming to be found anywhere is being carried on. But the fact that the British Government has recommended a visit to Canada, would seem to indicate that something else is required to fit the Boers for practical agriculture in South Africa than the farmer in the home land can give them.

We believe the British authorities are acting wisely in this. There is something in Canadian agricultural practice and methods that make them in a very large measure adaptable to the conditions prevalent the world over and especially in a country like South Africa where agriculture as it were is in its infancy. No country in the world can supply any better information upon general farming that can be readily put to practical account than Canada. Our methods in stock raising, dairying, fruit growing, and mixed farming cannot be excelled anywhere, and if put into practice on the African veldts should work a transformation in a few years.

Western Prospects Bright

Reports from the Canadian West indicate a crop equal in magnitude if not much greater than that of last year. With two such large crops following each other in quick succession the West will make rapid strides forward. There is a call for 20,000 men to take off the harvest, and it is to be hoped there will be no shortage and that the crop will be gathered in in good condition. What benefits the Western farmer benefits the Eastern farmer also. With larger receipts from his grain crop the Western farmer will be in a position to buy more of the good stock that the East can supply. There is a growing desire on the part of the older farmer of the West for more and better stock. He feels the need of it in keeping up his farm. Eastern stockmen should therefore keep in touch with the West and do everything possible to retain this trade for Canada. The Western farmer would sooner buy his live stock in Canada than elsewhere and every opportunity should be given him to do so.

Travelling Rural Libraries

Though the travelling library is an established institution in many of the States of the Union, nothing definite has been accomplished in the way of introducing this new movement into the rural districts of Canada. From what we have heard and read of this new movement, we believe it would prove of very great benefit in the rural sections of the Dominion. It could be worked well through the local Farmers' and Women's Institutes. Many of our institutes have a considerable surplus in the treasury, gained through excursions to the Agricultural College and elsewhere, and they could not spend this money to better advantage than by investing in several circulating libraries, which

Twenty Years of Service.

On Sept. 2nd, The Farming World will celebrate its twentieth birthday. The issue for that date will be our usual Annual Autumn Number. The contents will, to some extent, show the marvelous growth of Agriculture in Canada during the past twenty years.

The number will be well illustrated and in every way worthy of the important interests which it represents. Any of our readers who wish to have free sample copies of this number sent to friends should furnish names as early as possible. Advertisers should apply for space at once.

could be transferred from one locality to another as their reading was completed. The books contained in these libraries need not necessarily treat of agriculture and nothing else. Along with agriculture and domestic science the books might treat of other subjects of interest to every citizen. The legitimate novel need not be discarded, nor should works of a religious character be left off the list. A good list, covering the whole field of literature, might be selected and this divided in several small libraries, which could be each other in rotation among the different localities for perusal by the Institute members. Is not the matter worth taking up by some of our live and up-to-date institutes? It only requires some district to take the matter up and the others will follow.

Weaning Colts.

This is the season when farmers should consider the weaning of their colts. The process should be gradual and conducted so that the colt will not feel the separation from

its mother. The aim should be to wean a colt without causing it to lose flesh during the transition period. To do this it is a good plan to accustom the young colt to eating some time before it is weaned. After a colt is six weeks or two months old it may be easily induced to eat a little grain daily, and we believe that some pains should be taken to give it a little supplementary food even while on pasture and running with its mother. This, as we have said, is more for the purpose of getting the young animal accustomed to eating, so that when it is obliged to do without milk the change will come less abruptly. At this time no food is better suited than crushed oats. If this can not be obtained whole oats will do quite well.

As the period of weaning approaches the ration of grain should be increased, the amount depending upon the judgment of the feeder. In no case should grain be allowed to stand in the manger. If one wishes to keep the animal in good condition without feeding milk it may be necessary to boil a little feed once a day. By doing this a colt may be made to gain, and if judgment is used in taking it away from its mother, the transition may be made so easily as to interfere but little with its thrift. If it is accustomed to sucking three times a day the change should be first made to twice a day and afterwards to once a day, during which time the grain ration should be gradually increased. If the boiling of food seems to be too much trouble we would by all means advise grinding it. Nothing is better than ground oats with a small amount of linseed meal at intervals. When the little colt is becoming accustomed to solid food it should be gradually taught to drink water. The greatest mistake in weaning colts is frequently made right here, as the animal will scarcely ever take kindly to drinking water suddenly. It is also important that the animal be fed palatable and nutritious roughage. For this purpose nothing is better than tender clover hay. If it is necessary to keep it inside it should have access to a yard in order to have plenty of exercise.

After all has been said it still remains for the feeder to use good judgment. The little things count in a matter of this kind, and after all only the man with the feeder's instinct can be highly successful. At the same time we believe that where a person is anxious to learn it is a matter that to a large extent may be acquired. A colt should be able to thrive well without its mother's milk when it is four months old.