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FIELD NOTES

Foreign Live Stock Conditions

The London *Meat Trades Journal* of recent date has the following to say in the way of foreign live stock notes:

The pastures in many districts are becoming bare and parched, and grazing stock will be badly off if the dry weather continues much longer.

At a meeting of the Cork Victuallers, held on Friday last, it was unanimously decided, owing to the scarcity of supply and the present high prices of live stock, to increase the price of Irish beef and mutton one penny per pound.

A rescript issued by the German minister of agriculture affirms that rats are carriers of trichinosis, and 460 farms in the Posen district are to be treated with ratin.

The Dutch government is of opinion that the increased import of American canned meats will not have a detrimental effect upon the health of the population.

W. Devonshire, gardener to the Hon. Miss Montagu of Farnham Royal, near Slough, lost a gold watch intrusted to him to be repaired. Two or three days later one of Mr. Devonshire's pigs died, and at a post-mortem the gold watch was found in the pig's stomach.

According to the Australasian of May 16 the Melbourne live stock market presents some very peculiar features at the present time. The shortage of feed is compelling stock owners to part with their sheep and cattle, often at an extremely low rate. Speculators are taking advantage of the opportunity to secure young cattle—often, it is said, at a few shillings per head—and ship them to Newcastle, where the season is said to have been a splendid one and the pastures abundant. Many thousands of sheep and cattle have been sent away to the northern port. At the same time we have received a cargo of fat cattle from Newcastle, but as the venture scarcely left any profit we are not likely to have any further shipments of fat stock. Considerable quantities of Queensland beef have been brought to Melbourne by sea in a chilled condition. It is of excellent quality and has given great satisfaction. The American practice of sending very young cattle to market—generally known as baby beef—is coming into use in Melbourne, but there is a difference in the two kinds of baby beef. In America the young animals are kept moving from the time they are weaned, and their beef commands a much higher price than that of the best finished steers. In Melbourne the young cattle slaughtered for consumption are, perhaps, the lowest in condition of the animals marketed for sale.

The Canadian cattle export trade is picking up again. Freights for this month have been fully

secured and in some instances at slightly higher rates.

In the course of an inquest held last week at Southwark on a tanner who was fatally injured through falling off a van in a Bermondsey tan yard, Dr. Waldo elicited the fact that American hides were never affected with anthrax, the most dangerous one being those imported from Persia and China.

Saskatchewan Crop Report

The crop report for June, issued by the Saskatchewan department of agriculture gives, for the most part, a favorable return from all portions of the province. Weather conditions for the month are given as normal. In some districts lack of rain has injured crops slightly, while in others too much moisture has been received. Taken on the whole, however, conditions are good. Wheat is from six inches to a foot higher than at this date last year, while it will mature at least three weeks earlier. A little frost has been noticed here and there, but nothing serious. No hail of any account occurred to injure crops in June. Some correspondents report a spindly growth of grain, attributed by them to the use of frozen seed. In the southwestern part of the province some damage, it is believed, has been done by the dry spell towards the end of the month, but taking Saskatchewan as a whole, correspondents are inclined to be optimistic, and anticipate rather better than an average grain yield.

The Australian Wheat Harvest

The Australian Government Statistician has issued a return showing the area under wheat in Victoria, and the yield for the season 1907-8. The total area compared with 1906-7 is set out at 2,058,048 (2,263,301) acres, of which 1,847,121 (2,031,893) acres have been harvested for wheat and 210,927 (231,408) for wheaten hay. The yield of wheat is 12,102,780 (22,618,043) bushels, or an average of 6.55 (11.13) bushels per acre. The area is the smallest since 1897-8 except that of 1901-2, which was 1,754,417 acres. The yield of grain is also the smallest since 1898-9 save 1902-3, the drought year, and the average yield per acre has the same relation. Mr. Drake, in a memorandum, points out that this estimate after harvest is very close to that, viz., 6.57 bushels per acre, estimated on December 3rd last, before the crop was cut, but owing to the actual area harvested being about 5½ per cent. less than then estimated—viz., 1,953,000 acres, as sown for grain, the yield turns out to be 739,970 bushels less than the pre-harvest estimate. A liberal allowance places the requirements for food and seed at 8,000,000 bushels, which means that of the 1907-8 crop only 4,100,780 bushels would be available for export. The "Argus" computes the crop of the Commonwealth at 46 (66) million bushels, and local requirements at 26 million bushels, so that the exportable surplus is not more than 20 millions, of which about eight millions have already been shipped.

Forecasting the Weather

The weather forecasting branch of the meteorological service, both Canadian and American, has advanced wonderfully in efficiency within the past few years. Nowadays every paper in the country publishes Foster's monthly forecast of the weather as a matter of course, and experience is beginning to show that eight or nine times out of ten he is able to foretell weather conditions for a month ahead with sufficient accuracy to render his prognostications extremely valuable to the country at large. It is not so many years since people doubted the weather man's ability to foretell conditions for a day ahead, and even now some are inclined to suspect that Foster is little more than a shrewd guesser, in the same class in the weather business as Mr. Hicks and the almanac makers. Such, however, is not the case. Weather forecasting is an art based upon several well-grounded principles that have been worked out from a scientific study of the atmosphere, and in time, as the science of meteorology develops, and men gain a better knowledge of the atmospheric ocean at the bottom of which we live, forecasting changes that are to occur may be carried out for even more than a month in advance.

Saskatoon Fair

Saskatoon fair will be held this year from the 5th to the 8th of August and promises to be a record breaker so far as crowds and exhibits are concerned. The management have been busy for some time now, getting things in shape, increasing live-stock accommodation, arranging for special grand stand attractions, racing and so on. The racing program will extend over the four days of the fair and horses from all over the province will take part in the events. A baby show will be one of Saskatoon's special features. Eight prizes are offered in the baby contest and indications already point to a keen contest. Three baseball matches with teams from the Central Saskatchewan League are other features of the exhibition. Visitors will not find anything like extortion in the management in charge of this fair. Twenty-five cents is the entrance fee on all occasions.

"I hope I may always be able to give a good word for your paper. It is the best agricultural paper I ever subscribed for."

St. Jean Baptiste, L. G. BROWN.

The Manitoba Agricultural College is advertising for a professor of dairying to take the place of Prof. Carson, who has resigned.

"The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME JOURNAL is the most useful paper that comes in my house."

Balcarres, Sask. GEORGE LEEPER.



PICKING THE STRAWBERRY CROP NEAR VICTORIA, B.C.