

was 2,407,000 tons, and that of cane sugar 2,541,000 tons, making a total of 4,948,000 tons. In 1896-97, scarcely ten years after, the total production of sugar had increased to 7,204,000 tons, but of this amount 4,773,000 tons was beet sugar and 2,431,000 cane sugar. The growth of sugar has increased 50 per cent. in that time, and every ton of that great increase has been in beet sugar; the growth of cane sugar has been practically at a standstill. The production of beet sugar is nearly twice as much as it was ten years ago.

Germany is the greatest beet sugar producing country in the world. Under a bounty, given for all sugar exported, the industry has made rapid development. With this bonus to assist him the German exporter is able to undersell his competitors in every country in the world. To such an extent is this the case that producers in other countries are agitating to have all sugar imported from countries where a bonus is given heavily taxed. This bonused sugar seems to be the only drawback to the development of the beet sugar industry in Canada.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

Canadians are branching out in a new line in reference to shipments of fruit. An experimental shipment of apples and pears was made a few days ago to the West Indies by Messrs. T. Carpenter & Son, of Winona, Ont. The shipment went by way of Halifax, and consisted of two hundred packages. The packing was carefully done, and good results are expected from this venture.

A bonanza poultry raiser of San Francisco, who owns 10,000 hens, has put the X rays to a new use. In every poultry yard there are necessarily a number of sterile or barren hens. If the Roentgen rays will locate a farthing in a boy's stomach, why cannot they be utilized to "show up" a non-laying hen? Such was the reasoning of this poultry king. The thought was no sooner conceived than acted upon. A test case was made with twelve chickens, eight of which were found with eggs, and four barren. A subsequent post-mortem proved that the deduction of the X rays was correct. The result of this test was that an X rays plant was put in the establishment, and all the non-laying hens put upon the market. Now the owner is feeding only the hens that lay, and finds his profits from the business increasing.

The report of the Dominion Trade Commissioner to South America, which has recently been presented to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, with one or two exceptions, will not be of much interest to Canadian farmers. In Brazil the Commissioner states that agriculture is done by hand. Hoes, axes, rakes, spades, shovels and wagons have all a good sale. The indications are that Brazil must soon change from an exclusively coffee, sugar, cotton and tobacco growing country to that of general agriculture. When this takes place the Canadian farmer will have another competitor.

Prof. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, visited Grimsby last week to confer with the fruit growers in regard to the shipments of fruit sent to Great Britain. No further shipments will be made this year. The results obtained from this year's trial shipments will be discussed, and plans laid for next season. The detailed statements regarding this year's shipments, and the plan of work for next year, will be presented to the fruit growers at their annual convention, to be held in Waterloo on December 15th and 16th next.

According to the estimates compiled by the Cincinnati *Price Current*, the export of beef from the United States this year will fall below that of 1896. For the ten months ending October 31st the aggregate of fresh, salted and cured beef exported is 305,000,000 pounds, compared, with

355,000,000 for the corresponding period last year, and a total of 429,000,000 pounds for the calendar year of 1896. The indications are that this year's total will be about 375,000,000 pounds. The exports of live cattle for the ten months have been 350,000 head, as compared with 335,000 for the same period last year, and 395,000 for the entire year of 1896.

During the ten months ending October 31st the United States exported to Great Britain 161,630 sheep, Argentina 317,253, and Canada 52,840. The number exported from the United States was about 82,000 less than the number exported for the corresponding period last year.

The United States seems to be recovering lost ground in regard to her export trade in cheese. During ten months of 1897 the total exports of cheese were 52,208,000 lbs., against only 37,516,000 lbs. for the same period of 1896. Of the first amount, 12,320,000 lbs. were exported through Canada. For the same period the butter exports were 29,199,000 lbs., as compared with 23,336,000 lbs. for the same period of 1896.

According to the *American Horse Review*, probably 75 per cent. of the horses exported from America to Great Britain are used for cabs and omnibuses. These horses are about the same sort that would be used in America for the same purpose, with the exception that they are on the whole a better lot of individuals. The London cab horse does not conform to any particular type or belong to any particular breed. He is a road horse whose value depends upon color, size, substance, soundness and gait.

The coming season is likely to be a good one in Australia, and the country is rapidly recovering from the prolonged drought of last year. Until recently the Australian farmer has sown his grain broadcast; but now he is quickly adopting newer methods, and the drill is more in use. By the old method a strip 60 feet wide was sown at once, and consequently, a large area could be covered with seed in a very short time. With the advent of the drill and better methods of cultivation, better yields are obtained. Fertilizers are coming into more general use.

A German pig farmer states that the best paying food for hogs is 13 lbs. of skim milk per day. Maise meal produced in flavor and mildness the best hams, but after a time they lacked keeping color. Potatoes and bran in every way proved a good feed, while half rice and half tubers or whole rice meal came respectively last. The pork butchers of Berlin and Hamburg ratified these conclusions.

At Dixon, Ill., there is a Farmers' Club and Reading-room Association. This organization has recently branched out on a new line. A handsome storeroom in the centre of the city of Dixon has been leased, and every convenience and comfort put in, so that when farmers come to town they will have a home of their own, where they may take lunch, meet with friends, read good books, magazines, and papers, and be as free to come and go as in their own homes. This is a right move. Will not some of our Ontario farmers take the matter up?

Free rural postal delivery will be put into effect in Delaware county, Ill., shortly. There will be four points of delivery in the county, which will be divided into four sections, with a delivery office in each. Each office will be required to give all farmers in its section a complete and free delivery. This service will be done by horsemen once each day. In addition to letters and papers they will be empowered to carry parcels and other articles bearing the government stamps. They will also sell stamps and post office supplies. Every house will be visited once a day at a certain scheduled time, and mail collected as well as left. Farmers

will be asked to put out letter boxes and to make other arrangements, which will reduce delays to a minimum.

As Others See Us.

This is what *The Western Canadian*, published at Winnipeg, Man., one of our live western papers, thinks of FARMING:

"We have received the November numbers of FARMING, the only weekly agricultural paper published in Canada. Its pages are replete with practical information on every phase of farm work. Its leading articles and editorial notes are excellent.

"It is perhaps the best farmers' journal in either Canada or the United States, and although an Ontario publication, contains a great deal that is valuable to western as well as eastern farmers."

Many others are of the same opinion. FARMING, as a weekly, takes the lead.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

James Tolton, Walkerton, Ont.

The subject of this sketch, Mr. James Tolton, was born in the township of Eramosa, near the city of Guelph, in 1839. He received his early education in the public schools of that vicinity, where at that time were taught many of the higher branches that are now taught at the high schools. In 1863 Mr. Tolton, then a young man of twenty-four years of age, commenced work on a bush farm in the township of Brant, in the county of Bruce. This farm now comprises 300 acres, and is a direct result of that energy and skill which have been characteristic of Mr. Tolton's farming operations.

Mr. Tolton inherited a native love for fine stock. His father was a breeder of good stock, and as far back as 1830 Mr. Tolton's grandfather purchased a purebred Shorthorn bull, which was one of two imported by the late Mr. Wingfield. In 1868, after having cleared a portion of his farm and after having erected suitable buildings, Mr. Tolton commenced the breeding of Shorthorns. His first purchase was that of a heifer from the late Thomas Arkell, of Arkell, Ont. As the business increased the herd was added to by purchases from other breeders in the province. Mr. Tolton always kept the best stock bull his means would afford, and thus was able to establish the fine herd of Shorthorns which he now possesses.

Besides being a breeder of Shorthorns, Mr. Tolton has won distinction as a breeder of high class sheep. It is perhaps as a breeder of Oxford sheep that Mr. Tolton has won his greatest distinction as a breeder of purebred stock. His first experience in sheep breeding was with Leicesters, his first purchase being made about the same time that he began the breeding of Shorthorns. After keeping Leicesters for a while he invested in Cotswolds. In 1881 he began the breeding of Oxfords and made his first selections from an importation made by Mr. Peter Arkell, of Teeswater. The following year other purchases were made from imported stock. Mr. Tolton now keeps only Oxford sheep and makes a specialty of that breed.

Mr. Tolton has made several large importations of Oxford sheep. In 1890 his son visited England and brought home with him forty head of Oxfords. Large importations were also made in 1892 and 1893.

In the show ring Mr. Tolton has confined his operations, as far as Shorthorns are concerned, to the local fairs of his own county, where he has always been successful in winning a large share of the prize money. But as an exhibitor of Oxford sheep at the leading fairs of the province he is well known to every breeder. Among his notable winnings are those of 1890, when he exhibited at Detroit, Toronto and London, and was awarded the flock prize at each of these fairs. He continued to exhibit at the leading fairs till 1895, winning many valuable prizes for his Oxford sheep. Since that time he has not exhibited.

Though Mr. Tolton has not made any notable sales that stand out prominently from the others, he has perhaps on the average secured as high prices for his sheep as any other breeder of Oxfords. The Americans have been his chief customers, and many of the large flocks of the Western States and the Territories have been replenished by drafts from Mr. Tolton's flock. Mr. Tolton's herd at present consists of twenty Shorthorn cows and thirty breeding Oxford ewes.

Mr. Tolton's business energy and integrity have been fully recognized by those who know him best. For the past seventeen years he has been a member of the council of his own municipality. During this time he was for four years deputy-reeve and for ten consecutive years reeve of his own township. He has also served one term as warden of the county of Bruce, and is at present President of the Farmers' Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In connection with the live stock associations of the province, Mr. Tolton has been honored many times by election to responsible positions. At present he is President of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and also a member of the executive committee of the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show.