

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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Our Interest in the West.

IT is important that people in all parts of Canada should keep in touch with Western affairs. The great wheat crop of Western Canada has given a new life and a new impetus to trade in that part of the Dominion. Not only that, it has served to direct attention, as could be done in no other way, to our great prairies as furnishing splendid opportunities for settlers. That part of Canada is bound to grow, and the next few years will witness great advancement both as regards population and wealth, west of the great lakes. All this was brought home to us in a trip to the West last summer, and arrangements were at once made for a regular Western correspondent, who would keep the readers of *The Farming World* in direct touch with Western affairs. That our correspondent is fulfilling his duties admirably in this respect a perusal of "Our Western Letter" every week will show. The grievances of the Western farmer, and the conditions of agriculture in the West, are discussed in so impartial a way as to make his letters of special value to every reader of this journal. We will again take occasion to refer to the West and Western affairs, but in the meantime these weekly letters should not be passed by. They will prove of interest not only to Western but to Eastern readers.

The Export Bacon Trade.

The imports of Canadian bacon into the United Kingdom so far this season show considerable falling off. During the nine months ending Sept. 30th, 1901, the imports of Canadian bacon into Great Britain were 287,797 cwt. against 424,278 cwt. for the corresponding nine months of 1900, showing a decrease of 136,481 cwt. The imports of Canadian hams also show a similar falling off. For the nine months ending Sept. 30th last, the imports of hams from Canada into the United Kingdom were 91,632 cwt., against 157,629 cwt. for the same period last year, showing a decrease of 65,997 cwt., or a total decrease in these two lines of 202,478 cwt.

According to exporters, there are two causes for this decrease. In the first place there has been a

great scarcity of hogs in Canada, and in the second place this scarcity caused prices to advance to such a price as to make it unprofitable to export the bacon at the prices ruling in England. As to the first, there can be no doubt that there has not been nearly enough hogs in the country to supply the demand; but we are not so clear regarding the second contention. We have been led to believe that it was due to the great eagerness of the packers to get hogs that the high prices of the past few months prevailed. If it did not pay to ship the bacon made from these high-priced hogs, why did the packers continue to buy them?

But, however this may be, the figures we give show a pretty healthy condition of affairs in connection with this trade. There cannot be any large amount of stocks on hand on the other side, and as soon as the holiday season has passed we may look for a pretty active market if it does not come sooner. Even this week's quotations of \$5.50 per cwt. for bacon hogs should leave a good profit for the farmer who grows them.

"Canadian Poultry the Finest in the World"

"Canadian poultry is the finest in the world, and your farmers are themselves to blame if they do not awaken to that fact and make the most of it." This statement was made to a *Globe* reporter last week by James Ruddin, of Liverpool, England, who has spent the past three months in Canada for the purpose of buying poultry for the British market. He is one of the largest dealers in poultry in Great Britain, and buys extensively every year from all parts of the world. This is the first real test he has made of the Canadian market, and so far he has met with fair success, and about the 19th of this month will ship from New York 15,000 cases of Canadian poultry, averaging 12 to 24 birds a case. He also hopes to ship to England for the Christmas season at least 46,000 Canadian turkeys. These figures, according to Mr. Ruddin, are only a small item compared with the trade which might be done in this country if the Canadian farmer can be persuaded to give reasonable attention to his poultry and feed and handle them properly. Referring to the superiority of Can-

adian poultry over that from the United States, Mr. Ruddin said:—

"Plump Canadian poultry sells much quicker in England than United States poultry. The latter, on the whole, is darker in color, and perhaps not so tender. Canadian poultry is whiter and more tender, and suits the English consumer best. Farmers in this country must wake up, though, on the question of feeding and handling. For instance, the majority of farmers feed poultry in a haphazard way, take it to the local stores and exchange it for goods. The storekeeper holds the birds four or five days, and finally disposes of them to the first huckster who comes along. He in turn keeps them for nearly a week, and by the time they reach the dealer they are in a bad condition. I have been compelled to reject hundreds of chickens because of their condition as a result of bad handling. It would not do to send anything but the best to the English market. One bad shipment would be a hard blow to a very promising trade. If the farmer can be persuaded to feed and handle poultry properly, dealing direct with the wholesaler, or to those who, like myself, are shipping to England, he will have no cause to complain as to profits. I am glad to say that there is a steady improvement in the condition of the poultry reaching those branches as compared with the first purchases I made three months ago. The remarks as to the handling and feeding of poultry apply with equal force to turkeys."

These words of Mr. Ruddin's need no extended comment. They show most clearly the great importance of developing the poultry industry of this country along the lines he has laid down. It is most gratifying to know that Canadian poultry stands so high in the estimation of the English consumer. Mr. Ruddin has handled poultry from every country exporting to Britain, and is in a position to speak with authority on these matters.

Several agencies have contributed to bring about this satisfactory condition of affairs, and among them the establishment of poultry fattening stations by the Dominion Government, under Prof. Robertson's direction. The shipping of properly fattened poultry from these stations to England has shown the English consumer what we can do, and whetted his appe-