

NOTES AND NEWS.

Questions and Answers.

Readers will notice the change of position of the Questions and Answers Department. In this number it will be found on pages 175 to 182. This department will occupy a similar position in future issues.

"Everything in the line of poultry is always salable." So say the poultry-raisers.

Hon. Mr. Chamberlain says he will visit Canada if the British elections are not held this fall.

Some people who don't know any better think that any ignoramus can be a farmer!

"Great souls have wills, feeble ones have only wishes."—Chinese Proverb.

New natural gas fields are being developed in Wainfleet and Crowland Townships, Welland Co., Ont.

Two thousand more Englishmen are reported coming out to the Northwest in the spring to augment the Barr contingent.

Experiments in making cloth out of pine wood are being made in Bavaria, Germany. The cloth will resemble cotton.

A great fire occurred at Dawson City, on the morning of January 21st, when the thermometer was 35 degrees below zero. The loss amounts to \$105,000.

Shipments of flour from the Pacific Coast (United States and Canada) increased 360,000 barrels during the past year.

Mr. D. O. Bull, of Brampton, Ont., has purchased 40,000 acres west of Yorkton from the Canadian Northern Railway for a cattle ranch.

One of the two great steamships built by J. J. Hill for the Oriental trade, by name the "Dakota," will be launched February 6th at New London, Conn.

Exports of wheat from Argentina from January 1st to December 24th, 1903, amounted to 62,811,000 bushels, against 19,695,000 bushels for the corresponding period in the preceding year.

The Lady—I gave you a piece of pie last week, and you've been sending your friends here ever since.

The Tramp—You're mistaken, lady. Them was my enemies.

Spring will soon be here. Are all the implements in order? Is the harness in good condition? Are all the necessary gates, etc., made ready for use when the snow goes?

A number of Scotch herring-curers will be brought to Nova Scotia in the spring, by the Government, to teach Canadians the improved Scotch methods of curing herring.

About 1,000 acres of sugar beets are frozen in the ground in the vicinity of Lyons, N. Y. The Empire Sugar Beet Co., however, claims that they have not been injured by the frost, and that they will be taken at the beet-sugar factory in the spring.

Hens will not lay during cold weather unless given the warmth they require, plenty of water or milk to drink, and proper food. Proper food for hens approaches, as nearly as possible, the sort they are able to get in summer time.

The advisability of keeping cattle growing right along is not nearly as well understood or as carefully practised by farmers generally as it ought to be. There is great difficulty in putting a fine finish on animals that have been stunted while young.

The famous "Black Watch" band, fifty strong, with twelve pipers, will make a tour through Canada in the fall. This is the band which accompanied the Black Watch Regiment during its stirring experiences in South Africa.

"Some people talk about putting life into a horse with a whip. How absurd!" says a contemporary. "All that a whip can possibly do is to bring out the life that is in him already. It takes out energy, but adds none."

The girls in the Roquefort cheese factories, France, where the famous Roquefort cheeses are made, have resolved to go on strike unless they get better pay. These girls spend their lives, practically, in underground cellars, where the temperature is never above 48 degrees.

According to a bulletin just issued by the Bureau of Provincial information for British Columbia, the total value of the mining output for the past year was \$19,200,000, an increase of nearly \$2,000,000 over the preceding year. All other industries, except the salmon pack, also show large increases.

W. M. writes: "I have taken hundreds of warts off horses' noses with lard, some of them larger than my two thumbs, with one rubbing. Use clean, fresh hog's lard. Just give the warty parts a good rubbing, and don't look at it for a week, and there won't be any wart."

One great reason for the influx of American settlers into the Northwest is the occupation of nearly all the available Western lands of the United States. Practically all that remains for settlers is too arid to be of much use without irrigation, or too swampy to be of any value, so it is little wonder that the surplus

American population is turning eagerly to the fertile wheat lands of the West.

As a means of stopping Chinese from crossing over from Canada to the United States, Representative Dickson, of Montana, lately introduced a resolution at Washington with a view to estimating the cost of erecting a wire fence along the boundary from Lake of the Woods to Point Roberts, and suggesting that the fence be equipped with telegraphs and telephones for aiding officers entrusted with the execution of the law.

The Other County Heard From.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of January 21st there appeared an article under the caption of "Oxford versus Kent" that I wish without preamble or preface to stigmatize as a libel on the county of Kent and on the farmers of that county. It is not my intention to make any comparisons, but I wish, for the benefit of those who do not know Kent County, to correct the statement of your Oxford correspondent. At the very outset he exposes his ignorance to the thousands of your readers by saying "corn seems to be the principal crop, and little or no attention is paid to the comfort of cattle or pigs." If the gentleman knew Kent, or had taken the trouble to look up statistics, he would not have made the statement. While it is true Kent produces large quantities of corn, it leads, by long odds, all other counties in the production of beans, is well up in the production of wheat and oats, and, on the whole, holds an enviable position among the counties of the Province. When the man from Oxford tells your many readers that the farmers of Kent pay little or no attention to the comforts of cattle or hogs, he states what is not a fact, and again makes an exposition of his ignorance of the condition of the Kent Co. farmers. I venture the statement that the gentleman did not go over any one township in the county, to say nothing of the other ten, and, for his benefit and for the benefit of those who might be deluded by his article, I wish to state that the live stock of Kent is as well cared for, and as well stabled on the whole, as in any county in the Province, and in some of the townships over eighty per cent. of the barns have either stone, brick or cement basements, and I can show your correspondent townships in Kent where he can go concession after concession and it is an exception to find any but bank barns. And I wish to say further that he will find the farmers as wide awake, as well posted in the feeding value of the different foodstuffs, and capable of making as many pounds of beef or pork in as short a time as any farmers in this Province or any other.

Your correspondent, apparently, has not been often from home, and imagines there is only one thing for a farmer to do, that is to keep dairy cows. There is no doubt dairy cattle are all right, but they are not the only class, and the farmers of Kent feel quite content with the kind that satisfies the appetites of millions of hungry Englishmen, and the farmers of the county feel it quite unnecessary for your correspondent to tell them how many cows they should keep on a 100 acres, what they should do with their milk, or how many calves should be put on a cow.

I am sorry to have taken up so much of your valuable space, but I could not, and it would be altogether wrong to let go unchallenged the statements of your Oxford correspondent regarding one of the most fertile, best cultivated and fairest counties in this grand Dominion of ours.

GEO. E. LEE.

Kent Co., Ont.

South Perth, Ont.

While the roads are not yet impassable for light loads, all heavy traffic is suspended, and this being also largely the case with freight traffic on the railroads, trade and industry generally is almost at a standstill. The up-to-date farmer is in this respect, perhaps, most independent. Provided with a large stock comfortably housed in warm, well-ventilated stables, he can continue his work unaffected by the elements, and postpone all his heavy teaming.

The annual meeting of the St. Mary's Co-operative Creamery Company was held on the 14th inst., and, for the first time, the report of the President showed that the creamery had not made that steady and substantial progress which characterized it in former years. The chief cause assigned is the unprecedentedly high price of cheese, and the reluctance of dealers to lay in large stocks of butter. But there were, doubtless, other local causes, or we would not see the farmers co-operating and putting in butter and cheese plants (combined) on or near the site of a separator station belonging to the creamery, as has been done in two or three places. Whether the co-operative principle applied in this way, by inexperienced men, will succeed remains to be seen. It is, however, hardly possible that this idea could have gained such favor, unless considerable distrust, and perhaps jealousy, of the creamery management had previously existed. We know there is great dissatisfaction with the results of the test. Farmers have not informed themselves as thoroughly as they should have done as to the extreme variability of the percentage of fat in milk under different conditions, or they would not have been so hasty to condemn the creamery test. On the other hand, we fear the management have not kept that close sympathetic touch with the patrons which it behooves any concern catering to the trade in any commodity to do. The example of the fruit-growers and dealers might well be imitated in this respect. By means of orchard meetings, and other social intercourse, they come in close touch with the small producers, and thereby instruct and interest them, and win their confidence in the success of the business. The small milk-producer needs instruction in the care and handling of milk. He wants to understand the accurate working of the Babcock test, and with this understanding will come interest and confidence and a determination to stick to the creamery through thick and thin. The decadence of the creamery is a serious matter, not only to the farmers (patron and non-patron), but also to the town which, indirectly, but none the less surely, benefits by the increased wealth accruing to the farmers surrounding it.

Jan. 22nd, 1904.

J. H. H.

Rural Mail Delivery.

At a recent meeting of the East Middlesex Farmers' Institute, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, on motion of Mr. J. A. James, seconded by Mr. L. Shaw:

"That, in our opinion, the time has come when the farmers of this part of Canada should have rural mail delivery, and we would express our urgent request that the Honorable Postmaster-General of Canada would speedily take the necessary steps to bring this about."

All Farmers' Institute meetings should pass similar resolutions, and send copies to the local press, the local M. P., and the Postmaster-General at Ottawa.



A Beautiful Driveway at Brandon Experimental Farm.

(See article, page 166.)