

Lincoln Co., Ont.

The winter of 1902 was a grand one for the farmers of the Niagara Peninsula. Snow came at Christmas time and remained until March, being an excellent blanket for the wheat and meadows. The land died very quickly and quite an amount of seeding was done in March, although some of the grain sown then looks very badly now. The sugar-making season was a very short one, but the quality of syrup made was exceedingly good. The first of April was very wet and seeding was delayed for quite a while. There has been a large acreage put into spring crop this year, as very little wheat was sown last fall, and farmers will have to make up in spring crop. The principal varieties of oats sown here this spring are the Sensation, Twentieth Century, the Australian, and some American Banner oats. The latter seem to have had their day in these parts. The Sensation and Twentieth Century, both new varieties, are doing very well. One fourteen-acre field of Twentieth Century oats in this neighborhood turned seven hundred bushels, which is good for this part of the country.

Very little barley is sown, as it does not do well in this section. A few years ago the beardless variety was introduced, which proved a failure altogether, being a very small yielder and very light in weight.

In peas we grow the grass pea altogether, as the common round pea is so subject to being destroyed by bugs, while the grass pea is never harmed by these, and, besides, it is a splendid yielder, and does well on hard land; in fact, it does not do so well on rich soil, as it runs too much to vine.

Quite an amount of corn has been put in this spring, but on account of the recent dry weather has not made much of a start. Roots are not doing well. Only those that were sown early are looking well. Turnips are being superseded by mangels and sugar beets of late years. Until a week ago wheat and meadows looked exceptionally fine, but the dry weather that has prevailed for the past few days has been a serious drawback to the grass.

A few frosts have occurred of late, somewhat damaging a few of the tender crops, such as beans; but the fruit has escaped without serious injury, although it was thought for a while that the peach trees had been damaged. It was a grand sight to see the peach trees in bloom this spring. Never was the prospect better for this favorite fruit. The immense orchards along Lake Ontario, between Hamilton and Niagara town, were the sight of the season, and the H. G. & B. electric railway ran excursions for the city people to "have a look" at the orchards when in full bloom.

There has been a great demand for bacon hogs this winter and spring. Good prices have been realized and farmers are raising more hogs than formerly, although they are going into the business somewhat cautiously. Cattle have been a good price, also. Milch cows have ranged from \$25 to \$52, and of not extra quality at that. Cattle seem to have come to be in rather a bad state lately. Farmers have not seen the benefit of raising well-bred animals, and, as they still persist in using scrub males, it is not likely to become much better very soon. There have been a few registered bulls brought into the vicinity of late years, but farmers will not patronize them if there are scrubs at half the price that they can use.

In horses there is some more attention paid. Heavy horses are not raised very extensively, as they do not seem to stand the roads. The Coach horse has become quite popular and no doubt will do very well for some time. In road horses, the Wilkes family take the lead and as many of them get to be good-sized crossed with our mares, they make a good, useful horse, as they can stand any amount of roading, and are large enough to do a good amount of farm work as well.

A few years ago silos were not used at all, but now one can see dozens of them in driving through the country.

The Farmers' Institute seems to have done a great deal for the farmers, as the suggestions that have been thrown out by the different Institute speakers have been put in practice and are making themselves prominent, and the farms begin to show that a better system of farming is being introduced.

It is just as essential for the farmer to be educated in his line of business as it is for representatives of other lines, and we are glad to know that there were more farmers elected to the Legislative Assembly on May 29th than any other one class, and we think doctors of the rural districts should keep this fact in mind, that they as farmers should have representing them in the Legislature a gentleman that is in close touch with their wants and views—viz., a farmer.

There have been quite a number of public libraries started and are being well patronized, and we believe them to be a splendid thing, especially in country places. Farmers' sons and daughters are doing more reading. One of the great drawbacks to the young farmers is that they do not read enough of the right kind of literature—not enough agricultural papers taken. We hope the time will soon come when the young farmers of Ontario will take to studying agricultural topics more and thus fit themselves for their calling.

June 7th.

Peel Co., Ont.

Perhaps at no time in the past decade has the wheat and clover crop in this district looked better than they do at present. The wheat that was sowed late has made rapid progress. The cattle soon appease their hunger in the luxuriant pastures. When one watches the dairy cow coming home at night, with her udder filled to its greatest capacity, anxious to be relieved of her burden by the milker's hand, and the bee returning laden with the sweets of the apple and clover blossoms, it reminds one of a land flowing with milk and honey. The prospect for the apple crop so far is excellent. Some of the older trees that have seen better days seemed to revive this spring and were covered with bloom. The tent caterpillar was not as troublesome as in former years. People are beginning to realize the importance of a cover crop for the orchard. Many in this part are sowing rape for this purpose. The corn is coming through nicely. The crows seem to be their worst enemy. We sowed two fields. On one the corn was soaked in coal oil previous to sowing, as was advised in the May issue of your valuable paper, and, although it is surrounded by bush on two sides, yet the crows pass over this to the one where the corn crop was not oil-soaked. The old family shotgun, a relic of the past century, is entrusted in the hands of the writer to put them off this one, but the black marauders are beginning to think now, judging from past experiences, that the safest place to be is where he is aiming. Ensilage is growing in favor every year. Many silos were erected last year. The round stave silo seems to be the most popular in this part.

June 7.

J. B. R.

Killing Burdocks.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—As it is not generally known how to kill burdocks, and as they are a great pest when they get very thick, I send you a sure way to kill the burdock. When the moon is full in June, July and August, take a round-pointed shovel and place it about four inches from the plant and with the foot press down so as to cut the root about three or four inches below the crown, then draw out the shovel without disturbing the ground, and with the hand pull out the piece you have cut off. The root is then hollow, and the water settles down in the hole you have made by pulling out the root, and enters the hollow in the piece left in the ground and kills it. This is the most effectual way I have ever discovered to get rid of burdock.

Northumberland Co.

JOHN B. STONE.

Toronto Markets.

Trade was generally good at the Western Cattle Market. A few grass cattle are now coming forward. Prices are firm, with prospects good for slight advance in the next two weeks. Export cattle sold readily.

Export Cattle.—The advance in the British market and the appearance of two buyers from Chicago made business good in export cattle. Loads of choice export cattle in a few cases reached \$6.62½.

Butchers' Cattle.—Picked loads of butchers' cattle, equal in quality to best export, weighing from 1,100 lbs. to 1,150 lbs. each, sold at \$5.75 to \$6. Best butchers' steers, weighing 900 to 1,025 lbs., \$5.35 to \$5.60. Good butchers' cattle—heifers, fat cows—\$5.25 to \$5.40.

Bulls.—Choice heavy export bulls sold at \$5 to \$5.50; light bulls, \$4.25 to \$4.75.

Feeders.—Choice, well-bred feeders, weighing from 900 lbs. to 1,000 lbs. each, sold at from \$4.25 to \$5. There is a good demand from farmers for feeders to place on grass, although the fields are reported as very backward for spring grass.

Stockers.—Well-bred young steers, weighing 800 lbs., are worth \$4.75; medium weights, from 400 to 800 lbs. average, \$3.50 to \$3.90; poor to medium, mixed colors, are worth from \$3 to \$3.50.

Calves.—Not many on offer of choice quality, and sold at from \$2 to \$10 per head, or from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per cwt.

Sheep.—Prices were steady and ruled from \$4 to

These horses pass through in bond, and many comments were made on their condition, size, etc. They were collected at Kansas City, and are under the charge of Capt. Grey, who happens to be an Australian volunteer from the Sydney Yeomanry. He expressed himself as being struck with the average quality of Canadian cattle, but we were also able to afford him the opportunity of inspecting one or two choice herds near Toronto. Many of his observations were novel and interesting, but his delight was with the horses. Capt. Grey will be in Toronto for the next few months, and hopes to see some of our best horse-breeding establishments.

Grand's Repository.—Trading in horses at Grand's Repository has been steady. Prices have a wide range: Carriage teams from \$150 to \$250; drivers from \$60 to \$150; draft horses from \$70 to \$120; general purpose (second-hand) from \$50 to \$80; ponies and scrubs from \$25 to \$50. The usual sale days are Tuesday and Friday, and on June 20th Mr. W. H. Smith will hold a special auction sale of over 100 head, comprising two carloads of heavy-draft horses.

Cheese and Butter.

Ontario Cheese Market for the week ending June 14th, closed at from 9½c to 9-16c; creamery butter selling at from 20½c to 20½c.

British Cattle Markets.

London, June 14.—Live cattle, firm at 14½c, dressed weight; sheep, dressed weight, 14½c to 15½c; refrigerator beef, 12c to 12½c per lb.

Buffalo Markets.

East Buffalo, June 14.—Cattle—Dull and unchanged. Veals steady, very tops, \$7.25 to \$7.50; fair to good, \$6.50 to \$7; culls to common, \$5 to \$6. Hogs—Medium heavy, \$7.50 to \$7.60; Yorkers, \$7.35 to \$7.50; light, do., \$7.25 to \$7.35. Sheep and Lambs—Top winter lambs, \$5.75 to \$6; fair to good, \$4.50 to \$5; culls to common, \$2.50 to \$4; yearlings, \$5 to \$5.35; sheep, top, mixed, \$4.50 to \$4.75; fair to good, \$4 to \$4.25; culls to common, \$1.75 to \$3.75.



WHEAT STACKS AND LOAD OF GRAIN.
A Canadian Northwest scene.

\$4.25 for ewes, and from \$3.25 to \$3.75 for bucks.

Lambs.—Yearling lambs sold at \$4.50 to \$5 per cwt. Spring lambs are worth from \$2.50 to \$5 per head.

Milk Cows.—Not many cows on offer; springers and dairy cows sold at from \$30 to \$50 per head. Hogs.—Hogs are rushed on this market in too great numbers to ease the decline, and a slump occurs. Over 2,000 per day arrived two weeks ago. This caused the price to fall to \$6.87½ for best select baconers, with prospects for lower prices next week, \$6.50 per cwt.; light and thick fat, \$6.62½. Sows are still coming forward, at from \$5 to \$5.50; stags at \$3.

Wheat.—Was steady; 200 bushels of white sold at 53c. to 54c. per bushel.

Oats.—Were steady; 600 bushels sold at 50c. to 52c. per bushel.

Hay.—Choice loads were firm, at from \$11 to \$13 per ton. Farmers are clearing out their barns, and inferior clover hay sells down to \$7 per ton; for choice loads, \$9 was paid.

Straw.—Clean straw in bundles sells at \$9 per ton.

	Extreme comparative prices to-day, June 14th.	Two weeks ago.	Same date last year.
Export cattle....	\$ 6.62½	\$ 6.45	\$ 5.40
Butchers' cattle....	5.00	5.65	5.00
Export bulls.....	5.50	5.15	4.25
Feeders.....	5.00	5.00	4.25
Stockers.....	3.50	3.75	3.75
Sheep (per cwt.)..	4.25	4.50	4.00
Lambs (per cwt.)..	5.00	5.50	5.00
Hogs.....	6.50	7.00	7.00
Milch cows.....	50.00	55.00	50.00

Dressed Beef.—This trade in Toronto is assuming larger proportions. Two wholesale butchers are reported to have made arrangements to supply by contract two large institutions out of town who have hitherto dressed their own cattle.

HORSE MARKETS.

The British Government is shipping through Canada about 12,000 horses. They are arriving in Toronto at the rate of 1,000 per week, and unloaded, fed, and then reshipped to Halifax, from there to South Africa. One thousand horses were unloaded at the Cattle Market, fed and rested. The new pens lately erected were made use of for this purpose.

Chicago Markets.

Chicago, June 14.—Cattle—Good to prime steers, \$7.30 to \$7.80; poor to medium, \$5 to \$7.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$5.25; bulls, \$2.75 to \$5.60; calves, \$2.50 to \$6.50; Texas-fed steers, \$5 to \$6.70. Hogs—Mixed and butchers', \$7.10 to \$7.55; good to choice heavy, \$7.50 to \$7.65; rough heavy, \$7.25 to \$7.45; light, \$7 to \$7.30; bulk of sales at \$7.20 to \$7.45. Sheep—Good to choice wethers, \$5 to \$5.50; western sheep (clipped), \$4.75 to \$5.50; native lambs (clipped), \$5.50 to \$6.90; western lambs, \$5.50 to \$6.90.

Dr. John Spencer's Promotion.

We are glad to notice that Dr. John Spencer, V. S., formerly of the "Farmer's Advocate" staff, latterly Assistant Veterinarian at the Virginia Experiment Station, has recently been promoted to the head of that important department. The State is to be congratulated on thus securing the services of so energetic and well-qualified an officer.

Plans Asked For in Care of Factory Milk.

A reader who has begun sending milk from a herd of twenty cows to a factory that makes all the milk into cheese, except Saturday night's (which is made into butter), desires some of our older dairymen to describe briefly in the "Farmer's Advocate" what they have found the best plan for keeping Sunday morning's milk till Monday morning, and the night's milk till morning throughout the week in good sweet condition. A good many different plans are in use, and we trust readers will describe in a few words what they have proved useful.