

# FARMING

VOL. XV.

OCTOBER 12TH, 1897.

No. 6.

## FARMING

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

Published every Tuesday by

THE HRYANT PRESS,

20 BAY STREET . . . . . TORONTO, CANADA.

Subscriptions in Canada and the United States, \$1.00 per year, in advance; six months 50 cents, three months 25 cents. In all countries in the Postal Union, \$1.50 a year in advance.

The date opposite the name on the Address Label indicates the time to which a subscription is paid, and the changing of the date is sufficient acknowledgment of the payment of a subscription. When this change is not made promptly notify us. In ordering change of address, be sure to give the old address as well as the new.

FARMING will be sent to all subscribers until a notice by post card or letter to discontinue is received and all arrears are paid up. Returning a paper is not a notice to discontinue. All arrears must be paid up before a name can be taken from our list. All remittances should be made by P.O. money order, express money order, or registered letter. Sending money in an unregistered letter is unsafe, and will be at the sender's risk.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

All communications should be addressed to "FARMING, 20 Bay Street, Toronto, Canada."

Representative for Great Britain and Ireland, W. W. CHAPMAN, Fitzalan House, Arundel St., Strand, London, Eng.

## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

### New Brunswick Enterprise.

The Government of New Brunswick have been displaying commendable enterprise in respect to the improvement of the live stock industry of their province. They have been purchasing purebred cattle and sheep of the best types they could obtain, putting the selection in the hands of men of ability and experience, and then selling these purchases again by public auction on favorable terms to breeders in the province. The object is, of course, to effect a better selection than could be made by private enterprise, and to give the local breeders the advantage of getting good stock at prices that might be considered wholesale without being put to the trouble and expense of going far away from home to obtain it. The commissioners appointed by the government were Hon. Mr. Faris, of White's Cove, Mr. Smith, M.P.P. for Carleton Co., and Mr. Peters, the newly appointed Secretary for Agriculture. These commissioners visited Quebec and Ontario and made their selections and purchases. The stock was then taken to Fredericton and sold at a two-days' sale, and the affair was made the occasion of a grand public meeting or two in the interests of live stock.

By instruction the cattle purchased by the commissioners were principally of the dairy breeds. A few Jerseys and Guernseys were got, and a somewhat larger number of Holsteins; but the bulk of the dairy cattle obtained, however, were Ayrshires, and these mostly young bulls. Some of the cattle were purchased in Quebec, but for the most part they were purchased in Ontario.

When the sale came off it was found, somewhat unexpectedly, that the more active bidding was for the beef breeds, especially for the Shorthorns and Herefords; and a very keen enquiry was also made for Polled Angus and Galloways, the belief being general that these last-named breeds were peculiarly adapted to the pastures of New Brunswick. The Shorthorns sold quickly and brought good prices. So also did the Herefords. With respect to the Ayrshires it was noticeable that the old type of Ayrshire, with dark colors and small, crooked horns, were decidedly the favorites with the buyers. The commissioners had purchased a few of the modern type of Ayrshires—nearly all white, with big horns; but these, when sold, brought prices much below what they would have brought in Ontario. Our Ayrshire men should remember this preference when catering to the New

Brunswick trade. It should be mentioned that the commissioners received great praise from the breeders present in regard to the excellence of their selections of cattle.

The sheep obtained by the commissioners were equally well selected, but, unfortunately, they did not realize good prices when sold. Evidently the New Brunswick farmer has not wakened up to the fact that his country is exceedingly well fitted for sheep-raising, and that the sheep industry will be, in the near future, one of the very best branches of farming he can go into. Being so much nearer the English market than his Ontario brother, and having easy access, too, to the Boston market, the raising of good mutton sheep and lambs ought to be one of New Brunswick's best industries. In the sale the Shropshires sold best; the Cotswolds next; and then the Leicesters. The Shropshires were rather thin in flesh, though of good quality. The Cotswolds and Leicesters were in better condition, and cost more, but they did not realize up to cost by several dollars per head. The Dorset Horns and the Lincolns were the worst losers of the lot. All of which goes to show that the New Brunswick sheep-breeder has lost a good chance of bettering himself, for which, we doubt not, he will be kicking himself all around his pasture-field before a year is over. But the sheep sold were good ones, and are destined to be of great benefit to the sheep raising industry of the province.

The whole undertaking was exceedingly creditable to the enterprise and forethought of the New Brunswick Government. New Brunswick is fitted by nature to be a great stock-breeding country, and the sooner the people get established in the industry the better for the material interests of the province in every respect. The sale was well attended. Many of the purchasers were private breeders, but the bulk of the purchases were made by local agricultural societies scattered throughout the province. It will thus result that the stock purchased will effect a much larger range of good than if it had all been purchased by private individuals.

A regrettable feature of the sale, but one which will serve as an object lesson to breeders generally, was a matter connected with the Jersey importation. There were only thirteen Jerseys, but of these ten were purchased from one breeder in Quebec. By agreement with the seller these ten head were to be tested with tuberculin. Unfortunately the owner omitted to attend to this and the animals had to be tested at Fredericton, and some of them were found to be suspicious. The whole lot were therefore withdrawn from sale and they are now being kept isolated. As they were all brought down in one car by themselves, and as they had never in any way come in contact with the other cattle, the matter did not effect the sale of the rest of the stock in any way.

A very pleasing and beneficial incident of the sale was the public meeting held on the evening of the first day. This meeting was presided over by the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Labilloy, of Dalhousie, and the Lieutenant-Governor of the province also graced the gathering by his presence. The principal feature of the meeting was a lecture on "Tuberculosis" given by Mr. David McCrae, of Guelph. The meeting was well attended, and Mr. McCrae's lecture was much appreciated. Subsequently Mr. McCrae was asked by the authorities to hold a series of similar meetings in different parts of the province, for the purpose of instructing the people in regard to tuberculosis and the use of the tuberculin test. This movement is in accord with the line of action adopted by the Hon. Mr. Dryden in Ontario.

### Agricultural Depression in England.

The English Royal Commission on agricultural depression, which was appointed in 1893, has just finished its labors and published its report. It sat for 177 days, examined 191 witnesses on 117 days, and took the remaining 60 days for the consideration of its report. The commission also, either in the persons of its members or by deputies, visited and examined many agricultural districts for the purpose of getting information at first hand. The report finds that the depression has been greatest in districts where grain growing has been the principal occupation of the people. In districts "suitable for dairying, market gardening, poultry rearing, and in the neighborhood of mines, quarries, and large manufacturing centres, there has been a relatively less depression." Rents have depreciated about 22 per cent. But the capital value of land has decreased 50 per cent! This in twenty years. During the same period of twenty years, there has been the following fall in prices: In the three staple cereals, wheat, barley, oats, 40 per cent. In wheat alone, over 50 per cent. In beef, from 24 to 40 per cent., according to quality. In mutton from 20 to 30 per cent. In wool, 50 per cent. In dairy produce, taking milk, butter and cheese as a whole, 30 per cent. In potatoes, from 20 to 30 per cent. The commissioners see no prospect of an improvement in prices, and they strongly recommend the British farmer to adjust his affairs to the new condition of things. They are of the opinion that the fall of prices is principally due to the intensity of foreign competition, and they see no way by which this competition can be lessened. A large minority of the commission were of the opinion that the exclusive use of gold as a standard of value has had the effect of disproportionately depreciating the prices of farm products, as compared with other values, as for example, the rate of interest; but this opinion was not endorsed by the members of the commission as a whole, although the importance attached to this matter by so representative a body as this minority happened to be, is one of the signs of the times.

With respect to the above findings it should be remarked, first, that it is very noticeable that the depreciation of values has occurred mainly in those farm products that are subject to the widest competition. Wheat, for example, which is now grown in almost every semi-civilized country in the world, has depreciated 50 per cent.; and wool, which is similarly widely produced, has also depreciated 50 per cent.; whereas dairy products have depreciated only 30 per cent., and the best beef only 24 per cent. The inference is, that the farmer who wishes to sell on a steady and not on a falling market, must devote himself principally to the raising of products like milk, butter, beef, that require brains and intelligence, and not spend his time and capital in the exclusive raising of products that can be grown the wide world over. Second, it is evident that wherever the British farmer has been able to take advantage of markets demanding the higher products—fine beef and mutton, butter, eggs, cheese, poultry, etc.—he has done better than his fellow, who has thought of nothing save raising grains and pasturage. The inference therefore is, that wherever possible every farmer should have recourse to the farming that is concerned with the higher products of the farm.

As to the depreciation in the capital value of farms, said to be 50 per cent., that is a matter which the Canadian farmer need not worry over,