

Improvement in Agriculture in Canada.

We read with pleasure of the improvement of agriculture in every Province of the Dominion. Of New Brunswick, the Maritime Farmer notes:—"Never in the history of our Province has agriculture assumed the important and commanding position which it now occupies. Never was there greater need that our farmers should stand shoulder to shoulder, and by industry and skill pursue their vocations to the greatest possible extent, particularly as regards the production of crops which find a ready market at home. In this connection, probably, wheat stands at the head of the list, as we have never yet been able to grow sufficient for home consumption. Probably we have this year approached nearer to it than at any time these thirty years."

One thing will not fail to impress itself on the minds of our readers, that is, the yield of wheat per acre in Ontario, and on the Model Farm at that. Our farmers should not lose sight of the fact that from twelve to fifteen bushels of wheat per acre is considered a good (average) yield in Ontario, while the yield in the Western States is from eight to twelve bushels. This is inferior to the wheat yield of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Prospects for Farmers in the Western States.

The New York Sun, in an article on wheat production, presents a gloomy picture of the wheat grower's prospects in the Western States. It says:—"It is not an exaggeration to say that in the States of Nebraska, Kansas and Texas, over a million of acres of prairie sod have been turned over, fitted and sown to wheat the past season. In the same State the acreage that winter wheat was harvested from last summer has been resown, and very large additions have been made to it from corn, oats and barley lands. The men who have done the greater part of this immense work depend upon the crop of 1880 for their prosperity. If disaster overtakes them they are ruined. He then calculates the cost of raising, and shows that under the most skillful management, it costs them forty cents to raise a bushel of wheat. The crop is seldom, on an average, fifteen bushels to the acre, and then, at that yield, the cost to the grower is something over fifty cents a bushel. The cost of transportation, which includes commissions, &c., is so very high that wheat costs at the seaboard over one dollar a bushel. It was sold in the months of September and October at from forty-five to sixty cents a bushel for sound bright, of the St. Louis grade. The charges from the other wheat fields were as oppressive, and it is very doubtful (so the New England Farmer says) if any farmer in the wheat growing country netted 20 cents a bushel on his crop last year. Many did not clear five cents a bushel."

Cattle Disease in New Hampshire.

The pleuro-pneumonia has made its appearance at Haverhill, New Hampshire, among the cattle of James Merrill. On application to the Governor, a hearing was given to petitioners, and a commission was appointed to act at once. The Board, by law, has the power to make regulations prohibiting the introduction or transportation of any domestic animals by railroad or otherwise, and such other rules as they may deem necessary to arrest or exclude any infectious or troublesome disease, and modify or annul the same as circumstances may require.—[N. E. Farmer.]

Contagious diseases require desperate remedies. The same journal says several cattle have already died on the Merrill farm, which is in the celebrated Connecticut valley.

Heredity of Traits and Disposition in Domestic Animals.

Breeders are fully aware of the strong probability, nay the certainty almost, of certain points of sire and dam appearing in the progeny. We find, for instance, that if a breeder of Jerseys wishes to secure a "star" or a "v" in the forehead, and he selects sire and dam having those marks distinctly, he will in all probability find the same in the calf.

We find that temperament and disposition are in like manner inherited. In looking over 30 years' experience with Devons, Jerseys and grades, so surely have traits of disposition run along down in different families, that we regard it as a law with only slight exceptions. For instance, the trait of docility. We find in our family without exception that every heifer was remarkable for standing quietly to be milked, even from the very first; yet they were intelligent and spirited and not wanting in life and courage. On the other hand, the habit of kicking in another family has been as constant and as persistently followed. I had a Jersey cow at one time having the habit of invariably shaking her head when anyone passed her stall. I found afterward that her sire was noted for that habit, indicating a vicious disposition, which the whole family had. Every breeder well knows that traits of disposition, natural intelligence, kindness, friskiness and ugliness are all bred along almost at will. Admitting the above to be true, we see the importance of selecting not only good physical development, but kindliness of disposition, intelligence and life, for these are all compatible and obtainable.

On the other hand, we urge that it is not only bad policy but extremely dangerous to breed from vicious animals. Every year we have numerous cases of death from infuriated bulls. Stallions of notoriously vicious tendencies are also used all over the country, some with big heads, thick joles and crooked legs. People expecting to improve their stock by so doing is an absurdity. We must take the most likely to be found. There are many parts of our country now feeling the effects of having these small, homely scrubs to breed from, and we must, to improve our wealth, breed from more superior animals.

Boars of notoriously savage disposition are kept merely to save the trouble of searching out better ones.

We advise all farmers to open their eyes to the importance of good traits of disposition as well as good physical points in all domestic animals—first, for safety; second, for comfort; third, for profit. A well disposed horse, a docile cow and quiet hogs all thrive better, please better and are more profitable. Consequently it is a matter of great importance that we tolerate no breeding animal of vicious tendencies.—[L. Stock Journal.]

"The Canadian Wheat Garden."

We have more than once spoken of Canada as the great wheat-growing region of the future, and that future not so far distant as some may think. On this subject a New York journal says:—

"Supposing the Canadians are right about the extent and richness of their wheat-growing territory in the Northwest, the mind recoils from a computation of its productive capacity. Man has never before contemplated such an agricultural feat. Should the enormous Canadian wheat garden be successfully cultivated, its annual crop in future years would come into the business and interests of the entire globe with a revolutionary force and masterly power hitherto unknown to finance and trade."

Our anticipations of the future of our country are no mere speculation. They are based on accurate mathematical deductions. Canada is destined to be the granary of Europe.

The Paris National (France) says that an active campaign is about to begin with the view of prohibiting the importation of American salt meats and lard. American pork, it is said by those parties, is full of trichinae, and those who eat it are liable to be attacked with disease. Portugal, Italy and Greece have all prohibited the importation of American pork. In Germany there have been 26 epidemics of trichinosis within the space of six years.

Preparing Barley for Market.

No little of the profits of the farmer depend on the condition and even the appearance of his grain or other produce when brought to market. Two samples of grain may be of equal quality, the same weight per bushel, of the same variety, and equally well harvested, yet one of them will bring a higher price than the other owing to its careful preparation for market, while the other has been carelessly handled. The profit to be made by a little extra labor in such cases was shown by a grain buyer in one of the eastern towns this season. He made large purchases of barley, and, as is too often the case, a large proportion of it was badly prepared for market. There had been no effort made to break off the awn (beard), and this very much reduced the price he paid. He conceived and put into practice a plan of removing the beards by placing a threshing machine under the storehouse, and running the grain through it, breaking off the beard and cleaning it thoroughly. By this means he increased the market value, making the sample weigh three pounds more to the bushel, and the operation cost him only about one cent per bushel, having in three days run through the machine 1,500 bushels with very profitable results. Had the farmer who raised the crop given a little extra labor to the preparation of the grain before selling it, that profit which the buyer made by the additional preparation would have been added to the grower's profit. The beard is easily removed at the trifling cost of an additional man during the fanning. He can, with a small shovel, break off the beards at the machine as the barley falls to the floor. Much is often lost on the farm by paying no attention to what some call trifling matters, but in such trifles often lies the profit. "For want of a nail the shoe was lost."

Meeting the Requirements of Agriculture.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company contemplate building a line following the Chateaugay River from St. Isidore to Dundee, Huntingdon County, P. Q. If completed this will afford the long-wanted facilities for the transportation of produce to Montreal. Such are the mutual requirements of agriculture and commerce, that railways and steamships are bringing into close neighborhood the manufacturing centres of old England and the towns and fertile fields of Canada. The Monetary Times says:—"We could name a score of places along the three principal railways (in Ontario) which make direct exports across the Atlantic, besides small places, such as Brussels, Howick, Teeswater, which ship to Europe cheese, butter and oatmeal. Essex county has sent thither cattle and timber; Ayr and Brantford, implements; Oshawa, garden and field tools; Whitby, apples; Belleville, cattle and rye; St. Catharines, cattle and fruit; St. Thomas, woodenware; Brockville, butter; Woodstock, Kingston and Peterboro, cheese."

The following article has been going the round of the American papers. We would wish to know who is the author of this false report, for such it undoubtedly is. There is no such cattle disease in London or any other place in Ontario:—

A London, Ont., dispatch says a disease known as black tongue, but which is perhaps a violent form of diphtheria, has appeared there among cattle, and has baffled medical skill. The symptoms are at first a severe pain in the stomach, gradually ascending to the throat, which is attended with great agony. The tongue assumes a black color.

The Southern Central Railroad has transported from Oswego, N. Y., over 300,000 bushels of Canada barley since October 1st.