

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, ONTARIO, AND WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscription, £s. or \$1.50. New subscriptions can commence with any month.
3. ADVERTISING RATES—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. DISCONTINUANCES.—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post-card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Retaining your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.
5. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
6. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
7. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.
8. ALWAYS GIVE THE NAME of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.
9. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
10. SUBSCRIBERS failing to receive their paper promptly and regularly will confer a favor by reporting the fact at once.
11. NO ANONYMOUS communications or enquiries will receive attention.
12. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.
14. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per line printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
15. REPLIES to circulars and letters of enquiry sent from this office will not be paid for as provided above.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD CO.,
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

the Minister have been received. In this connection, it is significant of the probabilities of a profitable outlet for a portion of the great wheat production of Manitoba and our Northwest Provinces that we learn that the Government and the prominent business men of the United States are paying special attention to the trade in wheat flour with China and Japan, and last winter four large flouring mills were erected at Seattle, Spokane and North Yakima to produce flour largely for the Oriental trade, and that nine vessels are now carrying flour from Puget Sound ports to China and Japan; that 27 new vessels will this year be added to this line, making a total of 36 ships plying in the newly-developed trade, each of which is capable of carrying 40 carloads, and of making six round trips a year. It is said that men are scattered over China and Japan introducing wheat flour into the dietary of the people, and it is reported that the Japanese are taking to it very kindly, and that even the Chinese are not unwilling to try the experiment of mixing a proportion of white bread with their regulation diet of rice and beans. If the 500,000,000 people in those countries become consumers of bread the export trade in that direction may be regarded as almost unlimited.

The reports made to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in response to enquiries instigated by the Secretary of Agriculture, indicate that Japan and China offer the most favorable fields for the disposal of the surplus wheat crop of that country. Statistics indicate that the capacity of those countries for wheat production has not increased commensurately with the growth in population, and show increasing dependence on the wheat of other countries for their supply. It is said that in addition to the export trade in wheat there is likely to be a large demand for canned and evaporated fruits, and for this trade not only Ontario but also British Columbia might well cater, the climate and conditions in the latter Province being well adapted to fruit growing. This, together with the increasing home market which is sure to follow the opening up of our mining industries, both in Ontario and British Columbia and in the Yukon country, by the influx of population which is assured will have a very marked influence upon our markets, and will, in all probability, help largely to develop a consumptive demand for the large and increasing output of food products which is almost certain to follow the settlement of our farm lands in the Northwest, and more thorough methods in farming in the older sections.

Our Australian Letter.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FROM CANADA'S COMMERCIAL AGENT.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The wholesale price of best butter here, as I write, is 37 cents per lb. In Vancouver it is 22, in Ontario 20. There is plenty of margin to ship butter here, and at a better profit than sending it to England. This may occur often, and here is a trade to be pushed if Canada has the proper butter to send. This latter, however, is an important condition. After enquiring I cannot ascertain that we have butter, at least in British Columbia, that will bear transshipment. The Canadian steamers, in spite of the very much lower price in Vancouver, buy butter in Sydney for the returning as well as the Canadian going trip. Their experience is, that the Canadian butter, though excellent when fresh, won't keep. One of the pursers bought a quantity in Vancouver a little time ago and put it off at Victoria. The special qualification of the butter of this colony is that it will keep, while the pursers state Canadian will not even in a cool chamber. The Eastern creameries must have solved this problem, and those of B. C. should do so.

Practical Point.—While on this subject, to show the care that is being taken here over the conditions of production, let me say that the Government requires all producers of milk (remember that every producer who sells milk to a factory or to any person must be registered) to place concrete or other impervious floors to their cattle "bails." Where there is now a hardwood floor, tightly put together, it is permitted to remain for the present, but such floors of pine and other soft woods must be replaced. The cattle bail is not a stable, but simply a milking stall. The sort of floor on which so many of the milch cows stand night and most of the day in winter in Canada would be regarded as abominable here. This action is taken because earth or porous floors produce germs detrimental to good butter production.

Trade Possibilities.—Eggs are quoted wholesale at 30 to 33 cents per dozen, about twice the price at which they can be bought at Vancouver, but no quantity sufficient for shipment can be bought there just now. Here are some other quotations: Prime Cape barley, 81 cents per bushel; oats, 60 cents per bushel of forty lbs.; blue peas, \$1.12 to \$1.37 per bushel. Compare these with the prices in the Northwest and in the Province of Ontario, and it will be seen that there is a good margin. I advised produce dealers last October that there was likely to be a rise in prices that would warrant shipments here, but had not a reply from a single person. It is probable that it would have been difficult to have got space on the steamers, as the rush of Canadian wheat and flour has not only filled these steamers, but more than they bring is now coming here via China and New York. These figures indicate the possibilities of future trade with these colonies and how absurd were the ideas that the result of the line would be to swamp the farmers of Canada by the importation of cheap Australian produce. Some day or other there will be a large exchange of food products, but up to the present, with the exception of wool, and that has not been very much, the ships have brought more Canadian produce in one voyage than they have carried back in forty.

I occasionally get letters from Canadian farmers asking for information and sometimes making comments. One or two of the latter expressed opposition to any scheme for subsidizing steamships for any other purpose than carrying farmers' produce to the English market, holding that manufacturers should be compelled to take care of their own business. As there may be a number of Canadian farmers holding the same view, you may perhaps give publicity to a note or two of my replies. Aside from the rather narrow view of the case, it is a very mistaken one in regard to the farmer's own interest. The export of Canadian manufactures is simply the export of Canadian farm products in another form. At least three-fifths of the value of any Canadian article at the port of embarkation goes into the pockets of the Canadian farmer. The value of the article is made up of wages, raw material, cost of management, interest on capital, etc. Of the wages two-fifths go for food, one-fifth for house rent, one-fifth for clothing, and one-fifth to sundries. Of the two-fifths nearly all is expended for articles of Canadian growth and produce. The rent is largely payment for cost of constructing a house, which resolves itself again largely into food as before. The item of clothing in similar manner is composed of part of cost of wool bought from the farmer, and wages, etc., in spinning, weaving, etc. The raw materials are the manufactured product of other and in the end largely food. So it is with cost of management, interests, taxes and freight, and to a large extent the fuel is the product of the farm. Without following this up it will be seen that three-fifths of the value at the Canadian port of embarkation for Australia, and that is considerably more than the manufacturers' price, goes to the Canadian farmer. If a shipment, say of twenty-five hundred dollars' worth of machinery, is reduced to its elements, it would be found to consist of something like this: Wheat, 192½ bushels; oat and other meals, 2,000 lbs.; meat, 5,000 lbs.; potatoes, 350 bush.; other vegetables, 40 bush.; butter and cheese, 700 lbs.; eggs, 100 doz.; milk, 700 gals.; apples, 70 bush.; wood, 30 cords; some hay and oats, etc.; in all, farmer's products to the value of about fifteen hundred dollars. When an

intelligent farmer thinks this out there will come to him several reflections. He will conclude that the export of his products in the shape of manufactured goods enables him to send abroad some articles which he could not do in any other way. For instance, the Ontario farmer cannot well export hay, cordwood, early fruit or vegetables in any other form. That it enables him to ship some products to countries to which he could not otherwise ship them. It would seem absurd to think of sending Ontario mutton, beef or butter to a New South Wales farmer. Yet any plow or binder sold here is in reality a sale of some Canadian mutton, beef and butter. That it enables him to ship his products economically. The weight of the manufactured goods would be about one-eighth of the weight of the farm products represented in them. Thus freight is paid on one pound instead of eight.

He will probably conclude that he is as much interested in the development of the export of Canadian manufactures as the mechanic or the manufacturer. Perhaps more so than the latter. The manufacturer will not infrequently do business abroad without much profit, but the farmer is likely to get the regular market price for the share he has contributed in the shape of food and other products.

Pure-bred Live Stock.—I anticipated sending you by this mail an account of the sales of thoroughbred sheep now in progress in this city, but they are not yet concluded. The highest price paid was \$5,110 for a Merino ram of Vermont strain. One was withdrawn because the same amount was not offered. Several have brought from five hundred to a thousand dollars each. In the sales yesterday one flock of sixteen averaged \$500 each, one of nine \$200 each, one of seventeen \$195 each, another of nine \$325 each, one of five \$250, one of six \$535 each, and one of eight \$745 each. These were all Merinos. The long-wools, chiefly Lincoln, do not bring anything like these high figures. I hope to ask your readers in a later letter whether Canadian breeders cannot share in this trade. I have some hopes that the head of the largest firm engaged in these sales may yet be induced to visit the Canadian September exhibitions and judge whether Canada has the thoroughbreds for this market. When I last saw him he was much inclined to do so, but he has since been ill. Should he see his way to go over, I will write you, as his visit would be a useful one to Canadian breeders.

J. S. LARKE.

Why Britain Should Buy Canadian Food Products.

A representative of the London (Eng.) *Daily News*, by all odds one of the most widely circulated and influential journals published in the English language, has been interviewing Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Canada's Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, on the subject of Anglo-Canadian trade, and a few points which we reproduce from the article in the *News* will be of interest to our readers:

"Now, Professor Robertson," said the *News* representative, "putting sentiment on one side, and looking at the matter from a hard commercial standpoint, why should English people buy Canadian dairy produce?"

"Because Canada can supply them with articles superior to the best foreign imports. The nature of our climate enables us to produce food of the very highest quality. The further north things are grown the better their keeping qualities, richer their flavor, and the higher their percentage of nourishing properties. Take the leading food products consumed in England. First come wheat and grain. Well, our Manitoban Number One Hard is admittedly the best in the world, as any one acquainted with the grain market will, I think, admit. It took the first prize at the Chicago Exhibition, with American judges, against all comers. Next come animals: we are in the home of the buffalo, its natural ground. With cheese, the fact that we supply you with so large a quantity and the price our supply secures speaks for itself. Our bacon has risen in estimation till certain brands of it now rank above the finest Irish. Our butter has so grown in favor that in one year the trade in it with you has increased three-fold; our eggs surpass in quality and size the best French. So, I might go on through other articles. There are two or three things in our favor. First comes, as I have already said, our climate. Next is the fact that our farmers, coming as they do from good English and French stocks, are naturally clean in habit and person. No matter how good your methods of production or your food stuffs may be, if the farmers as a class are dirty their produce must, to a certain extent, suffer. A third thing in our favor is that our farmers are educated and intelligent. Russia can perhaps equal us in climate, but it will take three hundred years for the Russian moujik to be sufficiently developed to trust each other and work together with sufficient intelligence to carry on co-operative creameries, as our Canadian farmers are now doing. The purity of our goods is strictly maintained, and such articles as margarine and stuffed cheese are not allowed to be made or offered for sale in Canada."

In reply to another enquiry Prof. Robertson described at length the educational work conducted by the Dominion Agricultural Department and the cold storage arrangements made.