

FARMING

VOL. XVII,

MARCH 13th, 1900.

No. 28

30 Cent Butter

Not for many years has there been such an unprecedented scarcity of butter in Canada as there is at the present time. Wherever one goes in the country or in the city the cry is the same. Many winter creameries have had ready sale for their supplies in their own localities and have not had to go to the trouble of shipping to the larger centres. So great is the scarcity that large quantities of butter are being re-shipped from England to Canada. Prices in Montreal last week reached the thirty cent basis for choice creamery in large lots and some sales were made in a retail way at 32 to 33c. Creameries have been able to dispose of their product at 27 to 29c. at Montreal and inferior quality has brought within a couple of cents of these figures. It is not expected that these high prices will prevail very long. The warmer weather is approaching and the season is at hand when the milk supply will begin to increase very quickly. But with all stocks cleared out as they undoubtedly will be at present high values, good profitable prices are likely to obtain for some time.

In the Legislature

The Local Legislature after spending three weeks of valuable time finished up the debate on the address last week. On Thursday the Premier, who is Provincial Treasurer, delivered his budget speech and outlined the estimates for the current year. The total estimates for agriculture amount to \$205,725.00, as compared with \$204,217.00 for 1899 and \$202,919.00 for 1898. These figures, however, do not include the supplementary estimates which are not brought down till the end of the session. The principal increase is an extra grant of \$1,500 to the Eastern and Western Cheese and Butter Associations to be devoted to further instruction in the cheese factories and creameries. This makes the total grant to these associations \$8,000, a sum that is well spent by them in improving the quality of our butter and cheese.

There is no provision in the estimates for carrying on the work of instruction in spraying, and we would infer that it is the intention of the Government to discontinue this line of work for the present. An important change has been made in the San Jose Scale Act by the Minister of Agriculture, which provides for the substitution of spraying and fumigation of infected trees for burning in the eradication of the pest. When such treatment is authorized or ordered and the owner refuses to obey, destruction by burning must take place without compensation.

Mr. A. W. Campbell, who has occupied the position of Provincial Road Instructor under the Minister of Agriculture, will be transferred to the Department of Public Works, where he will take the position of Provincial Engineer of Highways and Colonization Roads. This does not mean that Mr. Campbell will give up the excellent work he is now doing in connection with the good roads movement, but that in addition he will have charge of all the colonization roads constructed by the Government.

The English Royal Show

A Movement to Permanently Locate It

The management of the Royal Show is now, like that of our own Provincial Winter Fair, discussing the advisability of locating the great English show permanently. Last year at Maidstone the Royal lost £6,400, and at Birmingham the year previous £1,568, and consequently a committee was appointed to consider and report upon the changes desirable in the management of future shows. This committee has recently reported strongly in favor of permanently locating the Royal as the following extract from the report will show:

"The committee have arrived at the conclusion that if the Society's shows are to fulfil their proper function in the future, without an unwarrantable drain upon the Society's general resources, it would be desirable that, if possible, they should be held upon a permanent location near some large town (preferably in the centre of England), which would be convenient for railway access from all parts of the country. In fact, the endeavor of the Society in the future should be to bring the people to the show and not the show to the people."

The chief reasons for advocating the permanent location of this great English show are the loss of revenue and the big expense of providing new accommodation each year. It cost last year to build the Maidstone show-yard £13,047, which was offset by the sale of the timber, etc., after the show was over to the extent of £7,907, leaving a net outlay of over £5,000. The year previous the net cost of buildings, etc., was over £7,000. As is the case with our own show, this committee wisely concludes that it would be better and cheaper to permanently locate the show at some central point where good accommodation can be secured. That is almost the universal opinion of breeders in regard to the Ontario winter fair, which we hope before next December to see permanently located at some central point and proper buildings and equipment provided.

How to Test the Vitality of Garden Seeds

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It is well known that the vitality of seed diminishes rapidly with age. Dealers sometimes keep seed over from one season to another, and, if the vitality is too low, may mix fresh seed with this. Low vitality may not be due to age, but to unfavorable conditions at time of harvesting or to immaturity. In any case it is well to determine the vitality before planting. While it requires some experience to determine the impurities in seeds, the farmer can at least test his seed for vitality.

A cheap and convenient form of apparatus for testing the vitality of seeds at home is the following: Choose two