

FARMING

VOL. XVI.

NOVEMBER 29th, 1898.

No. 13

Agricultural News and Comments

The following three questions should be asked by every farmer before deciding to buy anything: Do I need this? Am I getting it as cheaply as anybody can? Shall I get my money back in any way?

A home dairy department has been organized in connection with the Western Dairy School, Strathroy, Ont. Miss Shuttleworth, a graduate of the Provincial Dairy School, Guelph, has been appointed to take charge of this branch.

The National Creamery Buttermakers' Association will hold its seventh annual convention at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from January 23rd to January 29th next. Arrangements are being made for the greatest convention in its history.

Russia, as well as Denmark, buys largely of the English swine-breeders to cross with the native pigs. In the Russian hog there is much blood of the Berkshire strain, and a number of large white Yorkshires have recently been sent there for breeding purposes.

There are in operation in the colony of Victoria, Australia, 325 creameries and 195 butter factories, making a total of 520, and the export to Great Britain for 1897 was 8,454 tons. The Australian colonies total 13,544 tons, being 364 tons more than Canada and the United States.

Periodically the Australian farmer has to contend with hot winds, the lack of rain, and the utter destruction of animal and vegetable life over large areas. In this way he is seriously handicapped. He may have several good years and then may come a bad one that will destroy nearly all his past efforts.

The best medicine that can be given swine in cholera or other times is something to keep them well and in good appetite. It is hard to doctor a sick hog. A half pail of skim-milk, in which are stirred a half dozen raw eggs, is a good and grateful dose, and will soothe and heal the inflamed stomach and bowel linings.

A live stock exchange says: "Dehorned cattle sell better than horned cattle for all purposes. They are preferred by shippers, slaughterers or exporters. They look better, feed better, sell better and kill better. The man that feeds horned cattle is handicapped from ten to twenty five cents per hundredweight in most cases."

Dr. Bailey summarizes the effects of tillage thus: It sets plant food free, promotes nitrification, supplies air to the soil and roots, makes all soil available by finding it, breaks up the hard pan, makes a reservoir for water, warms and dries the soil, saves moisture, sends the roots of trees downward, and makes the moisture and fertility of the soil available.

The Manitoba Dairy School re-opens on January 4th next under the direction of Dairy Superintendent Macdonald. The home dairy course begins on January 4th, and will continue for four weeks. There are two courses for factory cheese and butter-makers, beginning on February 1st and March 1st respectively, each one being a four weeks' course.

Professor Haecker says: "I take stock in the Babcock test, but not in the theory that you can take the Babcock test under your arm and go off, and by testing a cow's milk once determine her value. She must be tested several

times during her milking period. You must also know how much food she consumes to know whether or not she is a profitable cow."

Every farm should have a well-equipped work-shop where light repairs to farm machinery and implements can be made. It is not necessary for the farmer to be a regular mechanic to do work of this kind. With a small work-shop, fitted up with a good vice, work-bench, brace and bit, saw, hammer, nails, etc., a farmer could save money by keeping all the farm tools in order.

The annual competition in plowing sod by the first and second year students of the Ontario Agricultural College was completed on November 19th last. Forty students entered the competition, ten of whom were successful, and received the coveted badge, and six were highly recommended. Farm Superintendent Rennie states that the plowing this year was the best average they have ever had.

A new cattle dip has been discovered that promises to revolutionize the American cattle trade, more particularly the trade in Texas cattle. It consists of eighty-six pounds of sulphur dissolved by heat in 1,000 gallons of extra dynamo oil. This dip has been tried, and has proven effective in destroying ticks, and does not injure the cattle. The female tick is as large as a dime, and is the cause of the Texas fever.

An International Poultry Exhibition will take place at St. Petersburg, Russia, from the 13th to the 28th of May, 1899. Exhibitors will have free entry for their exhibits on condition that they be exported from Russia within two months after the close of the exhibition. Exhibits will consist of nine classes, and diplomas of honor, gold, silver and bronze medals and objects of artistic value will be awarded as prizes.

Gumming is caused by the action of a fungus upon the sap of the tree exposed by the boring of the grub. A watch should be kept for traces of borers, and where found destroy the insect by forcing a thin piece of wire into the hole, or by putting in some wadding dipped in bisulphide of carbon, and closing up the hole. All diseased bark should be cut away and the wound covered with paint, and then sprinkled with sand.

The Farmers' National Congress of the United States will hold its next annual gathering at Fort Worth, Texas, on December 6th to 14th, 1898. Ex-Gov. Hoard, of Wisconsin, is its president. On the programme, which has just been published, we find that Mr. C. C. James, Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, is down for an address on "Agriculture in the Public Schools." The meeting will likely be a most profitable one.

Good horses have been getting scarce. They have been going to market at a rapid rate during the past three years. At Chicago alone during the past ten years 105,000 head were handled, and the year's business at other American points is the greatest on record. This year is the first of the revival of breeding, and it will be at least five years before the foals of this breeding will be ready for market. This means that for the next five years the present supply of horses will have to be depended upon.

A free rural mail delivery has been in operation in Green County, Ohio, for one month, and is giving perfect satisfaction to the people who live on the route. The route is twenty-two miles long, and six hours are required by the