

CANADA'S INTEREST.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" says:—Canada is fast becoming a dangerous rival to the United States in the matter of butter and cheese. Upon the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, just after the close of the rebellion, the Dominion in one year purchased of the United States cheese to the value of \$306,000 to supply the wants of her own people. Now she has 20,000,000 pounds to spare. This large "dairy interest" has been the growth of about seven years, and has sprung from a very small germ. In all her territories Canada is estimated by those best informed to contain between 460 and 500 factories, mostly of moderate size, more than half of them confined to the Province of Ontario. They are not generally diffused, but are grouped upon two centres—Belleville in the eastern, and Ingersoll in the western part of the province. The greater number are contiguous of Ingersoll. Two rival associations have sprung up at these centres. The one to Ingersoll is known as the Canadian Dairyman's Association; that at Belleville as the Ontario Association. They are now acting in unison, and are jointly receiving Government aid to the amount of \$700 annually, which is expended in circulating information to educate dairy farmers and manufacturer in their calling and the general welfare of the dairy interests of the province. At the annual meeting of the united organization held at Belleville, Professor Bell of the Albert University, in his opening address, traced the history of the race and progress of the dairy interest in the Dominion, and pointed out a very large field that lies open inviting an almost indefinite expansion for its future operations. Its advantages consist not only in the vast extent of cheap soil and favorable climate which the country offers for extended operations, but in the certainty of a good and trustworthy market which the mother country affords. The dairy lands of Canada are cheaper than those of the States, and the new territory which is steadily opening at merely nominal prices is better for the dairy than the cheap lands of the States. Canada therefore has the means of soon supplanting the United States in the British market in the traffic of cheese, as she already leads them in the export of butter. About forty factories are in active operation in the neighborhood of Belleville, and new ones are being rapidly built. From the factories about 58,714 boxes of the make of 1873 have been shipped from the port of Belleville, averaging 67 lbs. to the box, or 3,935,112 lbs. which at 11½ cents net, have placed in the pockets of the neighboring farmers \$442,700. Most of the remaining shipments were made at Ingersoll, and sent direct to England. The whole money value of the cheese export of Ontario is about \$1,825,000; that of the whole Dominion is about \$2,000,000.

FOREIGN CROP REPORTS.

In Dorset, a southern county of England, one of the driest spring seasons ever recollected is the report. Wheat is looking unusually well. In Yorkshire fine weather was prevalent, and the spring crops had been sown under favorable circumstances. In Northampton the wheat never looked better at this season of the year. In Gloucester heavy rains had impeded the work, and caused little progress. In Northumberland the wheat is looking exceedingly well. In Kent and Sussex the hop dressing had been early completed. These are samples of the reports of the condition of agriculture in England in the middle of last month, and indicate a more favorable state of the crops than we have known for several years.

In Scotland a very propitious seed time has been the general experience, with some high winds and extraordinary rains.

In Ireland the sowing of oats and the planting of potatoes had made good progress, and were nearly complete. In the western countries, the heavy showers of rain and hail under low temperature had kept the seeding and work back.

In Belgium and Holland there was much calmness in the markets, but the latest advices show that an advance prevailed, and there was greater firmness. At Antwerp 64s. per quarter was paid for California wheat.

At Rostock, in Germany, wheat was firm although navigation may soon open at the Baltic ports. Rye, it is thought, will be largely sown in Germany this season; the prices being high, and the increase of consumption remarkable during the past two years.

In Austria and Hungary the season so far had been dry and favorable for spring work, and the sowing of the crops had made rapid progress. Business in these two countries had been calm in breadstuffs, and generally there had been an advance in prices, with but few transactions beyond the home supply.

In south Russia the weather had been very fine, but the wheat trade had been marked by a fine tone.

In France the latest dates by mail of the *Echo Agricole* shows that wheat had advanced at Paris, and was quoted as equal to 65s. per quarter for American. At Marseilles there had been a steady demand for the supply of Swiss markets. The weather had been propitious, and the winter wheat and other grains were looking well, though there were some complaints from the provinces of the north that the early fine weather had given the insects a start, and the devastation by snails was very considerable in the wheat fields.

The general tone of the reports indicates so far a very favorable condition of the growing crops and of the spring work in Great Britain, better than we have known for the past three years. On the Continent of Europe, the condition of the growing crops, and especially of the wheat and grain crops were such as to render dealers in breadstuffs cautious and slow, and to repress speculative action. There will undoubtedly be a very large supply of foreign wheat required by Great Britain. The stocks in store are not excessive, and the weekly returns show that consumption is rapidly reducing the amount, while the delivery of home grown wheat and the imports of foreign are not now equal to the consumption. In fact, it is estimated that England alone will need at the rate of five millions of bushels per week up to harvest time to carry her through. France, Switzerland, and a part of Germany and Holland are also somewhat dependent on foreign supplies till the new crops comes in, and prices are therefore maintained, and show an inclination to advance.

The cable reports show a slight advance at Liverpool during the past week in American spring wheat; but California and Winter Red are marked down about four cents on the hundred pounds. We notice, however, that the consumption in Great Britain is drawing heavily on the stocks, and that both the deliveries of home grown grain and the imports of foreign, taken together, are less than the estimated consumption for the United Kingdom by 800,000 bushels. Hence the stocks are submitted to a heavy draft. The French markets for flour and wheat, in 160 markets reported up to April 11, show an advance. In the majority of them a tendency to advance is still prevalent. Some complaints are made of the dry weather which has prevailed, and which threatens to stop the work of many of the water mills of that country, and cause a short supply of flour in the departments. The crops are regarded as promising; but not showing any luxuriance. The arrivals of foreign wheat at Marseilles, Bordeaux, Havre, and Dunkirk are watched with much interest, and show that though large they are needed.—From *Michigan Farmer*.

THE FAMILY FRUIT GARDEN.

It is to be hoped that the number of farm residences without a family fruit garden are rapidly diminishing, and will grow beautifully less, until a farmer shall no more think of dispensing with this important adjunct of the complete home than he would with a spring or well of water for drinking or culinary purposes. A good fruit garden is not only a luxury of the highest order, but it is a necessity to the complete nourishment of a family. A family can exist on a diet of bread and meat and potatoes; but to be nourished so as to develop fully the entire nature, affectional, intellectual and animal, a range of diet must be employed broad as the providence of Nature.

A family fruit garden may be so laid out and planted, as to be one of the greatest ornaments of the homestead. Unlike the front lawn, it should be made of straight lines and parallelograms, to facilitate its culture; but care may be exercised in selecting fine specimens of trees, in pruning them into proper shape; and in keeping the vines, canes and bushes of the smaller fruits pruned and trained in an attractive way. Trellises for grapes and stakes for canes may be made neat and ornamental, or unsightly and repelling. In arranging the different species

of fruits, the taller growing should be planted in the rear, and the shorter in front, so that the whole garden may be taken in at a glance.

The walks and borders may be seeded down in grass, and kept short. The latter should be broad enough to admit of the horses turning upon them when cultivating the garden. To add to the effect, graceful evergreens, or attractive low-growing deciduous trees might be planted at the corners of plots, and a belt of evergreens along the northern side of the garden. In many other ways that will readily suggest themselves to the tasteful reader, the fruit garden may be made to minister to the aesthetic as well as to the sensuous nature of men.

The soil of the fruit garden should be good, deep, retentive, naturally or artificially drained, and worked up deep and fine before planting. A good manure for fruit is a compost of swamp muck, ashes and lime. Rank vegetable manures should not be plowed in so as to come in contact with the roots in their crude state; but, if used at all, should be applied as a mulch after the trees are planted.

In small places, where all the fruit is to be contained in the fruit garden, dwarf apples, pears and cherries may be admitted; but on a farm, apples and cherries should be remitted to the orchard. Peaches may be trained low, and shortened in, thus occupying but little space. A fruit garden, then, designed to grow all the fruits required by the family, would contain apples, peaches, pears, cherries, quinces, plums, apricots, grapes, currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries—thirteen different species—enough to have one or more kinds of fresh fruit upon the table, every day in the year.

A family fruit garden, filled with such fruits, thriving and productive, would be a blessing to the whole family; and, with the exception of the family sitting-room, the dearest place on earth to the children.

It is surprising that intelligent, prosperous farmers will live on from year to year, with such luxuries within easy reach, and yet not put forth their hands to grasp them. We cannot help regarding it as a neglect of duty to their families, and a lack of appreciation of the bounties which a beneficent God has endowed them.

HARVEST PROSPECTS IN BRITAIN.

Two very calamitous years of bad harvests, which have caused heavy losses to farmers and to the country at large, are succeeded by one promising, so far, a bright and more promising result. Instead of two costly and difficult winters, we have been favored with a dry and mild winter, rendering farming operations easy and comparatively uncostly. Wheats have planted well, without being too luxuriant, and the spring sowing, so far, has been all that could be desired. Of course, much will still depend upon the future. Live stock has been generally healthy, and is rapidly increasing in numbers. Fat sheep are fully \$5 per head cheaper than at the same period of last year. There is much less variation in the price of beef. The question is at present a very difficult and unpleasant one for the farmer, but must ultimately be governed by the inexorable law of supply and demand. No doubt the present difficulty and advanced rates will give an immense impetus to the use of labor saving machines, for which there is abundant scope in agriculture. The agitation now exciting agriculturists on various questions indicates improvements, good, I hope, for agriculture and for the country at large.—F. F. Mechi.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM CANADA IN 1873.

Of domestic animals and their products the exportation amounted to \$11,303,901. Of this sum, butter brought \$2,806,979. Cheese brought \$2,280,412. Bacon and ham brought \$2,323,299 into the country.

Of the produce of the field, the exportation amounted to close upon fifteen million dollars—out of which barley and rye brought \$2,956,106. Flour brought \$2,903,454, and wheat brought \$6,023,876 into the country.

Of these purely agricultural products, 11,429,728 lbs. of butter were carried in British vessels, as against 610,845 lbs. carried in foreign vessels. Of cheese, 19,103,075 lbs. as against 270,140 lbs. Of bacon and hams, 343,185 cwt., as against 816 cwt. Of barley and rye, 3,493,734 bush., as against 350,351 bush. Of flour, 304,956 bbls., as against 15,962 bbls., and of wheat, 3,803,808 bush., as against 356,576 bush.

Prize Essay.

TO KEEP EGGS OVER WINTER.

Whatever excludes the air prevents the decay of the egg. What I have found to be the most successful method of doing so is to place a small quantity of salt butter in the palm of the left hand and turn the egg round in it, so that every pore of the shell is closed; then dry a sufficient quantity of bran in an oven (be sure you have the bran well dried, or it will rust). Then pack them with the small ends down, a layer of bran and another of eggs, until your box is full; then place in a cool, dry place. If done when new laid, they will retain the sweet milk and curd of a new laid egg for at least eight or ten months; any oil will do, but salt butter never becomes rancid, and a very small quantity of butter will do a very large quantity of eggs. To insure freshness I rub them when gathered in from the nests; then pack when there is a sufficient quantity.

EMMA ALEXANDER.

Three other essays deserve special mention.

Mrs. Wm. Church says the best way she finds is to "take a pot or pail, or anything convenient, put about an inch or two of meal or any kind of bran (I generally take shorts from flour—being a farmer's wife, I have it on hand) in it, put a layer of eggs, either end down, close together; then cover with meal, another layer of eggs, and so on until the box is full, occasionally giving it a shake to fill well between the eggs. This plan I have adopted for years with success, and the last, when used—which is often the end of April and beginning of May—are as good as the first. I commence to pack in September. The whole secret lies in carefully selecting fresh eggs, packing on end, and keeping the air from them. Keep in a dry, cool place."

J. B., Strathnairn, says:

"I take a tub of any size and put a layer of common salt about an inch deep in the bottom. Then grease the eggs with butter, and place them in the salt with the small end down, so that they will not touch the wood of the tub nor each other; then fill the vacancies with salt and cover them again about an inch deep, as before; then place another layer of eggs as before; then salt alternately till the tub is filled; then cover the top with salt, and put them where they will not freeze. I have kept eggs in this manner from September till April, as good as fresh eggs. The grease on the shell keeps the salt from penetrating, thereby keeping the eggs fresh, while the saving qualities of the salt keep them from becoming putrid. This recipe is both cheap and good, as the salt can be fed to cattle afterwards."

Emily Audinwood, Stanstead Plains, P.Q., says:

"I have tried several experiments, but find none to answer so well as the following. I have kept eggs for two years, and found them perfectly good when used. Two lbs. coarse salt boiled ten minutes in one gallon rain water; pour off into an earthen jar. When nearly cold, stir in five tablespoons of quick-lime; let it stand till next day; then put in the eggs and keep them tightly covered until wanted for use."

Provincial Prizes.

ABDIEL G. DEADMAN VS. THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

SHOULD PRODUCTS OR MEN CARRY OFF THE PRIZES?

Mr. Smart, of Hamilton, for defendants; E. Meredith, London, for plaintiff. The case came off on May 22nd, at the Division Court, Delaware.

At the last Provincial Exhibition, Mr. Abdiel G. Deadman, of Delaware, was awarded the 2nd prize for the best 20 varieties of apples. The Committee on Horticulture, at the suggestion of some party, reversed the decision and awarded the 2nd prize in that class to another individual, and left Mr. Deadman without a prize. The prize ticket had re-