

TRANSMISSION OF SPECTACLES AND EYE-GLASSES BY MAIL.

The exclusion of glass from the mails is so far modified that spectacles, eye-glasses, and microscopic slides, if securely put up in cases not likely to allow the contents to escape, if broken in course of conveyance, may be sent by Post within the Dominion on pre-payment of parcel post rates.

CIRCULARS PRINTED BY THE ELECTRIC PEN, &c.

The term "*printed circulars*" is extended to include circulars produced by the electric pen or other mechanical process, easy of recognition, by the officers of the Post office, as well as when printed by the ordinary process of printing types, engraving, or lithography.

MISCELLANEOUS POSTAL MATTER.

Books and pamphlets, limits 5 pounds, printed circulars, prices current, handbills, book and newspaper manuscript, printers' proofs, maps and prints, engraving, sheet music, photographs, insurance policies, militia and school returns, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, legal papers, for Canada, Newfoundland, the United States, may be posted prepaid by a stamp at 1c. per 4 oz., provided they be sent in covers open at the ends or sides, and so put up as to admit of the contents being, if necessary, easily withdrawn for examination; if enclosed with written communications, or in sealed envelopes notched at the ends or sides, letter rates will be charged.

The weight of packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, or grafts, 4 lbs., and all other miscellaneous matters are limited to 4 lbs. in weight, 24 inches in length, and 12 inches in breadth or depth. To all parts of British Columbia, the North West and Manitoba, except the city of Winnipeg, to which the 4 pound limit applies, the limit of weight is 2 pounds 3 oz.

Post bands, with an impressed one cent stamp for this purpose, may be obtained at any Stamp Agency at the rate of 4 for 5 cents.

One of the strongest arguments in favor of winter dairying is that the extra cost is only about 10 per cent., while the increased price of the product is 30 per cent.

The dairyman should breed and keep only butter-making cows. Feed may in some degree assist in the yield of milk rich in butter fats; but it must be remembered that the animal must be of a breed to profitably convert the food into butter and not flesh.

DUCKS IN A NEW ROLE.

Ducks are said to do good service in exterminating the potato bug. A gentleman of Piqua, Ohio, put a pair of Muscovys into his potato patch, which was literally swarming with the bugs. The ducks ate the bugs with such avidity that the latter were soon exterminated, and the patch has not since been troubled with them. The ducks did not appear to suffer any ill effects from eating the bugs, and were not very slow in "taking in" all they could discover.

JULY.—In our readings about the cutting of hay, it has been found inadvisable to cut grass immediately after rain, or when it is saturated with heavy dew. It is found preferable to cut grass when it is standing quite dry, and therefore it is considered better to wait as circumstances may require, because it is found by experience that it injures hay very much, to have that outside moisture dry out after it is cut than before, and if the weather is warm or sultry there is even danger of the grass becoming mouldy if cut wet. It may as well be added that an experienced farmer prefers to do a fair proportion of the curing of hay in the cock, by means of the artificial heat that precedes fermentation, rather than by long exposure to the sun's rays. In this way more of the nutritious juices are retained, and shrivelling is prevented, and in the end there is much more nutrition for the stock.

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