

FARMING

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Expressions of Approval

The following expressions of appreciation were received on Feb 20 and nearly every mail brings us similar letters from old subscribers and practical farmers whose opinions carry weight in their own districts where they take precedence in everything calculated to advance the interests of agriculture.

MR. JOHN HUNTER, of Wyoming, Ont., who is known as one of the most successful farmers in Western Ontario, says: "I would not be without FARMING if it were \$2 00 per year. It would be much better for stockmen if more of them read it."

MR. J. W. JOHNSTON, of Maple Grove Farm, Underwood, Ont., another successful farmer and breeder says: "Enclosed find my subscription for your valuable paper to the end of 1899. I find the market reports so valuable, I always look for FARMING every week to see how the markets are standing. As I deal in the swine business I have taken great interest in the articles upon the growing, breeding and feeding of swine as discussed in your paper."

WM. J. THOMPSON, of Bronte, Ont., who is known very widely as a practical writer on farm topics, says: "I have received many times the value of my subscription to FARMING from the practical ideas published and think it is a most up-to-date journal."

Agricultural News and Comments

There is on record the statement that a cross-bred mare in Scotland was breeding at the advanced age of thirty-two years. She had given birth to twenty foals in twenty consecutive years.

Ill-fed ewes will not bring strong lambs. The winter is a trying time for the ewes unless they are well fed and sheltered. There is no other grain feed so good for ewes as bran, with a small allowance of oil-meal mixed with it.

A French scientist has been experimenting with hatching double-yolked eggs. His conclusions show that it is not always the double-yolked egg which produced twin chickens. In fact, his test shows that more frequently than not the very opposite is the case.

The English Jersey Cattle Society, in order to encourage the feeding of cows to produce butter of good quality, has resolved to give, during the present year, a prize of £1 for the butter of the best quality yielded by a Jersey cow, competing in any of the society's butter tests, that wins a medal, prize, or certificate of merit.

In 1898 Great Britain's exports amounted to £176,594,207, while the imports of foods for the same year amounted to £204,308,951, and other imports of manufactured goods to £87,119,504. Every year her imports of food products increase. The imports of foods for 1898 show an increase of £14,687,277, as compared with those for 1897.

The French Government has recently purchased 154 stallions of practically purebred coaching blood. These animals are to be used for getting harness horses, and the lowest price paid was £225, whilst as much as £500 was paid for the best of the sires. From this it is very evident that the French people have every confidence in the future of the horse trade.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made between the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association and the Toronto Country and Hunt Club for the holding of a horse show in Toronto this spring. The dates on which the show will be held are April 13th, 14th and 15th. While the military this year are not participating it will not be devoid of the important military features which have in the case of past shows attracted so much attention.

Dairy Commissioner MacDonald, of Manitoba, has recently returned from a trip to British Columbia. He points out that there will always be a large market there for Manitoba products. The local dairymen and farmers are now getting 35 cents per lb. for butter, 50 and 60 cents per dozen for eggs, and \$1.25 per gallon for milk. At present the half of the dairy products used are brought in from the United States, and the duty paid thereon, or from Ontario.

Alfalfa is becoming more valuable in the Western States as a forage and fodder where other clovers do not thrive well. One writer states that he has seen \$300 worth of pork products sold from six acres of alfalfa without producing any very serious effects on the crop. From experiments conducted by the Kansas Experiment Station, alfalfa hay is worth \$17 per ton when fed with Kafir corn to fattening hogs.

It is a popular belief that black teeth in pigs are the cause of disease; but the fact is, they are the result of disease and not the cause of it. Indigestion and a sour stomach are the cause of this discoloration of the teeth. When this is the case a change of food is recommended. Two tablespoonfuls of raw linseed oil to each pig is also recommended, and also a bran mash not too sloppy, and with each food one level tablespoonful of carbonate of magnesia.

It is a common belief that sheep do not need any drink. Nothing could be more mistaken or injurious to the sheep. They need it quite as much as any other animal, even when on good, fresh pasture. A flock in a green meadow bordering on a large pond has been observed to follow a leader to the water daily at a regular hour, and drink their fill. It is a good plan to make a salt lick at the watering place, and they will not neglect the opportunity of supplying their wants with regularity.

Horse Breeding

Of late years horse breeding in Canada has not been given as much care and attention by the average farmer as the breeding of other kinds of live stock. One reason for this, no doubt, is the dulness which has been characteristic of the horse market until within the past year or two. The introduction of electricity and its coming into general use as a motive power for street railways, etc., caused a falling off in the demand for horses suitable for this work. While, at the same time, the great business depression in the United States, which began about the same period, further increased these adverse conditions of the horse market. All this had its effect upon the market for other classes of horses, such as heavy drafts, carriage and saddle horses, with the result that farmers, to a great extent, practically gave up horse breeding.