

sheep or pigs, and the best animals can scarcely be overestimated in respect to their real worth. When twenty three years ago the celebrated Short horn bull calf, Duke of Connaught, was bought for 4,500 guineas, everybody thought the purchaser mad, but time has proven the very opposite. As much as 100 guineas were charged as fees for his service, and instead of being a financial loss as many predicted, his purchase has been remunerative. If a stallion, bull or ram or boar of almost unprecedentedly grand character and high quality happens to have a marvellous prepotency, besides and thereby transmits his superior characteristics to all progeny, the value of such an animal can scarcely be overestimated. There are striking examples of this strong prepotency not only in horses and cattle, but in sheep and swine. An animal of this character is of value because its influence will live after him, and his offspring will transmit the same prepotent qualities to future generations.

Agriculture in the English Universities.

A movement is on foot in England to establish an agricultural department in connection with one or two of the leading universities. The only difficulty seems to be to provide sufficient means to finance the scheme. The university senates seem loth to spend any money on the venture but might do so if the venture were to prove successful, and consequently the promoters of the scheme will endeavor to provide the necessary funds from outside the universities for inaugurating the work. The plan is to establish a readership in agriculture at Cambridge, and in connection therewith a special examination in agricultural science for the ordinary B.A. degree, analogous to the special examinations in mechanical science and music. Sir Walter Gilbey, a great friend of agriculture, is ready to offer Cambridge University the sum of two thousand pounds to provide a stipend of £200 a year to a reader in agriculture during the next ten years as soon as the promoters are ready to go on with the scheme.

A training of this kind in agricultural science would meet a long-felt want in the great universities of England. It is here that the landlords of the future are educated and it is of vital importance to the country that they should learn something of the science of agriculture whilst at the university, with the view to the better management of their estates in after life. It is evident from this that agriculture is gradually obtaining its proper place among the advanced sciences in England and is not looked upon as being beneath contempt, as it is in some of the centres of learning in the new world.

Fodder Cheese.

There are several reasons why our dairymen should not make fodder cheese. In the first place it is of inferior quality to the cheese made when the cows are on the grass, and for which Canada has acquired such an enviable reputation in the British markets. By sending forward this early fodder cheese it serves to depress the market for the later goods, and because of its inferior quality gives our cheese a bad name. Then we do not think it the most profitable line of farming to sell all the milk off the farm in the early spring when it is so much needed for the calves and young stock, and especially is this the case this spring when the cheese market is glutted with last season's goods and the price is likely to start lower than for many years. If no fodder cheese is made, and no new cheese is sent forward till about the end of May the cheese market will have an opportunity to recover somewhat and the prospect for next season's trade made brighter. In addition to all this there is the fact that the demand for fine creamery butter is good and that prices are likely to be fairly remunerative for some time. It will, therefore, pay dairymen better to make butter till about the middle of May and have the skim-milk returned to the farm for feeding the calves during their early growing period.

Canadian Oats in England.

There is a growing demand in England for Canadian oats. Since the opening of navigation last year about 7,000,000 bushels of Canadian oats have been sent to England, the largest quantity ever exported in a single season, and valued at about \$2,000,000. There is still a good demand in England for Canadian oats, although prices are somewhat lower.

Russian oats command the highest price of any oats sent into England, and for many years have about controlled the market. There are signs now that Canadian oats are gradually taking the place of the Russian oats in Great Britain. In several cases, recently, Canadian oats have brought prices almost equal, if not equal, to those obtained for Russian oats. About ten days ago a lot of 3,000 quarters of No. 2 white Canadian oats was sold at within 6d. per quarter of the best Russian oats on the market, namely, 17s. ex-quay; and a lot of 2,000 quarters No. 2 mixed Canadian sold at 16s. 6d. landed terms. The London market reports of the same date quoted sales of Russian oats at 16s. 6d. ex-quay, and consequently here is an instance where Canadian No. 2 mixed oats brought as much as the Russian oats on the London market. About March 1st, mixed American oats were selling at about 15s. 6d. ex-ship, so that Canadian oats bring from 1s. to 1s. 6d. more than American in the British markets.

This condition of things will be satisfactory to the Canadian farmer. Though we do not consider the selling of the coarse grains off the farm to be the most profitable kind of farming to adopt, yet there are many Canadian farmers who from the very nature of things have a surplus of coarse grains every year which it is necessary to dispose of in some way other than by feeding. For these the opening up of new markets for oats and other coarse grains will be beneficial. This largely increased demand in England has to some extent stimulated prices here, though they are lower the last week or two than they have been during the winter. Stocks are accumulating very fast, and we may look for easier prices yet. Comparatively speaking, prices have been high so far this season. A year ago oats were several cents a bushel lower than they are at the present time.

Intensive Farming.

It is not always the large farms that pay the best. Many farmers are working too much land. A smaller area thoroughly worked will return a larger income. It would do some of our large farmers good to visit the truck farms in the vicinity of the larger cities, especially in the neighborhood of New York. On Long Island and in New Jersey there are many small areas, kept up to a high state of fertility, that give much greater returns than many of our large farms. Every inch of the soil is thoroughly cultivated. A crop is planted as early as possible and the soil is kept in constant use until the end of the season. The same land must yield at least two or more crops every year.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

The estimated amount of corn on hand at this time is said to be 745,000,000 bushels as compared with 1,083,000,000 one year ago. These figures are giving considerable hope to holders who are looking for a rise in price. In the corn belt of the west live stock feeding has been carried on to a very large extent this season, and it would not be surprising if the supply of corn were pretty short before the present year's crops are harvested.

A striking example of what can be accomplished by intelligent and systematic effort in breeding is seen in the experiments of an English breeder. He applied the natural selection principle to the dairy and without any change of breed, bred from such cows as gave the best average yield of milk. In 1890 the average was 740 gal-

lons per cow, but in the following year it was only 720 gallons per cow. Since 1892, however, progress has been uninterrupted, and without buying any expensive milking strains to improve the herd the yield was 879 gallons in 1896. The steady observance of which cows were doing best, and the trust in a whole year's average in each case, were the clue to this remarkable success.

It is expected that farm help will be scarce during the coming season. Already farmers in several sections are making inquiries of the Department of Agriculture in regard to the matter. The rush to the Klondike and the fresh impetus given recently to emigration to the North-west are the causes of this scarcity, as they are attracting the floating population to the west.

New avenues for Canadian trade seem to be opening up. The Canadian Trade Commissioner to Australia is of the opinion that Canadian cheese might find a market in that country and advises making small cheese, weighing about ten pounds, for this trade. The liners from Victoria are now fitted up with cold storage facilities and consequently cheese could be shipped without any great risk if the market would warrant its being a profitable venture. The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has been requested to make a trial shipment to test the market.

Owing to the drouth there have been heavy shipments of grain and flour from other countries into Australia, and some shipments of Canadian flour have met with a successful sale there. Other lines in which Canadian trade with Australia may be developed is in furniture and boots and shoes.

The producers in great Britain are asking for amendments of the law relating to the adulteration of foods and drugs. One of the proposals is that the coloring of margarine and its mixture with butter should be totally prohibited. Such a regulation, if it came into force, would be of value to those countries which ship only pure food products into Great Britain. For instance, with the law as it now stands, the Canadian butter-maker has not only to compete with the butter from other countries, but with the large quantities of margarine which appear to find their way onto the British market.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

W. J. Bell, Angus, Ont.

We have pleasure this week in presenting the readers of FARMING with a short sketch of one of our leading poultry men, in the person of Mr. W. J. Bell, Angus, Ont. In our special poultry number of January, '97, we gave a sketch of Mr. Bell's life and work as a poultry fancier, and therefore will not need to enlarge very much along that line just now. Suffice it to say that Mr. Bell is a thorough Canadian, and was born on the farm on which he now resides, near Angus, in the county of Simcoe. With the exception of several years spent in a neighboring township, Mr. Bell has always resided at Angus.

Mr. Bell is one of our most extensive poultry-raisers, and, unlike many farmers who keep poultry, makes it his especial line of farming. Though several varieties of poultry are kept, Mr. Bell has acquired his reputation as a breeder of the highest type of Bronze turkeys. In this special line Mr. Bell counts as his regular customers some of the leading poultrymen of Great Britain and the United States. Considerably over fifty of his birds have crossed the Atlantic, and Bronze turkeys from the Hillsdale farm have won first honors at many of the leading poultry shows in Great Britain. This is, indeed, no small honor, and one of which Mr. Bell may feel justly proud. Another of Mr. Bell's specialties is Rose Comb White Leghorns, his birds having won the highest honors at the Madison Square Gardens, New York, whenever shown.

Mr. Bell is an exhibitor at the leading Canadian fairs, where he is always a winner of a large share of the best prizes. His birds are specially renowned for their large size and conformity to type. In addition to poultry Mr. Bell is a breeder of purebred Berkshire swine, and this venture is also proving successful.

Mr. Bell is as yet a comparatively young man, and we may look for even greater results in his special line of work. His ability has been fully recognized by those who know him best, and many positions of trust in his own locality have been ably filled by him.