

Reports from Great Britain show that the present lambing season has been one of the most prosperous for many years.

The School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, has instituted a special course in dairying and domestic economy for young women.

All the bills for the extermination of the Russian thistle, that have been pending in the U. S. House Committee on Agriculture, have been reported adversely.

Read "Invicta's" queries in this issue re water supply. We would like to hear from any who have satisfactorily solved this problem. Your experience will certainly assist someone.

The Rural New Yorker has sent Mr. Bull \$52.50 as the first instalment of the gratitude fund, which it is collecting for the originator of the Concord grape, who is in needy circumstances.

Great indignation is expressed by all horse and turf papers in what they term the official white-washing of those who were engaged in the famous Alix-Pixley case, by the extraordinary verdict or finding of the Board of Appeals of the American Trotting Association.

It is reported that, although the United States Secretary of Agriculture decided to discontinue the experiments which have been conducted for the past two years in rain-making, several of the railroad companies operating in the far West will continue experiments in this line.

Michigan has a very stringent law against the introduction of fruit trees affected with the black knot. Any person who neglects to remove or destroy diseased trees will be subjected to a fine of one hundred dollars, three months' imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the judge.

The Governor of New York has signed the Thornton Bill, providing for the compensation of the owners of cattle killed for tuberculosis, and horses killed for glanders, and also the bill appropriating the sum of \$8,000 for horticultural experts at both Geneva and Cornell Experiment Stations.

As an example of how many of the big wheat farmers in Manitoba are diversifying their crops this year, Mr. Leech, the well-known Secretary of the Central Institute, informs us in a recent letter that he has this year sown 325 acres of wheat, 60 of oats, 45 of barley, 20 acres green feed, 5 in corn and 3 in roots.

Nebraska is making distinct progress with the sugar-beet problem. In 1891 she produced 2,700,000 pounds; in 1892 she produced thirty-three per cent. more than in the previous year, while in 1893 she turned out 5,835,900 pounds, or a gain of fifty per cent. over 1892. Next to California, Nebraska produces more beet-sugar than any other State in the Union.

Just at present, the question of the inoculation for anthrax is interesting the Australian world. The experiments of Mr. J. A. Gunn appear to have convinced the shepherds of that country that an animal vaccinated with the anthrax virus is proof against this flock-destroying pest. The cost of vaccination, by the Gunn process, is only four cents per head.

We learn, by mean of the New Hampshire Mirror, that at Narragansett Park, where public betting is not allowed, immense fields face the starter, many of them composed of the best material, and that the daily attendance is enormous. This shows that, with proper management, it is possible to do away with the great evil of race tracks—betting—without lessening the gate receipts.

The New York State Board of Health and its tuberculin-injecting inspectors have, by legislative enactment, been relieved of their work of ordering suspected cattle slaughtered. A commission, to be composed of one veterinarian, one physician, and three members of the State Dairymen's Association, has been created a board, by the Legislature, to supercede the Board of Health in this work.

Mr. Hatch's new anti-Option Bill, which is intended to repress bogus transactions and gambling in grain and other farm products, has been favorably reported on by the Agricultural Committee of the American House of Representatives. It is thought that the prospects for the passage of this bill are good, and that it will not only be a source of revenue to the Government, but will have a tendency to stop all reckless gambling in grain and provisions.

#### A Pair of German Coachers.

The cut on first page of this issue represents two of the famous imported German Coach stallions, Ludwig, No. 1452, and Picador, No. 1611, the property of the La Fayette Stock Farm, La Fayette, Ind.; J. Crouch & Son, proprietors. These gentlemen bought the entire lot of the German Government World's Fair exhibit of German Coach stallions and mares. They are magnificent animals of the greatest possible style, knee-action and finish. They are solid colors, mostly bays, with a few browns, 16 to 16½-hands high, and weigh 1,400 to 1,500 lbs. These horses have been carefully bred by the German Government in one line for several hundred years, and it is said they breed like themselves, from all kinds of mares, with most remarkable certainty, and sire the finest of coach and carriage teams—the toppy 16-hand horse that always sells. These horses show speed, are active roadsters, and are counted the long distance horse of Germany. They are growing in favor every day as their superior qualities become known. They are remarkably handsome, and smoothly built, possessing well muscled limbs, clean, stout, flat bone below the knee, and the best of feet. They have the finish, the vim, and the appearance of the thoroughbred, from which they have descended. J. Crouch & Sons also handle trotting and pacing stock, particulars of which may be gleaned from the interesting catalogue which they issue.

#### A Teachers' Institute.

Mr. Gilbert Wilson, principal of the Brandon Collegiate, read a paper on "Agriculture in the Rural Schools," at the late teachers' institute, at Brandon. The following notes of the essay, and discussion which followed, we clip from the "Free Press":—

"He would place the subject on the programme of studies, because of (1) its educational value, (2) its sociological value, (3) its economic value. In the junior classes, nature herself should be studied, and in the senior divisions the knowledge thus gained would be applied to the practical home life of the pupil. The pupils must study nature—not a text book; the only book required would be one in which to set down their observations and conclusions. The pupils themselves should bring the materials of study, such as samples of soils, samples of hay and grain in different stages of growth, etc. Lessons could be frequently given out in the fields. In this way, a living interest would be fostered, which could never be the case if the subject were taught by text book alone. Pupils should be encouraged to experiment themselves, on a small scale, to ascertain principles of growth, etc. All this would tend not only to accurate knowledge, but also to a genuine interest in farming. Agriculture should be made compulsory at teachers' examinations, being substituted for physics or botany, and the Normal schools should give instruction in best methods of presentation."

Messrs. W. A. McIntyre and H. S. McLean agreed with much advanced by Mr. Wilson, which was not as great an innovation as many suppose. Much of the work outlined was being actually carried on at present, under the name of nature study. Mr. J. D. Hunt gave hints and suggestions as to many points in which improvement might be made in the social and economic condition of the farmers of the Province. Mr. J. Ridington pointed out that there was considerable difference between the plan as outlined by Mr. Wilson and that for which many were at present agitating. He took issue with the position laid down by the essayist, maintaining that the sphere of the Public school was not to prepare pupils for any special business, but merely for the duties of citizenship. He agreed most heartily with the essayist that the work outlined in the paper should be done, but contended that this was not the duty of the Public school, but of the Agricultural college.

#### Manitoba Crops.

A crop report will be issued by the Department of Agriculture early in June. From what information we have been able to gather, we expect the wheat area will be about as large as last year, there being always some new land coming under cultivation, but there will be a much larger area than before devoted to other crops—barley, oats and flax, while corn, roots and grasses will be sown in far greater quantities than ever before in the history of the West. The Winnipeg seedsmen report largely increased sales this spring of all field and garden seeds. Keith & Co. state that in all lines they have greatly exceeded last year's business, there being a special demand for corn, peas, turnips, rape and millets, while Mr. Perkins says he has sold forty bushels of North Dakota Flint, besides considerable quantities of other corns, and also large quantities of timothy, red clover (principally to the far West) and red-top grasses, onions, turnips and mangolds. Body & Noakes, linseed oil works, say the demand for flax-seed far exceeds any previous year.

#### Rape.

Undoubtedly this year, when the time for seeding cereals is over, there will be many wet places upon many farms throughout this Province and in portions of the Territories which will be unfit for planting potatoes, and also won't be dry enough in time to sow turnips. To all farmers in this fix, I would strongly recommend that they sow all spots conveniently got at with rape, which would not only be a great boon to the cattle and the hogs of the mixed farmer, but also to the purely agricultural one, in keeping his land sweet and in tone; and if he has no use for it in feeding animals, it is the very best manure he can get for enriching his soil, and at the same time the most useful agent in killing weeds. Sow broadcast, thickly, in the second or third week of July. This vegetable is really the best for all kinds of cattle, especially milch cows in the fall when the grass is getting withered and dry. Of course great caution must be taken at the commencement of its use, as cattle are apt to devour rather than eat it, and get bloated. The most favored plan is to pull and feed it to your cattle when they come into their pen in the evening, and after doing this for a week or so, give them about two hours a day grazing upon it for a while; after that they may be allowed to go to the patch when they please.

BOB BARCLAY.

#### Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis, at the present time, is receiving a great deal of public attention, not only on this continent, but in Europe. Science has thrown new light on this hitherto little-understood disease, and it is now enjoying what might be termed a "boom." The newspapers publish, under flaring headlines, all kinds of misleading statements, generally mixing up tuberculosis and pleuro-pneumonia. "Expert evidence" is not wanting of the most blood-curdling nature as to the imminent danger to human life in partaking of the milk or meat of an animal however slightly affected; others, again, taking the opposite extreme, claim that tuberculosis is no more prevalent nor the death rate from consumption in the human subject no higher than in past years.

While "doctors disagree" as to the extent to which the human subject is liable to contract the disease, one thing appears clearly demonstrated: that the tuberculin test is an almost infallible diagnostic of bovine tuberculosis; something over 80% of cases, showing the reaction from the test, prove to have tubercles in some organ of the body. The rise in temperature, however, is just as marked if only a bronchial gland is affected as if both lungs and all the intestines were far gone with the disease, although its extent or location cannot well be located till after death.

One thing more that seems not very clear as yet is that in most cases where the disease has effected whole herds, it has been among pure-bred cattle, kept under what has been considered most favorable conditions, as to care, warmth and ventilation.

Now, while science is settling these problems, every cattle-breeder should look well to his own herd, and, if he has any suspicious cases, it would be well to have the tuberculin test applied, and do all possible to stamp out this dreaded plague.

Veterinary surgeons should provide themselves with the lymph and acquaint themselves with the method of application.

The city and town populations are wakening up to the seriousness of the situation, and demanding protection in their milk supply, and rightly so. Corporations should insist upon the inspection and purification of all dairies supplying milk to consumers within their limits; but if animals belonging to private individuals are to be killed for the public weal, the public should be willing, in some way, to compensate the individual loser.

The farmers in the vicinity of Portage Creek have organized a creamery company. The capital stock of the company is \$2,000. The directors are: Chas. Cuthbert, President; W. R. Robinson, Sec.-Treas.; C. J. Green, W. G. Smith and T. E. Byres.

Ex-Postmaster-General Wanamaker states that he spent \$10,000 in testing the free delivery of mail matter in rural districts, and that the results were that, in the majority of the cases, the mails and revenues increased, and the business at the post offices became so much larger that private arrangements were made to have the service continued, when it became evident that the present United States Administration would not continue it.

We publish in this issue an interesting article on the adaptation of the silo to the requirements of the Western farms, prepared by Mr. Bedford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm, for the Manitoba Dairy Association, for publication in a bulletin it was intended to issue. We have in previous numbers of the ADVOCATE fully described Mr. Bedford's methods of cultivation, cutting and wilting of the corn, and also the varieties best suited for this country, and in April 20th issue appeared a letter from Dr. Harrison, giving an account of how successful the silo had proved on his Newdale Stock Farm, managed on the methods advised by Mr. Bedford. Everybody may not be prepared to build a silo right away, but everyone erecting new buildings should calculate on putting in a silo some day, and plan their barns accordingly.