

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

### Our Clubbing List.

	Regular price.	With FARMING.
Canadian Magazine.....	\$2.50	\$2.50
Toronto Weekly Globe .....	1.00	1.50
Toronto Weekly Mail and Empire.....	1.00	1.40
Farm and Fireside .....	1.00	1.40
Montreal Daily Witness.....	3.00	3.00
Toronto Morning World.....	3.00	3.00
Montreal Weekly Witness.....	1.00	1.60
Family Herald and Weekly Star .....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Advertiser.....	1.00	1.40
Ottawa Semi-Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.60
Hoard's Dairyman.....	1.00	1.75
Rural New Yorker.....	1.00	1.85

### Agricultural News and Comments.

It is always poor policy to keep a large number of cows on the feed that will properly support only half the number. It is a losing business from the outset, and is a straight road to bankruptcy. Too many farmers are carrying on dairying in this way, and wonder why they are not making a profit.

A movement is on foot in Victoria, Australia, for the formation of a wheat trust with the view of obtaining higher prices. It is expected that the colony will have 100,000 bags of wheat to export after supplying the local demand. It will be the work of the trust to send this wheat to London, England, and sell it for the benefit of the producer.

The Australians are experimenting in shipping frozen beef to the East. Three new steamers have been placed on the route between Sydney and Japan. It is proposed to ship the goods to Japan and distribute them from there among the Chinese ports. One of the objective points for opening up this trade is Vladivostock, the Russian fortification on the Pacific.

The San Jose scale has made its appearance in Australia. The district most affected is that around Sydney. Recently fruits shipped from this district to other parts of the colony have been found to be badly affected.

There is a movement in the British Columbia Legislature for cheaper money for the farmer. Nothing definite has been decided upon yet. The aim of the promoters seems to be to supply the farmers with money at a low rate of interest in order that they may be able to develop the agricultural resources of the country and make the most out of them.

The lambing season this year in Great Britain is one of the best the British farmer has experienced for several years. Especially is this so in the north. On one farm eighty-nine lambs from forty five ewes are reported.

The traffic in old horses from England to the continent has grown wonderfully of late. No fewer than 70,000 horses have been shipped to Belgium and Holland alone since 1895. The horse which is unfit for work in England, and for working which a man there would be fined, can be shipped to Belgium, where so long as it can stand on its legs at all, it is made to do duty.

About 1,400,000,000 gallons of milk are produced in Great Britain every year, and of this quantity 505,000,000 gallons are consumed in its natural state. Milk sold last year at about 6d. per gallon in summer and about 9d. in winter. These were the prices received by the farmer. If this milk were made into butter the farmer would realize about 4½d. per gallon in the summer and about 5½d. per gallon in the winter.

The Persian sheep is noted for its fat rumps, but there is a breed in Syria more remarkable for its fat tail. These sheep carefully fattened will sometimes reach 150 lbs., the tail composing one-third of the weight. The sheep of Great Tartary are also known for their extraordinary fat buttocks.

Experiments have been made in France to concentrate wine into tablets for transportation. After the grapes are pressed the juice is pumped into an apparatus where it is evaporated and the vapor condensed. When it has the consistency of a syrup it is mixed with the grape pulp, producing a marmalade that contains 80 per cent. of grape sugar. To make wine, the cakes are mixed with the right proportion of water.

The Americans have been endeavoring for some time to develop a butter trade with China. The American Consul at Hong Kong reports that the butter consumed there is imported from Denmark, Australia and France, with small quantities from California. The Danish butter is the most popular. American exporters have been laboring under the delusion that anything is good enough for the Asiatic coast, whereas, the demand is for the highest grades.

The English farmer is very much agitated over the fact that milk is being sent to London from France. Of late years many dairy farmers have transferred their energies from butter and cheese making to supplying milk to large towns and cities, and now it would appear as if this trade would fall into the hands of others.

### Cheap Money for the Farmer.

The British Columbia Legislature has appointed a special committee to devise a scheme for securing loans for farmers at lower rates than can be secured at present. The premier and other members of the legislature expressed themselves as in hearty sympathy with the scheme. When a government can borrow money at less than 3 per cent. it would be a paying investment to loan it to needy farmers at from 4 to 5 per cent. Even if there were no profit to the government in the transaction it would be an excellent investment for the country. As we pointed out in last week's issue, what this country needs at the present time more than anything else is the development of its vast agricultural resources. We cannot afford to

leave these undeveloped at this juncture. Of course it is the farmer in the newer districts who needs the money most. Many of those who have gone to the newer sections have in many instances not had sufficient capital to carry on their farming operations in the best way. This has been a serious drawback. If these farmers could borrow money, say at 4 per cent, they would be in a position to stock their farms and make them pay.

### Agricultural Exports from Argentina.

The following tabulated statement of the agricultural exports from Argentina in 1896 and 1897 will be interesting as showing the possibilities of that country in supplying the markets of the world with food products:

	1897.	1896	1897 compared with 1896.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Live cattle... ..	Head. 238,121	Head. 382,539	—	144,418
Live sheep... ..	504,128	512,016	—	7,888
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Frozen mutton... ..	50,894	45,105	5,789	—
Frozen beef... ..	4,241	2,997	1,244	—
Jerked beef... ..	36,239	45,907	—	9,668
Wool... ..	205,571	187,619	17,952	—
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Butter... ..	1,319,364	1,986,791	—	667,427
Cheese... ..	25,540	50,235	—	24,689
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Wheat... ..	101,845	532,001	—	430,156
Maize... ..	374,942	1,670,517	—	1,195,575
Linseed... ..	162,477	229,675	—	67,198
Hay... ..	103,700	104,773	—	1,073

The fact that the exports of live cattle have decreased 37 per cent., of maize 71 per cent., and of wheat 80 per cent., would not seem to bear out the contention of many that Argentina is likely to be the great rival of North America in the exportation of food products to Great Britain.

### The British Live Stock Trade.

Live stock breeders in Great Britain are realizing more and more the necessity of keeping the quality of their purebred stock at the very top. For years breeders from the United States, Canada, Australia, and, of late, Argentina, have been purchasing the best blood and taking it out of the country, though the demand has fallen off in one or two instances during late years, notably from Canada. This blood, and we speak more particularly of the Shorthorn strain, imported into the several countries named, has been the means of raising the general standard of the stock, and now the English farmer has to compete in his own market with beef from the countries that his good blood has been the means of improving. A few years ago, when prices were good, he did not feel this competition so keenly, and, besides, the quality of beef brought in from these countries did not compare with that produced at home, and so he had the lead in the market, and could command the top price, no matter what it was. But these conditions are gradually changing, and to-day the British farmer finds beef from other countries as good as his own product coming in and competing with him for his own market.

To make the very best out of these conditions is the problem that now confronts the British farmer. He realizes that he will have to continue to meet this competition from abroad, and to do so successfully will either have to produce at a less cost so as to be able to undersell the outsider, or to so improve the quality of the home product that it will continue to lead in his own market. He is, very sensibly too, looking to the latter as a