

8 shillings to 20 shillings per ton, a fair average would be 15 shillings; to the States slightly higher. *Pastoral Industry.*—The country has some ninety millions of sheep and twenty million head of cattle. Sheep were until of late years mostly Merinos, but the Lincoln type having demonstrated its superiority, the flocks are now in great measure Lincoln or cross Lincoln. The wool markets here are well attended by German and French buyers with houses in Buenos Aires, or who come out expressly for the clip. Many breeders export direct to the home markets. Wethers sell readily for export alive, or to the freezing companies. Prices on the "estancia" (breeding establishment) run from 14 shillings downward, shorn. *Cattle.*—Shorthorn, Hereford, Polled Angus, and crosses from grade cows. Export steers realize from £6 to £7 placed in Buenos Aires, from 600 kilos (1,320 lbs.) upwards. A large business is done with England; smaller output to the Cape and Brazil in lighter animals. Ordinary steers go to the "saladeros" (killing establishments) at £3 10 shillings and upwards, the dried meat (tasajo or charque) being shipped to the laboring populations of Brazil and the West Indies. *Horses and Mules* are bred in great numbers; the former, Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron, Carriage, Hackney, and Racing. These are also exported, the British Remount Commission having lately taken 800 for the Cape. Mules are exported in considerable numbers to the Cape and Brazil. *Grazing.*—The natural grasses of the country, representing a large zone of the South American continent, are peculiarly adapted for breeding and fattening. Best inside runs would find buyers at ten to fifteen thousand pounds the league. To the south, extending as far as the Strait of Magellan, fair to good grazing lands can be acquired from the Government at from 9d. an acre. *Dairy Produce* is as yet in its infancy, but the butter produced finds ready sale in the English market on a parity with the produce of other countries. *Climate* is similar in most respects to the northern seaboard of the Mediterranean. In summer the heat does not approach the tropical, in winter the days are clear and bright. Work never requires to be suspended throughout the year. Snow is not seen, except to the south and near to the Andes. Spring and autumn provide a climate hardly to be equalled. *Alfalfa* (lucerne).—This rich feed grows to a height of two and a half feet, its roots penetrating in the zones suitable to its growth till they encounter the moist sand below the surface stratum. The plant is of wonderful virility; we know of estates where the same plants have grown for fourteen years. It gives four to five cuttings a year, and for grazing carries 4,000 head of cattle to the square league (6,178 acres). *Locusts.*—The climatic influences on the crops are only relative, the late frosts, when they come, not doing more than a percentage of damage. The country suffers from the invasion of the locust, a pest which in past years has done considerable damage. The Government has awakened to the losses suffered by the agriculturists, and by means of committees established all over the country, and liberal votes of money, is endeavoring to minimize the damage which, with vigorous means, should yearly grow less. The merchants of this city have also united, and have brought out from the United States a renowned entomologist to study the locust and devise means for its destruction. GIBSON BROS.

Preparation for Spring Wheat—Metallic Roofing.

SUBSCRIBER, Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"Last fall I plowed down several acres of clover, but could not plow the land the second time on account of the heavy rains. I wish to sow it with spring wheat; would you advise gang plowing in the spring as a preparation for that crop? 2. In preparing sod land for peas, do you recommend gang plowing across the furrows on land which has been plowed in the fall? 3. Is metallic roofing and siding suitable for a dwelling house, or would it attract the heat of the sun too much?"

[1. In order to get a good crop of spring wheat early sowing is very desirable, and we would not advise gang plowing in the spring, but prepare the seed-bed as early as the land is fit to go on by the use of cultivator or disk harrow, or both, and a sharp-toothed diamond harrow. 2. We should fear that the gang plow would turn up the unrotted sod and would prefer to use spring tooth cultivator or disk and harrow across the ridges to fill furrows. 3. We should not hesitate to use metallic roofing for the reason assigned, and do not think the attraction of heat would be great when the siding is painted, as we presume it would be.]

Soy Beans for Forage.

READER, Renfrew Co., Ont.:—"Can you or any of your readers give me any information regarding soy beans as a forage crop for pasture, etc., in Ontario; also where the seed can be procured and at what price?"

[Soy beans have been grown successfully in plots at the Experimental Farm, Guelph, to a stage suitable for forage. They are very uncertain as a crop, however, so far north, and only the earliest varieties will ripen in Ontario, and that only along the north shore of Lake Erie. At Guelph when they did their best they were no better than vetches. The seed can be procured from the large seed houses in Western Ontario, and costs about \$1 per peck.]

To Prevent Horns Growing.

J. H., Auburn, Ont.:—"Is there any way of preventing horns from growing on calves that would not be so dangerous and painful as dehorning when older. Several persons have lost animals by bleeding. I had three that bled badly last year; had to tie on dry flour to stop it. Is it more dangerous to clip them close to the head?"

[Horns can be prevented from growing on calves by applying caustic potash to the little "nubbins" of horn when the calf is a few days old. Wet the little horn and rub with a stick of potash, which you can get from the druggist for a few cents; make a second application a few days later if necessary. This method is undoubtedly effective, and causes but little if any pain if the operation is done carefully and the caustic is not allowed to touch the skin. There are very few losses from dehorning if the work is properly done. It is safer and less painful to clip the horns close to the head, about a quarter of an inch below the junction of the hair.]

Evaporator for Potatoes.

T. C., Vancouver Island, B. C.:—"I have 100 tons of potatoes to dispose of and wish to cater to the Klondike trade. Do you know of any machine for evaporating potatoes on a cheap scale?"

[The G. H. Grimm Manufacturing Co., 84 Wellington street, Montreal, advertise in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the Champion Fruit Evaporator for the evaporation of all kinds of fruit and vegetables. In their circular of instructions for operating they say, "Potatoes should be first steamed or cooked enough so that the skin can be easily removed, then grated or granulated, and placed on the trays. The yield is from nine to twelve pounds to the bushel." In a letter they add: "So we understand it, Saratoga chips are not what is desired for this purpose, as they are even more bulky than the raw potato and contain less nutriment, so that they would be far from desirable for a miner's diet."]

Classifying Sheep at Fairs.

SUBSCRIBER, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"In classifying sheep on a prize list, where, owing to lack of funds, prizes are not given for all three breeds, viz., Leicester, Lincoln and Cotswold, whether, in your opinion, would it be better to class the Leicester and Lincoln together and have the list read Leicester or Lincoln, or class the Cotswold and Lincoln together and read Cotswold or Lincoln?"

[We should say in such case the better classification would be the grouping of Leicesters and Lincolns, for the reason that, in our opinion, they are more nearly of the same type, and, from our observation, we conclude that they "nick" better in crossing with each other than does the Cotswold with either of the other breeds named.]

Seed Grain Wanted.

SAMUEL F. REDMOND, Peterboro Co., Ont.:—"I wish to enquire through the medium of your paper where I could purchase the following: Bart Tremend spring wheat and Mandcheuri barley."

[We frequently receive inquiries like the above, especially for varieties of grain that have stood well in the Ontario Experimental Union tests, and would point out that persons having such for sale would doubtless reap a rich harvest of sales by placing what they have on the market through our advertising columns.]

Percheron Stallion Wanted.

W. A., Cardwell Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly send me the address of firms that have Percheron stallions for sale, as I want to get one as well-bred as can be had."

[Parties having such stock for sale may find it to their advantage to advertise the same in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

How Many Pounds of Milk Per Day?

S. P., Temiscouata, Que.:—"Please let me know how many pounds of milk a grade Ayrshire must yield daily to be called a good cow?—how many to be called an extra good cow?"

[A good cow of that class ought to give 35 lbs. per day when fresh and on good feed. An extra good one should give 45 lbs. under same conditions. A good cow should give 6,000 lbs. in a year.]

MARKETS.

Montreal Markets.

Export Cattle.—The stiff, strong prices at which drovers hold all cattle which would at all suit for the export trade practically kills anything of that nature, as exporters find it preferable to buy Chicago cattle, although higher in price, to fill their space, especially as they claim there is more difference in the quality of the cattle than in the price between the two, so that the only export demand is for an occasional few to fill a balance of space, for which all the way from 3½c. to 4½c. per lb. is paid.

Butchers' Cattle.—Owing to the extremely light runs of stock since the holiday markets, drovers have succeeded in getting their own figures for their cattle, and on Monday's market (Jan. 10) succeeded in again propelling prices up another quarter of a cent. Especially so is this the case where real prime beefs are offered. The drovers know how the market stands and hold out for good long prices, which they invariably obtain. Butchers are now commencing to growl, as prices have been away down for such a length of time that they find it extremely difficult to get their custom-

ers willing to pay an additional price for their beef, and unless they can obtain this from the public they lose plenty of money. It is, however, hardly as bad as they wish to make it appear. Good to choice beefs range in value from 4½c. to 4½c. per lb.; fair to medium, 3½c. to 4c., and common down as low as 2½c. per lb.

Sheep and Lambs.—So very few sheep and lambs are now brought in alive that to call it a market is somewhat astray, but, nevertheless, there are plenty of butchers quite willing to give the difference in price between the live and frozen to keep up a good demand. Such a demand strengthened the market on Monday fully ½c. per lb. on lambs and ¼c. on sheep, the former selling from 4½c. to 5c. per lb., and the latter 3½c. to 3½c. per lb.

Dressed Meats.—The early setting in of good, steady weather has been a bonanza for dressed meat handlers, as from the very start business has been very brisk in all lines, it being a difficult matter to cull out any one branch and say it was better than the other. Dressed hogs in the first half of last week on short supplies took a jump of a ½c. per lb., but brought them down again to their first level. Dressed lambs and mutton are good sellers, and good prices are obtained for nice bright goods. For the Christmas trade the amount of poultry turned over was enormous for this market. This, of course, has now fallen to a normal but fairly active demand. For these goods quotations are about as follows:

Hogs, light and bright, in cars	60 to 65 per cwt.
" light and bright, small lots	60 to 65 "
" light, heavy, small lots	60 to 65 "
Lambs	60 to 70 per lb.
Mutton	50 to 55 "
Beef, hinds	5½c. to 7½c. "
" fronts	3½c. to 4½c. "
Poultry, turkeys	8½c. to 9½c. "
" geese	7½c. to 8c. "
" chickens	5c. to 8c. "

Hides and Skins.—A strong up-hill fight in this branch of trade has kept prices very strong and always upward, until now tanners are dropping out, complaining that the difference between the green hides and manufactured goods is altogether too great. This at the present prices ruling—10c. per lb. to the tanner—does not seem at all unlikely, but their dropping out does not seem to have any effect on the market whatever, for as fast as they stop the Ontario tanners step up and take all available hides, so that the way it looks now is that the Quebec tanners will simply have to quit the business or pay full prices for what they require. They cannot break the price any. Green hides—No. 1, 9½c. to 9½c.; No. 2, 8½c. to 8½c. Bull hides, 7½c. to 7½c. Calf skins—For No. 1, 8c. per lb.; No. 2, 6c. Lamb skins, 90c. to \$1. Horse hides, \$2 to \$3 each for No. 1.

The British Markets.

A decline of a ½c. to ½c. in London and Liverpool a week ago Monday was maintained this week on cattle, choice States steers making 11c.; Canadians, 10c.; Argentines, 9½c., a decline of ½c. from a week ago. Sheep were strong and advanced a full cent per lb.; Canadians, 11c.; Argentines, 11½c. per lb. sinking the offal.

Toronto Markets.

The abattoir at the Western cattle market commenced operation this week, killing over 100 head. The first shipment has just been made, and the proprietors are disappointed at the apathy displayed by the refusal of the Government to appoint a dead meat inspector. They state that all meats are passed in the United States for export are examined by an officer appointed by the Bureau of Animal Industry, and that the success of the large packing houses in Chicago is mainly due to this inspection. The cattle are inspected previous to killing, and the meat is branded or marked with the Government certificate of its freedom from disease previous to shipment. They cannot understand why so simple a request can be refused, as the expense is only nominal and is the very least that they can do to foster the dead meat trade, so very desirable under our present conditions. The live cattle export business has been very unprofitable in the last few years, and it is doubtful if any of the older hands will again be seen in the business.

Export Cattle.—The demand was steady for this class. Prices ruled 4c. to 4½c. per lb. Mr. H. A. Mullens has returned to Winnipeg to look after the interests of the firm there. His partner, Mr. Joseph Wilson, reports that the prospects for Manitoba cattle are not promising just now. There were a large number of Manitoba and Northwest cattle exported last summer, and it is likely that the traffic will increase during the ensuing season. As a class the prairie cattle are of fine quality, and would sell much better in the Old Country if they did not shrink so much during their long journey to the seaboard.

Butchers' Cattle.—The butchers did not attend in large numbers this week, only fifty loads of cattle on sale. Prices are a good deal firmer than for some time past. Holders are not keen at parting, except at their own figures. A few head sold at 4½c. per lb.; the general run of cattle sold for 3c. to 3½c. per lb. Prices were \$1 per cwt. better than they were a year ago.

Bulls.—A number of bulls were on sale to-day; it looked as if the farmers were parting with all their stock bulls. There was a good enquiry for fat bulls at 3c. to 3½c. per lb. C. Zeagman sold two export bulls at \$3.50 per cwt.; two steers, weighing 1,100 lbs. each, at \$3.62.

Stockers and Feeders.—Light stockers sell at from \$2.80 to \$3.25 per cwt. No enquiry for feeders. W. Crealock bought twenty light yearlings, at \$2.75 per cwt.

Calves.—Where are all the calves? None on the market to-day. Veals wanted and good prices offered for the right kind. Prices ruled \$2 to \$3 per head.

Milk Cows.—In good demand; about one dozen on sale; all sold readily at from \$25 to \$45 per head.

Hogs.—On the up-grade; prices advanced fully a ½c. all round; market steady; prospects good; demand active. Choice selections sold at 5c. per lb.; light, thick and fat hogs at \$4.50 to \$4.75; stores in good demand; fetch about the same figure as the light—\$4.40 per cwt. Sows for breeding purposes are in good demand, at from 3c. to 3½c. per lb. Stags are quiet, at 2c. The prospects for the hog trade are very good. We look for higher prices next week.

Lambs.—Steady, at from \$4 to \$4.50 per 100 lbs. Choice lamb—wanted.

Sheep.—Export sheep are quoted at 3c. to 3½c. per lb.; bucks sell at 2½c. per lb.

Dressed Hogs.—Not active; values hold steady; prices are advancing. Sellers are asking a little higher prices than the packers are willing to concede. Choice lightweights, in car lots, are quoted at \$6.10 per cwt.; packers offer \$6. Heavyweights are quoted at \$5.75 to \$5.85. Local butchers are paying \$6.50 for small, bright hogs. Vancouver and Victoria are enquiring for car lots.

Eggs.—Trade active and prices firm. Lined eggs sell at 13½c. per dozen; cold storage at 12c. to 14c. per dozen. Strictly new laid, reliable, anywhere from 18c. to 25c. per dozen. We saw a remarkable instance in the St. Lawrence market last Saturday. One dear old lady asked 25c. per dozen for her eggs. Another close by was asking 18c. They were both equally good, but the first old dame, with a very sly chuckle, said they take my word.

Hides.—The hide market is quiet; not usual at this season of the year. The wool warehouses are practically empty, owing to the good domestic and U. S. demand. Hides—No. 1, 8c.; No. 2, 7c.; No. 1, cured, 9½c. per lb.

Wheat.—The grain trade was active. Wheat and peas advanced 1c. per bushel. No. 2 wheat, red, sold at from 82c. to 83c.; No. 2 white, 81½c. to 82c., and goose at 78c. per bushel; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, sold at 98½c. per bushel.