

Game Protection Act", or any other bird or animal whether protected by this Act, or not. See sections (23) and (24) and avoid any unpleasantness or the risk of being prosecuted.

Manitoba. CHAS. BARBER,
Chief Game Guardian.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

You will notice by the poster which we are distributing that the season for ducks, geese, plover, etc., does not open until September 1st, and the only game birds that may be shot previous to that date are cranes, which are now in season. Chicken shooting begins on 15th September as previously and terminates on the last day of November, the bag limit being reduced to 10 birds per day and 100 in all.

Saskatchewan.

T. N. WILLING,
Chief Game Guardian.

English Agricultural News.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The present season has been far from favorable for crops in the United Kingdom on account of the lack of sunshine, abnormally low temperature, and cold, drizzling rains.

Recent heavy rains have done much damage to cereal crops, many fields are badly lodged. The July report of the Board of Agriculture gives wheat and barley as below, and oats (generally) above the average. Roots are about average, potatoes poor.

A couple of weeks interval of reasonably sunny weather has enabled farmers to save the hay crop in fair condition. The growth was straggly and uneven, with little bottom grass. Pastures are poor, and cattle have fallen off so alarmingly in many cases that farmers have turned them into the meadows leaving the hay problem next winter to solve itself later.

Beerbohm's estimate of the world's wheat crop of 1907 is 388,750,000 quarters, being about 54,000,000 quarters less than 1906, and 34,000,000 quarters less than 1905. The figures point to a rather serious shortage, and as half of the deficiency is credited to Europe, indications are for a brisk import demand.

Such being the case, reasonably high prices may be expected for wheat, and already prices are higher now in England than for eight years. From January, wheat, oats and barley all show steady rises.

Agricultural topics have lately occupied the legislators at Westminster to a considerable extent.

The Butter and Margarine Bill has passed its third reading in the Commons after a spirited debate on "milk-blended" butter. The Government successfully adhered to their proposal to allow 24 per cent. of moisture in this product, in spite of efforts to bring this down to 16 per cent. Their argument was that the public have the right to buy what they wish if sold under its proper name. In future, though the wrapper must state moisture content and name.

The small holdings bills for England and Scotland are also provoking much discussion both in parliament and press. Reference is made to continental results, and the humble existence and toilsome life of the small holder in those countries, and the relative merits of tenancies and small holdings. That small holdings have proved successful in many cases in England there is ample proof, and it is very evident that Britishers are determined to get access to land under more favorable conditions than they now obtain.

An interesting sequel to the American "meat revelation" of last year is provided by the second reading in the Commons last night (Aug. 2nd) of the Food Regulation Bill. This is designed to prevent unsound food from entering Britain, or to secure its condemnation while in transit or storage in Britain.

By present regulations such food must be exposed for sale before it can be condemned, except in London and Manchester.

Mr. John Burns said that the importation of meats had increased from fourteen pounds per capita in 1872 to fifty-six pounds per capita in 1902 and cited many cases of recent seizures of diseased food, especially canned goods. Such goods debarred from Germany by stringent regulations were subsequently sent to England.

The Canadian cattle embargo is dealt with from a new "point of view" in its relation to Ireland by the well-known writer 'Calchas' in the August "Fortnightly Review."

He writes—"Irish agriculture depends wholly at this moment upon the embargo against Canadian cattle, which is more prohibitive in severity than any conceivable tariff, and is maintained for purely protectionist reasons by a Liberal Government which could not abolish the embargo without provoking an agrarian revolt and bankrupting the land purchase system."

It is surprising to be told that milk cows in the last stages of tuberculosis are openly sold for human consumption at certain county markets between London and Portsmouth. And in addition that the milk from those cows had previously been sent to the larger centers of population. Yet such is the assertion of Dr. Fraser, health officer of Portsmouth in the August "Nineteenth Century". He states that such cattle are sold at from 5 shillings to 90 shillings (\$1.25 to \$22.50).

Dr. Fraser advocates inspection of cattle at the farms, by officers directly from the Local Govern-

ment Board or the Board of Agriculture, in place of the present ineffective, or unused, powers of local sanitary authorities.

Contrary to the general impression is the statement that town cows are healthier than country cows, because the town sanitary authorities enforce the powers they possess. As one result tubercle bacilli are oftener found in country than in town milk.

Rather a good story is being told in the papers, with varied comments, anent the discuss on the Margarine Bill in the Lords. Lord Onslow related the answer of the waiter who was appealed to as to the proper pronunciation of the "g" in margarine. "I don't know, sir, we call it 'buttah'."

The results of the closing of British ports to Argentine live stock were dealt with in an able manner in a paper by Mr. Gibson, of Buenos Ayres, at the recent sheepbreeders conference at Lincoln.

This embargo has led to a wonderfully rapid increase in freezing establishments, and an enormous export trade in frozen mutton has been built up.

Mr. Gibson spoke of the flourishing condition of the sheep breeding industry; the improved quality from close competition; and of the high prices and favorable outlook.

Argentine buyers have secured lately many Lincoln Longwools, and there have been some purchases of Shorthorns and Herefords for export.

"ACROSS SEAS"

The Local Fair: Its Use or Abuse and Betterment.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In a former issue some reading matter bearing on the above subject seemed about to the point. Always having taken an interest in such events I have read a good deal in connection therewith, and also had opportunity of getting some experience. A small or local fair is annually held near where I reside. This year the fair proper was of about two and a half hours duration. Two days were scheduled, but the first was a total blank, except for some little preparatory work. Next forenoon was the same. About noon a little stir was noticeable and by four o'clock the agricultural part was done. A ball game was pulled off and another in the evening. Some of the directors of the Agricultural Society called out the horse sections and the prizes were placed. Another lot of directors and the judge commenced on the cattle, hogs and sheep. The horse-ring interested the people and nobody saw the other stock judged at all. A good many sections had not a creditable display, but it would have made matters unpleasant for association or judge to have turned them away without placing. Now! What is the trouble?

If we know the disease and the cause we ought to be able to prescribe. The fact is, a number of localities holding a show have not material enough to make a live stock exhibit interesting according, as prize lists are compiled at present. Railways allow no reduced rates or excursions as an inducement for outsiders to attend, and the small patronage does not warrant the society going to the obligation of expensive attractions; neither will private concerns attempt cost of transportation for such a gathering. To sum up, we are trying to do something with nothing or at least against great obstacles. The larger fair boards seem to fare well and the public get satisfaction and perhaps one of those properly located at a fair distance from each other will be enough as a purely agricultural exhibition. Owing to rush of farming operations fall fairs are not a taking proposition and too many local outings are called during the two months between the 15th of June and fore end of August. Where it is proving unsatisfactory to hold a small fair simply from an agricultural standpoint, could it not be made a feasible proposition to have a co-operative or civic holiday if not on a regular holiday on some arranged date and the whole neighborhood get interested on the one date and by committee management put up a good day's program and have something good on for 10 o'clock. A prize list taking in special classes which would likely be attractive and afford good competition covering less ground than our present lists but having larger premiums and more prizes to a section might work well. A good speaker or lecturer on a demonstration class would make a good drawing card. A good band has an enlivening effect on such occasions. Its a poor locality that cannot have one good social day, but one real good day ought to be enough for any rural center, whether we be town people, farmer or sportsmen. As to the money which is received from the Government towards such enterprises its a matter open to comment if it could not be better used as we notice very little advancement under present conditions. There are two classes catalogued in rural prize lists which are generally very badly represented. These are the carriage, road or saddle horse sections and before good grade cattle and perhaps bacon hogs. If something could be done to bring those up to where the heavy horse interest is centered our local shows might be better.

A DIRECTOR.

Things to Remember.

Kildonan and St. Paul fair . . . Sept. 25th—26th
Provincial Exhibition. New West-
minster, B.C. October 1 to 5

MANITOBA FAIRS.

Woodlands September 27
Kildonan September 25 and 26
Gilbert Plains October 1
Plumas October 2
Meadow Lea October 3
Macgregor October 4
Beauséjour October 4 and 5
Selkirk October 9 and 10

ALBERTA FAIRS.

Vermilion Sept. 10 and 11
Vegreville Sept. 11 and 12
Didsbury Sept. 13
Olds Sept. 16 and 17
Magrath Sept. 19 and 20
Raymond Sept. 24 and 25
Cardston Sept. 26 and 27
Medicine Hat Oct. 1 and 2
Lacombe Oct. 3 and 4
Ponoka Oct. 7 and 8
Wetaskiwin Oct. 9 and 10
Innisfail Oct. 11
Nanton Oct. 15
Pincher Creek Oct. 16

SASKATCHEWAN FAIRS.

Lashburn September 4
Lloydminster September 19 and 20
Radisson September 24
Quill Lake September 26
Watson September 27
N. Battleford October 1 and 2
Duck Lake October 4
Kinistino October 8
Tisdale October 10
Melfort October 15 and 16

Homestead Entries Decreasing.

For the six months of the present calendar year ending June there were 14,154 homestead entries reported to the Interior Department, as compared with 24,098 for the first six months of last year, a decrease of 9,944. The decrease is largely accounted for by the unfavorable weather of March and April last and the poor transportation facilities in the West during the winter and early spring. In February the decrease was 1,003; in March 2,429, and in April 3,595. Of a total of 1,205 entries made in June by persons coming from the United States there were 453 from North Dakota, 243 from Minnesota, 82 from South Dakota, 50 from Wyoming, 47 from Iowa, 43 from Michigan, 42 from Washington, 38 from Montana, 35 from Illinois and 31 from Oklahoma.

Saskatchewan Preparing her Fuel Supply.

The Saskatchewan department of agriculture is making commendable efforts to fasten upon peoples' minds the importance of providing a plentiful supply of coal at available centers so that consumers will be able to get retail lots whenever they require it. The commissioner has impressed the sales agents of the different coal companies in the West and the wholesale dealers with the importance of supplying retailers with coal so that most of the large dealers now offer to put coal in the retailers sheds at once upon which neither the freight nor payment for the coal will be due until October 15th and in the case of one company until December.

In a circular to the public, the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, Mr. A. P. Ketchen, comments upon the arrangements as follows:

"The above arrangement, it must be confessed, is in the nature of an encouragement of the credit system, which already has been the bane of the West; but the peculiar conditions existing this year amply justify the steps that have been taken on behalf of the people to obtain the concessions above mentioned from the several coal companies operating in the province. The severe experiences of Western people during last winter have established this fact beyond the probability of question—that the only reliable safeguard against a possible fuel shortage in the prairie country is that people should lay in their winter fuel supply during the summer and autumn months. Even if the supply of coal obtainable were unlimited, the difficulties attending transportation during severe winter weather are great and at times almost unsurmountable, which renders an absolute reliance upon the prompt delivery of supplies during the winter months exceedingly risky, in fact such a proceeding would be better described as fool-hardy.

"The situation at present is such that if the railway companies supply the required rolling stock, which they have promised to do, every facility is given to the people of Saskatchewan to purchase their winter's supply of fuel. Retailers throughout the province who have not ordered a sufficient supply of coal to meet the requirements of their customers will assist greatly in the movement if they will buy, if not all, at least a portion of the coal that they are likely to require, and by removing it from the dealer's sheds provide space for further shipments. Moreover, dealers themselves may assist in the movement of coal by promptly unloading cars and thereby keeping them in circulation."