

should always have a year of straw ahead, lest we have a year of scarcity such as we had a few years ago, when people drew old straw miles and quarrelled about who would have it. Again, a few extra hands would stack some of the best straw. Stock relish oat straw, enjoying a change of diet as well as man, and there is no excuse for such dirty stables and pig pens as we often see while good straw is being burnt or buried in the snow, which might be converted into manure. Some recommend the mixing of straw with green hay, thereby making the latter go farther, and as it imparts its aroma to the straw the stock eat it with apparent relish. Thrash as soon as possible, as the days begin to get short, and prices are nearly always best at the opening of the season. Those who have enough to fill a car early in the fall from the machine have had best satisfaction, but it is not always convenient to get hands and teams; in any case it is necessary to have granary in order, bins and partitions tight, roof and walls rain and snow-proof; have plenty of good bags, and everything ready that your good sense would dictate.

Frauds in Seed Grain.

Farmers should be careful that the seedsmen and others from whom they purchase grain are thoroughly reliable. During the past few years we have heard of several disgraceful incidents where farmers have been imposed upon by salesmen who sold them common varieties, representing such to be a new and highly priced sort. In other words, the salesman substituted one sort for another. The farmer ordered a high-priced kind, the salesman supplied him an old and cheap variety, knowing it to be such. Not long ago Mr. Frank Shore ordered a new white wheat from a certain house, paying a high price therefor. In a few days he received what was represented to be the sort he ordered, but what was in reality an entirely different kind, not a new wheat nor a high-priced one, but simply a substitute which was represented to be the high-priced variety ordered. Mr. Shore, being an expert, detected the fraud at once, but he failed to get the sort ordered nor was his money returned. Another case which came under our notice was that of Mr. G. W. Monk, M. P. P., Carleton Co., who ordered three or four promising wheats. All were sown in one field. The next year one of our staff visited his farm and found but one variety true to name, and it was badly mixed. We believe this dishonorable method of doing business is practised to a considerable extent, not alone with fall wheats, but more largely with other grains and seeds. Farmers are thus victimized every year. If this treachery was only the theft of the cash which represents the difference in the value of the sort ordered and the one sent, the loss to the farmer would not be so great, but the trouble does not end there. The value of the test which the buyer wished to conduct is entirely lost, and if an undesirable sort was substituted, the crop is lost also. A great many farmers in Ontario during the last two or three years have lost their rape crop, because a worthless variety was sold to them for the true sort. The crops thus lost varied in area from a few acres up to twenty or more. Not only did these men lose two crops, but their land was filled with the seeds of a weed little better than wild mustard. The following letters bearing on this point have just been received by us:

DEAR SIRS,—I do not know of any new varieties of fall wheat, but I believe purchasers and farmers are duped by seedsmen and sharpers placing old varieties on the market under assumed names. The time has come when a means to prevent it should be sought for. I think your plan a desirable one of publishing all such information as you can obtain from reliable sources.

G. R. BRADLEY, Manotick, Ont.

DEAR SIRS,—Very little fall wheat is sown and only of old varieties in this vicinity. The few patches that are sown promise fairly well. I am beginning to think that some of our seedsmen are not doing the right thing in other seeds, as I order a great deal every spring for farmers and find old varieties sent under new names, some of them worthless. I think if Patrons take this matter up they can force just conditions. I am glad to see you speak favorably of the Patrons, and if they only wield it well, this movement will be one of their best weapons for defence. Hay is a good crop here. Other crops look fair all through.

Yours very truly,

JAMES H. ESDON, Curry Hill, Ont.

Before ordering new sorts of grain or other seeds the buyer should study the appearance of the variety, so as to know it at sight when this is possible. Demand the sort ordered and accept no other. We have a number of reliable seedsmen in Canada, whose description of varieties can be relied upon. In all cases, deal with a reliable house, and remember the men who deal in good and honest seed cannot and will not compete in price with the sharpers who make their money by fleecing their customers, nor can men who deal only in good goods well cleaned, sell as cheaply as the men who buy and sell only cheap and inferior stuff. At the request of a reader, we shall be pleased to carefully describe any sort of seed grain at any time. We desire our readers promptly to report to us any cases of substitution or other frauds in supplying seed grain, stock or other goods.

Manitoba Cheese for Chicago.

The President of the Manitoba Dairy Association announces that special arrangements have been made for a Manitoba dairy display at the World's Fair in October. The plan arranged for sending forward exhibits is as follows:—

Class 1—Cheddar cheese—Any factory may send one cheese, diameter not less than 14, nor more than 16 inches, height not less than 9 inches, weight not less than 50 pounds.

Class 2—Cheddar home trade—Exhibit to consist of one cheese, not less than 6 inches in height, not less than 12 nor more than 15 inches in diameter.

BUTTER.

Class 1—Dairy butter made by exhibitor on the farm, from a mixed herd—Exhibit to consist of not more than one package, weight to be not less than 10, nor more than 20 pounds.

Class 2—Dairy butter, made by exhibitor on the farm, from a herd of one breed—Exhibit to consist of one package, weight not less than 10, nor more than 20 pounds.

Class 4—Creamery butter, made by exhibitor, from the milk of mixed herds, from cream separated from the milk in the creamery where the butter is made—Exhibit to consist of one commercial package, to weigh not less than 55 pounds.

Class 5—Creamery butter made by exhibitor from gathered cream. Exhibit to consist of one commercial package, to weigh not less than 55 pounds.

The Dominion Government are to pay freight charges to Chicago and return, as well as the cost of caring for the exhibit during the exhibition, and until it is disposed of afterwards. The government will make payment on account to the several exhibitors of dairy products to nearly the full market value.

The butter and cheese for exhibition are to be shipped addressed to the Dairy Commissioners, care of S. M. Barre, 249 King street, Winnipeg, no later than September 20th, when the whole exhibit will at once be forwarded to Chicago.

A bulletin of detailed information, label and entry form, may be obtained free on application to the Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa, or to the President of the Manitoba Dairy Association, Winnipeg. A number of entries have already been secured, and it is hoped farmers and factory men will turn out in good number, so as to send a creditable exhibit from this province.

Melita Summer Fair.

The seventh annual exhibition of the Souris River Agricultural Society was held on the 3rd and 4th of August at the enterprising town of Melita. The extreme heat prevailing at the time was quite a disadvantage, as stock at a distance could not well be brought that would no doubt otherwise have been there. Among that shown there were some good animals in the different classes, which fact suggests to the careful observer that stock, in the near future, is to play a more important part in the agriculture of this magnificent district, so well adapted for mixed farming. This section being so thoroughly watered and otherwise well adapted for dairying, it should excel in this industry when once attention is turned in this direction. We are pleased to see that the "Ayrshire" has been introduced here, and is represented by some very good individuals owned by Mr. G. L. Dodds, and we understand others in this section have made a start in the same breed, but as the society offered no prizes for this sort none were shown. This is certainly a mistake, as every breed owned in any locality should receive equal encouragement from local fairs. Space will not admit of special mention of all the exhibits.

There were some good horses and cattle. One fat steer owned by Mr. A. Thompson weighed 2,280 pounds, while a two-year-old Shorthorn bull of good form, owned by R. J. Dobbins, weighed 1,930 pounds.

Some fine sheep were shown by J. Murray, of Lyleton, whose flock, although not yet numerous, is of good quality. The majority of the prizes for swine were awarded to J. A. Ross and G. L. Dodds, and were about equally divided. Their Berkshires are well bred, being the descendants of stock from Mr. Snell, and we understand both parties have been very successful in this line.

The grains and grasses contained some splendid samples. That in straw gave an idea of the splendid growth and fertile soil of this locality. The white oats in sheaf awarded first prize (American Banner) were grown by Mr. Dodds on virgin soil without manure. We mention this to show that A1 crops may be expected where proper cultivation has been bestowed from the first.

Some very good poultry in sufficient quantity to attract attention were exhibited. The ladies department, which always adds so much to the interest, and is composed of so many articles, both useful and ornamental, kept pace with the other sections, and exhibited the taste and neatness of their handiwork in a highly commendable manner.

The effort now being made by or on behalf of British farmers to get back the home market for butter will unquestionably have a marked influence on the future of cattle breeding in that country. There is already a decided reaction in favor of dairy cattle as distinct from those that practically produce nothing but beef. A class had to be provided for Jerseys at the Highland Show this season for the first time in its history.

Timely Notes for September—No. 1.

"AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS ETC."

The industrial collapse in the U. S. will prove in one way an indirect good to the Manitoba and Northwest farmers this harvest. Many of our young men have been in the habit of going to Dakota, Montana and Minnesota every harvest on account of the higher wages there given, and in consequence the Northwest farmers have often been handicapped for men, and have been compelled to pay altogether too high wages for what help they could get. This season they have too many men down there, and are sending many up here; as a consequence we can get men in plenty and at lower wages, and we shall be thus able to reap our crops and get our fall work done more expeditiously. Again, on account of the surplus of idle men in the town there will be lower wages in the mills and factories, and there won't be the same inducement to leave the farm; the inducement will be rather the other way, and thus Manitoba, a farming country, will be benefitted. It will also open the eyes of a great many to the advantages of their own fair country of Canada, where life and property are safe and where the law is enforced.

"A land of settled government,
A land of old and just renown,
When freedom gradually broadens down
From precedent to precedent."

AN OBJECT LESSON IN FEEDING.

One of the best lessons to be learned from the late Industrial Exhibition in Winnipeg was obtained from the "fat cattle" exhibit. The steers as examples of early maturity and development were fine animals, and when two-year-olds can come to 1,700 pounds and over, it shows what every one is losing who is growing steers of 700 and 800 pounds in three years; and then these small fellows eat nearly as much as those big chaps, and they break ever so many more fences, are wilder, harder to sell, and an eye-sore, and a dead loss in money. Take it in a financial point, thus:—

Grade steer roughly would cost:	
Service of pure-bred bull, say.....	\$ 2 00
Milk and grain for first year, say.....	5 00
Hay and grain second year.....	10 00
Pasture free. Total.....	\$17 00
The scrub steer would cost:	
Service of common bull (if paid for at all).....	\$ 0 00
Milk and grain for first year, say.....	3 00
Hay and grain for second year.....	8 00
Pasture free. Total.....	\$11 00

In one case you have a beast weighing from 1,400 to 1,700 pounds, and in the other only 600 or 700 pounds; the first would sell for 4 cents a pound easily, and the other be a slow sale at 2½ or 2¢ cents. How much longer will you go on raising those small cattle?

GENERAL.

Leave the grain standing a little while longer than usual, as, owing to the wet season we have had this year, there is more straw and more sap in it, consequently will take longer to dry. For the same reason threshing from the shock will be more hazardous than in a drier season. I don't believe there is any economy in threshing from the shock in the long run.

You may just as well take up the potatoes as soon as they are ripe. They won't grow any more, and are safer in the pit or cellar than out in the field. If heavy rains or a severe frost should come, a good many tubers would be spoiled.

Feed some of those white turnips to the cows now the grass is getting dry, and keep up the flow of milk. It hardly pays to store away the white turnips, but swedes and mangels should be pitted or put in the root house towards the end of the month, unless the weather continues fine, when they should be left out, especially the swedes, until hard weather comes on.

Fatten up your hens and young roosters before selling. Don't sell lean stock, it never pays. Begin the culling out process early. Don't keep any that are late in moulting, they will probably die in the winter.

How many stallions were registered with the government this year, so as to compel payment of service fees? If the owners, after neglecting the help thus placed within reach by the government, fail in collecting their fees, they will have themselves to blame.

Can any one suggest a good bait for wolves in a thickly settled district, that is not dangerous to farm stock? I have tried various plans, but apparently to no effect.

"INVICTA"

"Canada's fruit exhibit at the World's Fair in Ontario makes the finest showing: superior exhibits.—To most visitors at the World's Fair it is a perfect surprise to find that Canada has one of the largest fruit exhibits in the Horticultural building. It is situated in the rear curtain, north of the Dome, and occupies nearly one-sixth of the whole space devoted to pomology. In variety of fruits Canada also excels."—Orange Judd Farmer.