

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

### Agricultural News and Comments.

Adulterating flour with whiting seems to be increasing on the Continent. Millers and bakers are frequently receiving circulars offering whiting for mixing purposes. In France, recently, people eating bread, made from flour containing 45 per cent. of whiting, were taken very ill. The law, however, is very strict against such adulteration. The seven persons found guilty in connection with the above adulteration were fined from £110 to £100 each, besides imprisonments ranging from six months to two years.

The dairymen and farmers of New Zealand are maintaining a steady fight against the steamship companies with a view to obtaining better freight rates on products sent from that colony to Great Britain. The trade has also been hampered by the irregularity with which the steamers have sailed. Last season a reduction of 7d. per box was obtained on ocean freight rates for butter. This season it is expected that there will be sailings of steamers regularly every fortnight.

There are now 2,960 Mennonite families in Manitoba, numbering 20,000 souls. In 1874 there were only 180 families. They have at present under cultivation 235,160 acres of land. Last year they harvested 3,500,000 bushels of grain exclusive of flax. Of flax they raised 950,000 bushels. They own 11,000 horses, 8,300 cows, and 10,000 young cattle. In 1874 56 they borrowed \$195,000 from the Dominion Government at 5 per cent. interest, and from their brethren of Waterloo, Ont., \$20,000 without interest. In 1891 they had repaid the whole amount of these loans with interest, and they are now quite free from debt, and prosperous in every respect.

Nine out of ten breeders are breeding for the market, yet eight out of the nine rarely consult market requirements in the choice of brood mares, or in the selection of a stallion. Breeders of high class cattle cater to the tastes and requirements of those buyers most likely to pay remunerative prices, and breeders of horses intended for market should follow their example.

A chalder is a term used in regulating the amount of stipend a minister in Scotland receives.

Its value is based upon the average prices for a period of seven years of barley and oatmeal. The average prices and the value of a chalder are arranged by the Friar courts in each county, and consequently the amount a minister might receive in one county would be larger than one might receive in another county. The value of a chalder has been steadily decreasing for the last thirty years and a movement is on foot to do away with the system.

It is claimed in some centres of Great Britain that wheat will not fall very much in price till about September, if it does then. The grounds upon which this opinion is based are that the world's wheat crop of 1897 was at least 210,000,000 bushels below that of 1896. "Remainders" from former harvests decreased by 150,000,000 bushels during the 1896-97 harvest year, leaving probably the smallest remainder since 1880. In Europe the stocks in growers and dealers' hands are smaller than at any time within thirty years. All this being so it is expected that the present harvest will be called upon to supply a harvest year of thirteen months. In the face of the present condition of the wheat market and crop prospects this seems to be a too sanguinary view.

The majority of people eat more meat than they require. Meat eaten once a day is sufficient for a person not engaged in manual labor or who does not take much outdoor exercise. For persons whose work lies chiefly indoors a mixed and varied diet is most conducive to good health. Good ripe fruit is a wholesome diet at all times whether a person works out or in doors.

In Nebraska an Agricultural Students' Co-operative Association has been formed for the purpose of encouraging, after they have returned to the farm, a continuation of the habits of study and experimentation that have been formed by the students of the agricultural college. In this the students of the Nebraska College are following the example of our own students of the Ontario Agricultural College when the Experimental Union was organized some years ago. There can be no doubt as to the benefits to be derived from such organizations.

A lasting test of the value of an animal is that it shows off to as good advantage outside of the show ring as it does in it. When we find a show animal doing so we may conclude that it has qualities of the highest kind. But such is not always the case. Very often an animal, and more particularly a horse, that shows off to splendid advantage in the ring may do the very reverse a few days after the show is over. This may be either the fault of the animal or the owner. Probably more of the latter.

Some peculiarities of breeds breed out pretty easily after two or three generations, but there are others which persist after the original blood which put them into power has become very much diluted. If the more desirable peculiarities are retained, all well and good; but if, after a couple of generations, the undesirable traits remain, it will be well to discard the animals of that strain for some others with better records.

In Austria and Germany sugar beets are largely grown. In the former country the farmers received for beet roots 78,000,000 florins, which is said to have been 40,000,000 more than would have been obtained if the same area had been planted with

wheat. Last year's export of beetroot sugar from Austria reached 94,000,000 florins, and the exports for the last thirty years totalled 1,177 million florins. In Austria the cost of cultivation, including rent, taxes, and delivery, averaged about £10 per acre, in Germany, about £12 12s. In Ireland, where an effort is being made to develop the beet-sugar industry, it is estimated to cost £13 per acre. On the continent the factories pay the farmer from 17s. to £1 a ton for sugar beets, and the grower gets the pulp and the leaves.

### The Export Bacon Trade.

TOO MUCH INFERIOR QUALITY PRODUCED. CORN AND CLOVER FEEDING CAUSING TROUBLE

Our export bacon trade is growing in importance every year. Though this is so, and though Canadian bacon is gradually gaining an enviable position in the British markets, the fact must not be lost sight of for a moment that, in order to retain the position we have gained, and to develop the trade still further, there must be everlasting vigilance on the part of every one connected with the industry. The farmer who grows and feeds the hogs, the drover who buys and ships the hogs, and the packer who kills and prepares the hogs for the British markets have certain specific duties to perform, and upon the manner in which each one performs his duties will depend the present and future success of the industry. These three factors must work in harmony and in perfect understanding with each other, not only for the good of the trade as a whole, but for their own good and profit. Quality counts in this trade as well as in anything else, and the real quality is given to bacon when the hog is under the farmer's control, and is being fed and cared for by him. The farmer, then—a fact which many of them do not realize—is the important factor in the development of the export bacon trade. All the packer can do is to cure the bacon properly when it gets into his hands. If the farmer does not supply him with a typical bacon hog, properly fed, the packer cannot supply the kind of bacon which the British market demands.

We had the pleasure last week of an interview with Mr. J.W. Flavelle, manager of the Wm. Davies Packing Co., who has recently returned from a business trip to Great Britain. Though Mr. Flavelle speaks encouragingly of the future of the Canadian bacon trade, yet it is not all smooth sailing, and our farmers have a great deal to learn yet in regard to growing and feeding the bacon hog. The chief difficulties with the trade at present are an over production of small sides made from hogs weighing from 150 to 160 pounds and serious losses from a soft and secondary quality of bacon.

There is a limited market for these small sides, but when this market is over-supplied, a loss to the shipper is certain to result. Such is the case at the present time, and there have been serious losses to packers during the past few months, because altogether too many hogs have been prepared and finished for market weighing between 150 and 160 pounds.

In addition to the above, Mr. Flavelle states that their firm has never had such difficulty with soft hogs as during the past four weeks. This trouble is entirely due to faulty feeding, and at the moment is largely the result of free feeding of corn and clover.

The packer in this country must of necessity