

FARMING

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A Farmers' Business Paper.

"Why do some people imagine that an agricultural paper should be published less often than any other trade paper?" This question was asked and answered by a prominent and successful business man whose business dealings are almost exclusively with the farmers, and who knows their requirements as well as they do themselves. He said, "The fact is there is no reason whatever why the farmer should not read a paper devoted exclusively to the business side of his vocation as often as he can get it. The oftener the better. If it were possible to have a daily bulletin delivered to him, similar to some of the trade bulletins published on the other side, giving seasonable hints regarding his work, the current prices of his products, and information as to the best available markets, with possibly a single article upon some topic of practical and present interest to him in his business, it would be of the greatest advantage to him imaginable. Of course, the present condition of the mail delivery in rural districts makes this an impossibility, but I venture to predict that the agricultural paper of the future will be published at least twice a week, and that the farmer will require, and the postal authorities be compelled to afford him, similar facilities with regard to mail delivery as those enjoyed by other business men. A weekly paper of this kind is, however, not only a possibility but an absolute necessity, and I am pleased to see that FARMING has been able, not only to appreciate the farmer's position as a business man, but has had the courage to take the initiative in this matter. It supplies just what is wanted, and what every farmer should know is wanted if he has any true conception of his position as a business man. The market reports alone, being accurate and reliable, are extremely valuable, more so even than those supplied by the majority of the daily papers, because they are prepared especially for the farmers' trade."

The majority of our friends will agree with these views, since they have had an opportunity of comparing the value of a farm paper published weekly with one issued less frequently. The fact that FARMING has largely increased its circulation during the past year, and that since September 1st many hundreds of new readers have been added to the list, is sufficient evidence that an up-to-date weekly publication of this kind is not likely to lack appreciation.

Agricultural News and Comments

The smallest horse in the world is said to be a Shetland pony owned by the Marchese Carcano in northern Italy. It is twenty-four inches high, and when standing beside its owner this very diminutive little pony's back is only about an inch above his knee.

The British Board of Agriculture has issued a new sheep-scab order, having as many as thirty clauses for the purpose of the suppression of sheep-scab. Practical flockmen of experience are doubtful about its being very effective. About the only way of eradicating the pest in its entirety is to adopt the plan of the Australian Government and make dipping compulsory whenever needed.

The plan of removing a lot of leaves from trees or grape vines, to admit sun to the fruit and presumably hasten ripening, is a most pernicious one. Leaves are the nourishing organs, the lungs of the trees, and to remove them is a detriment to fruit development. More than that, any branches stripped of leaves this year will have weak, ill-formed buds next year, which means feeble growth.

A writer states that a horse well prepared for the sale ring is half sold. This is more true to-day than ever be-

fore. Several years ago this was not so much the case and horses, particularly trotting-bred horses, would sell quite well regardless of the condition they were in. Now, however, no horse will bring a good price when led into the sale ring unless he shows good care and good manners.

Mr. J. W. Hart has been appointed to succeed Mr. J. A. Ruddick as Superintendent of the Kingston Dairy School. Mr. Hart is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and was on Professor Robertson's staff for a time. For the past two years Mr. Hart has been in charge of the dairy department of Clemson College, South Carolina, and has a wide knowledge of practical dairying, particularly of butter-making.

Cornstalks are likely to come into use for a new purpose. It is now believed that the shive or outside of the cornstalk can be made into a finely surfaced paper. A company has been organized at Rockford, Ill., for this purpose, and the manufacture of paper from this portion of the cornstalk already begun. In addition to paper a splendid cardboard can be made, and also a superior line of fancy products, at a comparatively low cost.

A movement is on foot to organize a creamery at Orillia. Recently Prof. Dean addressed a meeting there in behalf of this movement, in which he pointed out that there was no risk whatever in establishing a creamery providing it was managed in a business-like way, and properly patronized. There was no danger that the creamery business would be overdone. Canada was now supplying only three per cent. of Great Britain's butter, and over sixty per cent. of her cheese.

The Quebec Government is endeavoring to interest the people of that province in road-making. Provision has been made whereby municipalities may avail themselves of road-making implements and instruction on fairly easy terms, but there does not appear to be much enthusiasm in the way of taking advantage of this offer. The people of Quebec will have to be educated along the same lines as the people of Ontario before very much enthusiasm will be evinced in improving the condition of the public highways.

The people in Manitoba are agitating for some effort to be made to develop the interprovincial fruit trade. About eighty per cent. of the fruit consumed by the people in Manitoba and the North-West comes from the United States. The *Winnipeg Free Press* says that the people of Manitoba would far rather buy the superior fruits of Ontario and British Columbia could they secure them in sufficient quantities and in good condition. All that is needed to develop this trade is the placing of Canadian fruits on the Western markets in good condition.

It is a common practice to use a curry comb on a horse but how seldom are such things used on a cow. The keeping of a cow clean is just as essential as the keeping of a horse clean. Carding or currying a cow helps to keep her clean and prevents hair or dirt, which if left would get into the milk. It helps to maintain a condition of good health and in winter time is no bad substitute for exercise. Those who desire to progress in dairying should not forget the large part which thorough and regular cleaning of the cows has in up-to-date dairy work.

The wheat standards selected by the Grain Standard Boards of Manitoba and the Territories are as follows: