

a price as the best Danish, comes to us from across the water more frequently than it did last year. A few years ago it was hard to find Canadian butter quoted in any of the British market exchanges, but now "Canadian butter" is becoming a familiar term in many of the leading market reviews. All this is conclusive evidence that Canadian creamery butter is gaining a foothold, and a pretty strong one at that, in the markets of Great Britain. The development of any line of trade, and especially of the export trade, is very much like the moving of a large body down an incline. When it gets a good start it goes on increasing in momentum of its own accord. So it seems to be with our export butter trade. It took quite a while to give it a good start, but now that it has got a place in the British markets it will go on advertising itself and claiming attention.

The necessary thing to be done, so far as the producer on this side is concerned, is to keep up the quality. No stone should be left unturned in order to do this. There has been a noticeable improvement in the general style of packing during the past year or two which has done much to give Canadian butter a better reception in the British markets. Our butter-makers cannot be too particular about the packing. First impressions are always lasting, and if the first view the British consumer gets of our butter is a favorable one it will not be hard to secure his trade.

Though there are strong indications that large quantities of creamery butter are going into cold storage on this side, the weekly shipments from Montreal continue to show large increases over what they were a year ago. For the week ending July 23rd the shipments were 9,619 packages which, as compared with the same week of 1897, showed an increase of 7,411 packages. The total exports for the season up to July 23rd were 57,263 packages as compared with 33,217 packages for the same period last year, showing an increase of 24,046 packages. But while our shipments go on increasing the shipments from the United States continue to decrease. For the week ending July 23rd the shipments from New York were only 990 packages as against 4,827 packages for the same week last year, and for the whole season up to July 23rd the total exports from New York were 26,492 packages as compared with 82,779 packages for the same period of 1897, or a decrease of 56,287 packages. We wonder if the Americans intend to drop out of the export butter business now that Canadian butter has got such a strong foothold? The comparison is interesting, however, and the decrease in the New York shipments overbalances the increase from Montreal by 32,241 packages, an important factor when summing up the butter trade situation.

The creamery butter market for the past few weeks has been somewhat contradictory so far as English and Canadian values are concerned. The British markets have been somewhat dilapidated of late owing to large supplies and a big home make, while the market here has been firmer and on the upward turn. This discrepancy between the two can only be accounted for by the purchase of large quantities on this side for cold storage, which has tended to enliven the market and to cause considerable activity in the demand for fine creamery. What the result of this will be it is hard to say. Purchasers for cold storage purposes seem to have every confidence in the market of the future, and it is to be hoped that they may pull through without any loss. The producer, at any rate, is reaping the benefit of it just now, and our advice to creamery men would be to sell regularly and leave it for others to hold butter if they wish.

### The Export Egg Trade.

It will be gratifying to those interested to know that our export egg trade so far this season shows considerable improvement over last year for the same period. The total shipments this season from Montreal up to July 23rd were 8,834 cases as compared with 6,299 cases for the same period last year, showing an increase of 2,535 cases, which

is very gratifying indeed. The bulk of the shipments this season have gone to Liverpool, while Glasgow has taken a large share. The total exports of eggs from Canada in 1897 were 5,687,690 dozen, which amounted in value to \$795,180. The total exports for 1896 were 5,003,170 dozen, which were valued at \$700,284. Our export egg trade has therefore shown a healthy growth for the past two or three years, and if the present rate of shipments continues, 1898 will witness a very large expansion of this important trade.

Owing to the wheat harvest being somewhat earlier than usual this year new laid fall eggs have come in much sooner than during other years. This quality of eggs is considered the best of the season, and formerly did not make its appearance till well on in August. Some cases of this quality of eggs have already arrived in Montreal and been sent forward to the Liverpool and Glasgow markets. Orders for these have been filled on the basis of 6s. to 6s. 3d. per 120 cif, which is very satisfactory indeed. In order to make the most of the egg trade after the fowls have the run of the fields farmers should arrange to have the eggs gathered regularly and not kept too long before shipping.

### The Sheep Industry in the West.

That the territory west of the Missouri River is the centre of the sheep industry of this continent is clearly demonstrated by the fact that out of the 41,000,000 sheep estimated to be in the United States, 30,200,000 of that number are estimated to be west of the Missouri. Consequently in discussing the sheep situation special attention must be given to the West. While the industry as a whole was never in a more prosperous condition, the percentage of lambs this season is not as large as usual. A Western exchange accounts for this shortage as follows:

"Owing to the rapid increase in the size of the flocks, fully 90 per cent. of the ewes of last year's lamb crop being retained for the purpose of producing wool, there was a scarcity of bucks, the increase in ewes being fully 50 per cent. greater than the increase in male sheep. This had a serious effect on the lamb crop. In addition to this, the universal cold rains during the lambing season caused a mortality of from 15 to 35 per cent., according to location, so it is doubtful if the per cent. of lambs will equal 60 per cent. of the number of ewes, which, being estimated at 17,000,000, would make the lamb crop about 10,200,000."

Pastures have been exceptionally good in the west this season, and the lambs are larger and fatter than usual. It is expected that fewer sheep will be marketed this year than last. The high price of western wool, fourteen to eighteen cents per pound, and the fancy prices paid for western alfalfa-fed lambs on the eastern markets, makes it more profitable for breeders to grow wool and lamb than mutton. The western breeders are looking for an increased demand this fall in the Eastern States for ewes for breeding purposes. During the depression of the wool and sheep industry in recent years, eastern flocks were permitted to run down to a low point; but it is now believed that eastern farmers are anxious to replenish their herds, and in order to do so the west will have to supply over 500,000 ewes. Because of this expected demand it is believed that a large percentage of the ewes shipped from the west this fall will go out as stockers and not as feeders.

The condition of the western sheep industry as outlined above should prove to be more than a mere item of news for the Canadian sheep breeder. If there is to be a large demand in the Eastern States this fall for breeding ewes, why is it not possible for Canadian breeders to supply a share of this trade? Then our sheep breeders must not lose sight of the fact that the west is the great feeding ground of this continent, and will need good stock to replenish its flocks from time to time. This trade is also worth catering for.

### Quebec No. 1 Hard Wheat.

Experiments have recently been tried in the Province of Quebec to grow spring wheat, and the returns have been very satisfactory indeed.

Wheat grown in that province from Manitoba hard seed, it is claimed, produced a superior quality to that raised in Manitoba. The kernel was fuller and heavier than the seed planted, and there was a better yield than that obtained in Manitoba. Last year there was quite an increase in the amount of spring wheat sown in different parts of the province, and this year the increase is still more marked. Farmers who sold Quebec No. 1 hard last spring at \$1.36 per bushel have doubled their acreage this year with the prospect of reaping a splendid crop.

The Province of Quebec was quite an extensive wheat-growing country forty or fifty years ago. But through the negligence of its farmers in not maintaining the fertility in the land, and in cropping their fields year after year without paying any attention whatever to fertilization, the soil became thoroughly exhausted, and wheat sown upon it could not be properly matured. Now these same soils are being sown to day with Manitoba hard seed, and produce a quality of grain equal to, if not better, than the Manitoba product. This is additional proof of our contention in another column that it may be possible by proper treatment of the soil, and by restoring the lost fertility, to produce in the older provinces a quality of wheat equal to that produced in the North-west. If it is possible to reinvigorate the impoverished soils of Quebec and make them produce No. 1 hard wheat, why is it not possible to do so in the other provinces in the eastern part of the Dominion.

### Canada at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition

Though nothing much has been done in a public way here in regard to a Canadian exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, yet it appears that Canada is making a very creditable exhibition of her products at Omaha. So far, it consists of an agricultural, mineral, forestry and apiary exhibit, and is located in the International Hall. The exhibit covers a space of 5,000 feet of floor, and 6,000 feet of wall, which are covered with the best that Canada can produce. Mr. H. E. Knowlton is in charge of the exhibit, and every effort is made to make visitors thoroughly acquainted with the wonderful resources of Canada. This is done by distributing literature giving a full description of the country, its resources and its people with a view to introducing immigration. As yet there is no fruit in the Canadian exhibit; but later on a creditable display of apples, pears and plums will be made.

No definite effort seems to have been made to make a display of Canadian live stock. We have heard of only one or two breeders who have signified any desire to make a display. It may not be to the advantage of all breeders to go to the expense of making a display; but we are inclined to believe that it would pay the breeders of pure-bred Shorthorns and Herefords to send some of their stock to Omaha. In fact, we have drawn attention to this several times during the past few months, and are still strongly of the opinion that some of Canada's best beef-producing breeds of cattle should be represented at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in October, and, if need be, the Government should help the breeders out by paying a share of the cost. Aside from the beef breeds, there is not much to be gained outside of the prize money for other breeders, excepting it be sheep breeders, who might be able to develop the Western market for their product by exhibiting.

Port Hope, Ont.

DEAR SIR:

Please find enclosed \$1 for FARMING for one year, to be sent to Thos. B. Jones, Millbrook, Ont. I am very much pleased with FARMING, and think it ought to be in every farmer's home.

L. BARCLAY.

Mr. T. G. Irwin, Linden, Ont., writes: "I like the change you have made in FARMING and shall continue to peruse it. It is newsy and up-to-date literature. The market bulletin is very helpful."