

FARMING

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FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

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We have also made special arrangements with the publishers of the *Canadian Magazine* to offer that splendid production for *four new subscribers* for FARMING, at \$1 per annum. This offer is made specially for the readers of FARMING. *Four new subscribers* can be got very easily if you only make the effort.

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yet. We offer splendid inducements to agents to canvass for new subscribers to FARMING. Write for full particulars. Sample copies sent on application.

Live Stock Trade Returns.

The live stock export trade is practically over for this season. The last vessel left Montreal several days ago. With one exception, that of horses, the live stock export trade this year must be considered as a failure as far as profits to the shippers are concerned.

The cattle export trade has been the largest in point of numbers since 1890. The losses, however, have been heavier than they have been for a number of years, and are estimated to be about six dollars per head, or upwards of three quarters of a million dollars. To some extent the engineers' strike and the over supply for the Queen's Jubilee are responsible for this deplorable state of things; but the greatest contributing factor to the low prices was the inferior quality of the goods. The total number of cattle shipped was 119,188, of which 12,171 head were United States cattle shipped through in bond. These figures show an increase of 18,828 head as compared with last year. The average cost per head is placed at \$60, making a total value of \$7,151,280, to which add railway charges, ocean freights, etc., and the grand total expenditure amounts to \$9,514,084, showing an increase of \$1,500,000 as compared with last year.

One regrettable fact in regard to these returns is, that the losses sustained were nearly altogether due to the inferior quality of the goods. The cattle from the United States, sent through Canada, turned out well, and the result was that Canadian cattle, because of their inferior quality, sold throughout the season for from one to two cents per pound below United States cattle. This seems to bear out our contention as stated in our remarks regarding the quarantine regulations, in November 16th issue, that there are no good cattle in the country. The consumer in Great Britain is not going to pay a high price for inferior cattle from Canada when he can get what he wants elsewhere. If we continue to send forward an inferior quality of stuff, shippers will probably continue to experience the same losses, or will have to make the price to the producer so low as to render stock-raising in this country unprofitable. Two things seem to be necessary in order to put our cattle export trade on a good footing. First, we must have a good quality of young stock to begin with, and then we must be prepared to fit these young cattle so that they will meet the needs of the British market. We are inclined to believe that too many of those who feed cattle for the export trade do not know the kind of goods required for the market, or are ignorant of the methods required in putting an animal in proper condition for the export trade. This will also apply to fitting cattle for the dressed beef trade. The quality must be good or both the cattle and dressed beef trades will never be developed as they should be.

The exporters of sheep have suffered just as heavily as cattle exporters this season. But whether the losses sustained are due to the same causes or not, is not definitely known. In May last, prices in England opened at twelve and one-half cents for choice sheep and advanced to thirteen cents, but the market did not remain long at these figures, for in July prices declined to nine cents, and for the balance of the season ranged from ten to eleven cents per pound. The ship-

ments for the season were 61,254 head, showing a decrease of 19,417, as compared with 1896. Since the embargo was passed on Canadian sheep in January, 1896, this industry has fallen off 50 per cent. The exports for the season of 1895 were 136,728 head.

One redeeming feature of the situation is the horse export trade. Though the total shipments of horses have not been as heavy as last year, the prices realized have been such as to make the business profitable. The total number exported for this season is 10,051 head, as compared with 10,088 head last year, and as against 12,755 head for the season of 1895. The bulk of these shipments went to London, with odd shipments to Newcastle and Liverpool, and consisted chiefly of Canadian stock. The last shipment for 1897 left Montreal a few days ago, but shippers will continue to ship during the winter by way of Portland.

The prices realized during the past season for good suitable horses ranged from £20 to £36 per head. Stock that would command these prices would cost from \$60 to \$110 each in the country. Some sales of fancy driving, carriage, and thoroughbred animals were made in the London market at prices ranging from £80 to £150 each. The cost of handling horses, from point of shipment in the country to their destination, is \$35 per head, which includes ocean and railway freight, feed, and insurance.

Good horses for export have made good money all through the season, but common stock has not. Horse-breeders should make a particular note of this fact and breed only the very best. With horses, as with everything else that we export to Great Britain, the quality must be right or our trade cannot be developed.

Corn-fed Bacon in Denmark.

Of late years the Danes have imported largely of corn, chiefly from the United States. In 1896 the total number of bushels exported was 6,876,000, and the number this year will not prove less. A large share of this corn is used for feeding purposes, and the following quotations from one of Denmark's leading papers will show with what alarm this is viewed by those interested in the Danish bacon trade. These quotations are taken from a translation of the original by J. H. Monrad of Illinois, in the *Breeders' Gazette*:

"But—as with all other feed stuffs—the corn may be misused so that its advantage becomes a delusion and a snare. In feeding corn it is often neglected to balance the ration by adding the needed quantity of nitrogenous matter in order to get the most economic result as to power, flesh or milk. The most dangerous misuse is absolutely in feeding hogs when it is used so as to reduce if not altogether spoil the quality of the pork. We run the risk of spoiling or, at least, reducing our bacon exports to England."

The following letter from an English agent to the manager of a Danish co-operative bacon factory shows that Canadian bacon is growing in favor in England, owing to the excessive use of corn in Denmark:

"There is even now a tendency to prefer Canadian bacon owing to the excessive use of corn in Denmark, and the same prices are now paid for the former. It is difficult in the long run to fool the English buyer, and still more difficult to appease him when once fooled. It is a grievous mistake of the Danish farmers if they recklessly