

the following item to wit:—The *Orillia Packet* says two Barrie men, through the representations of land brokers, were induced to purchase a large quantity of land within 5 miles of Winnipeg, without having seen the property. It now appears that the land is worthless, being an "irrecoverable swamp." As a matter of fact the land speculation in the North-West is more on a par with the South Sea Bubbles and Tulipomanias of the past than anything seen in this present century.

British farmers are not likely to want for information as to the producing capabilities of the modern agricultural Eldorado—40 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of barley, and 70 bushels of oats to the acre—though it seems strange that these raw materials of life should be so costly under such circumstances. At Fort Saskatchewan, a Capt. Gagnon assured the special correspondent of the *Globe* (Toronto)—the *Times* of Canada—that in that vicinity an average of 50 bushels per acre of barley and 60 to 70 bushels of oats was not uncommon; 25 to 30 bushels of wheat. Yet two days previously, at Edmonton, 51 miles distant, he—the "special"—was charged 2 dol. (8s.) per bushel "for barley that was nearly half chaff;" this for his ponies. Oats were "hard to get hold of at 6½c. per lb." Flour was 15c. per lb., or 36 dol. per barrel of 200 lbs.—over £10. Ten pounds sterling per English sack this latter. Bad roads and no railroads will hardly explain these prices for that which can be raised so plentifully on the spot. But more on this head in future. English farmers perusing this must not feel too envious of their Edmonton brethren; blacksmiths charged 1 dol. (4s.) for each foot for shoeing horses, and everything else was in proportion. This was in October, 1881.

To continue, as a very good way in hiring a farm is, if possible, to get at what it will do in a bad season—the good seasons will always take care of themselves.—I think, therefore, as so much has been or is being said about what can be grown in the great North-West, a glance at the reverse of the picture, at what cannot to advantage be grown or done there, may prove useful.

1. Sheep cannot be "grown," except in very small patches, as read the following from the pen of Mr. Wilson, the special correspondent before referred to, who accompanied the Marquis of Lorne in that capacity when he visited the North-West last summer and "fall." Mr. Pratt, who has had considerable experience in conducting a large farm near Westbourne, on the White Mud River, about 20 miles from Portage La Prairie, had every possible appliance for caring for the land, keeping the sheep in

a snug, warm pen. In spite of all this, however, the lambs died off in great numbers, on account of the cold season at which they were dropped, and he found that the winters were so long that it was impossible to have the lambs come late enough to escape the severe cold.

It is evident that a frost from 30° to 70°, and even from 80° to 90°, must give such a chill to the advent of all young stock that much greater watchfulness will be required than is common in temperate climes. People accustomed to attend stock will understand all this. To my mind the same difficulties will attend sows in pigging as ewes in lambing during winter.—*E. H. Dalton in London Agricultural Gazette.*

THE MATTER OF PURE MILK.

A letter from the American Consul-General at Frankfort relates how the difficulty of getting pure milk is dealt with in that city. A police inspection had already been established, the lactometer being also in common family use. Out of 309 analyses made in 1880 in Mannheim 245 showed impurity, and 650 reichmarks were collected in a single month as fines, at the rate of 1 mark for each 1 per cent. of water added. But as a means of coping with not only this difficulty, but with unevenness of quality, injury from carrying, dirt and disease in the animals, the Franckfurter Milchkind Anstalt was established four years ago, largely by the medical profession. It is managed by a commission of three physicians, one veterinary surgeon, and one chemist. The cows kept are of two breeds only, carefully selected; they are kept constantly in stalls, fed with care and perfect uniformity on dry food, with every attention given to ventilation and cleanliness. To insure uniformity of quality and dilute the power for harm of a single animal which might possibly become unhealthy, the milk of every ten different animals is poured in together. The milk for delivery is put into quart bottles, stopped with wax, and sealed with the Anstalt seal. So strictly is cleanliness required that the empty bottles are washed twice a week in a weak solution of soda, and the corks (which are only used a short time) are boiled in a soda solution after each use. Spring waggons, with apertures for ventilation, are used for delivery. In hot weather they are covered with cocoa mats, and no waggon must take out more than can be delivered in three and a half hours. The chemist tests one bottle daily. The Anstalt milk retails at 50 pfennigs (about 12 c.) per quart, and it is claimed to have actually diminished the number of nurses employed in Frankfort, and to have produced surprisingly good results

otherwise. These are so noticeable, that a benevolent movement has been started to provide the Anstalt milk at half price for all infants supported by artificial nourishment during the first year of their existence. The Frankfort plan is thus simply a milk-producing concern on a large and intelligent scale, and it is obviously useless to discover and condemn poor milk without providing better. Mortality among human sucklings, greatest where poverty and ignorance are greatest, might doubtless be mitigated by a plan of this sort, and it would be of commercial value as well.—*Utica Weekly Herald.*

WEST FARNHAM, (CANADA).

The bounty of \$70,000 offered by the Canadian government for the establishing of a beet-sugar factory in a locality selected by one of its officials, is to be paid to West Farnham factory. We are informed that the House of Parliament has voted that \$25,000 in cash be paid this year. In other words, the Canadian government has signified its intention of making the West Farnham factory a success. In order to increase its facilities, the company has issued a "preference stock" to the amount of \$150,000.

The prospects for this year are very bright. Up to the time of writing, about 1,000 acres have been contracted for, 500 acres of which are taken by four syndicates: one contracts for 200 acres, two for 100 acres each and two 50 acres each. The balance of the contracts is with farmers on areas of one-half to five acres. If the company had intended working its full capacity, 250 tons a day, there would not have been the slightest difficulty in obtaining the desired quantity of roots. But it was, for the present, considered advisable to wait for the third campaign before attempting the handling of some 30,000 tons of roots. No effort will be made by the company this year to grow beets. It is considered advisable, as far as possible, to devote its entire time to working up the roots, which, in itself, is an undertaking requiring every possible attention. It must be said, however, that in some few years hence the conditions will be changed, and the objections now justly offered will no longer prevail.

The Canadian government has offered for two years a bonus of seventy-five cents per ton on beets raised by the company. The contract with the farmer specifies that \$5 a ton of 2,000 pounds be paid for roots delivered at the factory, or \$4.50 F. O. B. cars, when the contracts are small, say from one to five acres; but to syndicates who contract to raise from fifty acres and upwards, \$5 50 delivered at factory, or \$5 F. O. B. cars. Our readers will readily understand that by the above arrangement the neighboring farmers are induced to grow roots, as