

NO MORE C. P. R. FREE SIRES.

E. E. G., Russell, Man.:—"Having seen in the columns of your valuable paper that the C. P. R. has in the past made a practice of furnishing the farmers of Manitoba with pure-bred sires, I would like to know if they still continue the practice, and if so, how would a person go about getting an animal? Wishing the FARMER'S ADVOCATE every success."

[The above question was submitted to Mr. F. T. Griffin, Land Commissioner of the C. P. R., who answers as follows: "I understand that it is not the intention of the Company to distribute any thoroughbred stock next season."]

TREES FOR LIGHT SANDY SOIL.

W. S., Stockton, Man.:—"I wish to plant out a bluff of trees, interspersed with shrubs, on light sandy land. Will you kindly suggest some suitable varieties of trees and shrubs for this purpose, and also state whether I should replace the light soil with black loam or use manure to enrich the land; also, what tree would you recommend to sow on this class of soil?"

[The following trees do well on sandy soil if the land is well cultivated: Russian poplar, Siberian poplar, common native poplar, spruce, and ash-leaved maple. The following shrubs can be planted in among the trees: Artemesia (old man), spiraea, lilacs, and caraganas. If the soil is very light, a little black loam should be mixed with it; if only fairly light, a good coat of thoroughly-rotted manure spread all over the land should be sufficient; but the principal dependence should be in cultivating. Not a weed or blade of grass should be allowed to rob the trees of moisture. Ash-leaved maple seed is the only one that should be sown on this class of soil.

S. A. BEDFORD.

Brandon Exp. Farm.]

RIGHTS OF HIRED MAN.

SUBSCRIBER, Deloraine, Man.:—"Will you please inform me through your paper if a man hired to a farmer by the year is supposed to be on the farm every Sunday to do the chores. If he goes to church in the afternoon and does not get back till dark, can he keep back his wages for lost time?"

"2. If a team of horses runs away and hurts a man in my employ, am I supposed to pay him his wages while he is not able to work?"

"3. How many holidays is a man supposed to have, hired by the year?"

[When a man is hired by a farmer as an ordinary laborer, he is supposed to do the customary work on a farm, which will include the chores on Sunday, and if he wishes to have Sunday off, he should stipulate for that when making the agreement.

2. When an employee has a temporary illness, under a permanent contract, the master is liable for the wages, but not where he is engaged by the day or week.

3. A man hired on a farm is not legally entitled to holidays.]

MARKETS.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following table shows current and comparative live stock prices:

	Extreme prices now.	Top Prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1899	1898
Beef cattle.				
1500 lbs. up.	\$5.20 to 6.00	\$5.75	\$6.95	\$5.75
1350 to 1500 lbs.	5.00 to 6.00	5.85	6.85	5.80
1200 to 1350 lbs.	4.60 to 5.90	5.80	6.55	5.70
1050 to 1200 lbs.	4.40 to 5.80	5.75	6.40	5.60
900 to 1050 lbs.	4.35 to 5.60	5.55	6.25	5.50
Fed Westerns.	4.75 to 5.65	5.70	6.95	5.65
Stillers.	5.10 to 5.50	5.30	5.55	5.00
Stockers and feeders.	2.50 to 4.75	4.75	4.75	4.70
Hogs.				
Mixed.	5.00 to 5.35	5.70	4.75	3.92
Heavy.	4.85 to 5.42	5.62	4.75	3.92
Light.	5.10 to 5.45	5.70	4.80	3.92
Pigs.	3.50 to 5.15	5.25	4.75	3.75
Sheep.				
Natives.	2.50 to 4.15	4.25	4.10	5.00
Western.	3.00 to 4.25	4.25	4.00	4.60
Yearlings.	4.00 to 4.25	4.25	4.10	4.15
Native lambs.	3.50 to 3.40	5.75	5.35	6.35
Western lambs.	4.00 to 5.10	5.25	5.15	5.60
Feeding sheep.	3.25 to 4.00	4.00	3.80	4.30
Feeding lambs.	4.40 to 4.75	4.70		

A well-known feeder from Cass County, Iowa, had in four cars of good heavy cattle. He says the cost of feeding cattle and corn are too high for feeders. Old corn 30c. to 31c., and new corn starting at about 25c.

Another Chicago man, back from a trip to one of the best feeding regions of Iowa, says he was surprised to see the number of good heavy cattle that were fed for a year, which feeders feel will not pay out at present prices.

The big cattle feeders are holding on to some of their big droves of cattle, that ordinarily would have been marketed several months ago. These cattle are getting heavier every day, of course. When the complaint of buyers is that many of the best cattle are already too heavy, with corn sure to be dearer, it looks as if buyers ought not to be too severe upon owners of big cattle, or next year they will be looking in vain for the kinds they now say are "too heavy."

The bulk of the store cattle are selling 25c. to 40c. lower than a year ago, though the top price for good feeders is not much different.

Hog prices are not to be complained of. The packing season is well on, and instead of packers being able to make the usual breach in prices, they find themselves confronted with moderate supplies of good hogs, a big demand from all quarters, with diminishing instead of accumulating stocks of provisions, and what looks like another "corner" in mess pork.

Sheepmen are confronted with the high-feed problem, and are wondering whether they will be repaid for putting so much money into making mutton. The demand for feeding sheep and lambs is so strong as to leave a very small margin between and prices for such stock and the ripe, heavy sheep and lambs. For instance, some feeders recently offered \$1.50 for 1,500 Utah lambs, that sold to slaughterers in the Chicago market at \$1.75. The general live-stock situation looks fairly good, but it will take some nerve to do business this winter.

Toronto Markets.

The falling off of the supply of cattle fit for export is very marked in the monthly returns. There is no doubt that this class of cattle will have to be better fed and of better quality to make the trade remunerative. There has been more money lost in the export cattle business than any other that we know of; more men gone under than we care to recount. Mr. Wm. Leback has paid the penalty of ruined health and depleted fortune. A more shrewd buyer and better judge of export cattle does not attend this market. His failure is announced to the amount of over \$100,000, whereas he could have left off business two years ago with twice the amount in hand cash.

Export Cattle.—One hundred and seventy U. S. cattle were unloaded, rested and fed at the market, a very choice lot of cattle. Such a number is never seen on this market Canadian-bred. We only wish that our farmers would take the same pains to breed up their cattle as they have done in the past few years to improve their hogs. As one of the men said on looking over our pens: "My word, what a level lot of hogs you do get. They must be culled before they reach this market." He was surprised when we informed him that they were our general run. Owing to the lack of offers, export cattle fell off 20 cents per cwt. since our last report. They are now quoted, for choice, at \$1.30 to \$1.50 per cwt. Light export cattle sold at \$1.25 to \$1.40 per cwt. Two loads of export cattle have been on offer two weeks, and have gradually come down from \$5.10 per cwt. to the present price, \$4.30 per cwt. Mr. McLaughlin sold 8 export, 1,241 lbs. each, at \$4.25 per cwt. Mr. A. Ironsides sold three loads of Manitoba cattle, 1,175 lbs. average, at \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt. Mr. A. M. Buck bought one load of exporters, 1,250 lbs. average, at \$4.50 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Loads of good butchers' cattle sold readily. Those equal in quality to export, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., sold at \$1.40 to \$1.60 per cwt. Good butchers' cattle sold at \$1.40 to \$1.25 per cwt.; medium butchers' mixed steers, cows and heifers, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. Some common butchers' cattle sold down to \$3 per cwt. Very poor rough cows, scrub bulls, sold down to \$2.50 and \$2.75 per cwt. Mr. Alex. Leback bought 25 butchers' cattle at \$3.50 to \$4 per cwt.; Mr. Crawford, two loads of butchers' cattle, 1,000 lbs. average, at \$4.25 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls sold at \$4.12 to \$4.25 per cwt.; light export bulls at \$3.12 to \$3.35. Messrs. Dunn Bros. bought 11 feeding bulls, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs. average, at \$3 per cwt. Mr. Halligan bought five loads of feeding bulls at \$2.50 to \$3.25 per cwt., average 1,100 lbs. each.

Feeders.—Good heavy feeders, extra quality, for feeding purposes, in demand. Those weighing 1,100 to 1,200 lbs. each sold well, at from \$3.60 to \$3.75 per cwt. Light feeders, steers weighing from 700 to 900 lbs., sold at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt. Mr. Hunnissett bought three feeding bulls at from \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt., average 1,140 to 1,250 lbs. each.

Stockers.—Yearling steers, 500 to 600 lbs. average, suitable for Buffalo, sold at from \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. White and black heifer steers and mixed colors sold at from \$2 to \$2.25 per cwt. Mr. Chas. Zeagman bought 20 stockers, 600 to 825 lbs. each, at \$2.60 per cwt. Mr. J. A. Skelding sold one load of mixed colors, 700 lbs. average weight, at \$2.75 per cwt.

Sheep.—The run of sheep heavy, and demand not good. Prices were easier, at from \$3 to \$3.40 for ewes, and from \$2.50 to \$2.60 per cwt. for bucks.

Lambs.—Spring lambs were easier, at from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per head; per bunch at \$3.75 to \$4 per cwt.

Calves.—Good veals wanted. Very few on offer, at from \$3 to \$5 per head.

Milk Cows.—A steady demand for choice milkers and springers, only 12 on offer; top price \$50 per head, at from \$30 to \$45 each.

Hogs.—Deliveries very light; 781 on offer; all sold at firm prices. Best select bacon hogs, singlers, not less than 100 lbs., not more than 200 lbs., under watered off ears, at \$6.25 per cwt. There are indications that competition amongst the packers will force the price up again. We look for \$6.50 next week, and a further advance next. In fact, should not be surprised to see the price go again as high as seven cents. Thick fats sold at \$5.50. Unculled car lots sold at \$6 to \$6.20 per cwt. We heard of one lot of hogs fetching \$6.40 per cwt., but not confirmed. It was reported on the market that London and Ingersoll were paying \$6.40 for choice, but it could not be confirmed by telegraph. We advise all holders to sell at once.

	Comparative prices to-day.		Same date	
	Oct. 11, 1900.	2 weeks ago.	Oct. 11, 1899.	last year.
Export cattle	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$5.10
Butchers' cattle	4.10	4.37	4.37	4.35
Bulls	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.40
Stockers	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.40
Feeders	3.80	4.00	4.00	4.00
Sheep	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.50
Hogs	6.40	6.25	6.25	4.37
Lambs, each	2.50	3.50	3.50	3.80
Milk cows, each	50.00	50.00	50.00	45.00

Dressed Hogs.—Prices for dressed hogs firmer, deliveries about 500; sold at \$8.25 to \$8.50 per cwt. for choice, bright stock. This is an advance of 25c. per cwt. since my last report, and prospects good.

St. Lawrence Market.—Receipts of farm produce were larger; 6,000 bushels of grain, and large quantities of fruit, vegetables, etc.

Wheat.—One thousand five hundred bushels of wheat sold at 69c. to 69½c. per bushel. Two hundred bushels of red sold at 69c. per bushel. One thousand bushels of goose wheat sold at 69½c. per bushel.

Barley.—One thousand bushels of barley sold at 49c. to 45c. per bushel.

Oats.—Two hundred bushels of oats sold at 28c. to 29c. per bushel.

Rye.—Three hundred bushels of rye sold at 53c. to 54½c. per bushel.

Hay.—About 15 loads each market day, sold at \$11 to \$13.50 per ton.

Straw.—One load sold at \$11.50 per ton.

Eggs.—Deliveries large, prices a little easier, at 20c. to 26c. per lb. for choice creamery.

Poultry.—Choice new-laid eggs are scarce. Prices advanced, at 17c. to 18c. per dozen, and at 22c. to 23c. per dozen from farmers.

Meat.—There is always a good demand for choice, well-fed poultry. The Canadian Produce Co. have removed to larger premises on Front street, and are now prepared to take all on offer for export. Dr. Boulton is the head of the firm, and devoting all his time and energy to the export trade, as well as fattening by the crumpling process. Messrs. Gunn & Harris will again ship turkeys for the Christmas trade in the Old Country. They are asking for 25,000 choice young stock, to be delivered the first week in November, at their abattoir at the cattle market. Chickens, per pair, 60c.; spring chickens, per pair, 80c.; turkeys, per lb., 14c.; ducks, per pair, \$1; geese, per lb., 9c.

Skins.—Alske, choice, per bushel, \$8; alske, good, No. 2, \$7.25; red clover, \$6.25; hides, No. 1, per lb., 7½c.; hides, No. 1, green, 8c.; hides, No. 2, green, 7c.; hides, cured, 7½c.; calf-skins, 8c.; lamb-skins, each, 70c.; wool, fleece, 16c.; wool, unwashed, 10c.; wool, pulled, 18c.; wool, extra, 21c.

South American Dressed Meat Landed in England in Poor Condition.

Since writing the item appearing in the Stock department of last issue, referring to the shipment of dressed beef from Argentina to England, word has come that this consignment arrived at Liverpool in a somewhat damaged condition, a portion of it being unfit for food.

It was kept in chambers in which the air was sterilized at a temperature about twenty degrees above freezing point. It would appear that on the voyage the shipment suffered from a defect in the application of the system, which, however, the patentee is hopeful of remedying before the next attempt is made.

Apple Market Report.

Messrs. Simons, Shuttleworth & Co., Liverpool, cable to-day's (Oct. 12th) apple market as follows: "Baldwins, Golden Russets, and Spies, 14s. 6d. to 17s.; Greenings and Ribstones, 14s. to 16s.; 20-oz. Pippins, 17s. to 19s.; Snows and Kings, 18s. 6d. to 21s.; Cranberry Pippins, 18s. to 20s.; Seeks, Canada Reds, Phoenix, 13s. 6d. to 15s. Only fancy, sound fruit made top prices; lower grades and conditions 1s. to 3s. less than lowest. Market opened weak, but closed stronger." Messrs. Garcia, Jacobs & Co., London, cable their apple market: "Baldwins, 13s. to 15s.; Kings, 17s. to 19s. Market is active, and prices firm." High prices will no doubt restrict consumption, and we may see a break in prices before the end of October, although the Hallowe'en demand will probably prevent its being serious.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Treatment of Clover or Other Sod Land in the Fall for Grain or Corn Crop, Etc.

As the work of taking off the crops of grain, etc., has been finished, and as in the majority of cases the harvest has been a bountiful one, the next thing to do is to prepare for a continuation of our successes next year also. To accomplish this and obtain the best results, most of us will have to break up some of our clover or other sod fields, and the question naturally comes to our mind, what is the best treatment of a sod field for a grain crop next season? My way of treating it would be to thoroughly manure it first, spreading the manure as evenly as possible, in the latter part of September or early in October, and then plow it, laying each sod squarely on its back as may be. Then, as soon as I am through with my plowing, I would thoroughly harrow it. This treatment excludes the air, and in a great measure the water also, and while the sod rots nicely, it does not become sour. In the spring I would re-plow it, using a gang plow, set very shallow for grain, but for corn or other hoed crops I would simply thoroughly cultivate it.

If stubble land is tolerably clear of weeds, and we intend to grow grain on it next season, I would adopt the same measures that I would with clover sod; but if it was bad with weeds, I would disk harrow it first, as soon as the harvest was off, and again as soon as the weeds began to grow, allowing it to lie until spring, when I would plow it in the ordinary way. If the stubble land intended for next year's corn or other hoed crop is dirty with weeds, my first effort must be to destroy these as effectively as may be, and to accomplish this I would adopt the following measures: First, gang plow it, not more than four inches deep, having first put on all the manure I could afford. Then I would thoroughly harrow it and sow to fall rye. As soon as the rye was well rooted I would turn my cattle onto it and pasture it until the snow came and covered it. Thus, while it affords pasture, the cattle are top-dressing it with another coat of manure. In the spring, as early as convenient, I would turn the heavy mat of rye sod under, plowing about six inches deep. This treatment will turn up and thoroughly mix the manure first plowed under in the fall, which will become immediately available for the young plants, while the heavy mat of rye turned under will ferment and act as artificial heat in the early, cool nights and days for the roots of the growing crop while it is decaying. In my opinion, this treatment is much more profitable than the sowing of millet, buckwheat, etc., except in the case of very poor, light land, and no means of fertilizing it. Then, I believe it would pay to gang plow it, and after harrowing thoroughly, sow to rape and pasture a sufficient number of sheep on it to keep it eaten down. By this process he gets feed for his sheep which they will relish, and their droppings enrich the land in a most effectual manner.

There is one mistake made by many farmers to which I would like to call your readers attention. It is the pasturing of stock on fields of clover in this year's seeding. This should never be done. In the first place, the tramping of cattle sodden and sours the land, making it unhealthy for the young clover plants. It also punctures the land, leaving holes for the water to lie in in the late fall, which freezes and causes the death of the plants all around them. In the second place, the plants need all the shelter which their first year's growth will afford to protect them in the winter. If the field is pastured and the clover is eaten down close instead of being left to form a mulch for the tender young plants and a protection from the cold, the farmer who practices this will be surprised next season with the poor crop of clover he has. As a matter of fact, it would pay much better to add mulch in the form of manure than to take away its natural protection.

I have been asked my opinion re harrowing, top-dressing and the sowing of clover and other seeds in old worn-out pastures late in the fall. I would say that I believe it would be a waste of time and material to do this in the fall. The proper time to do this is in the early days of September, when the clover seed is ripe and Dame Nature goes forth to sow. I never missed improving an old pasture by thoroughly harrowing in the early part of September, sowing broadcast and mulching with fine manure, and harrowing to cover seed with a green top of a tree weighted with a small log. Then, the first shower which comes, the seed sprouts and takes root, and there is sufficient warm weather left to give it a chance to grow and get well rooted before the bleak, late-fall cold days come.

SAM PETERS.

Perth Co., Ont.