

# FARMING

VOL. XV.

NOVEMBER 2ND, 1897.

No. 9.

## FARMING

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

Published every Tuesday by

THE BRVANT PRESS,

20 BAY STREET . . . TORONTO, CANADA.

Subscriptions in Canada and the United States, \$1.00 per year, in advance, six months 50 cents, three months 25 cents. In all countries in the Postal Union, \$1.50 a year in advance.

The date opposite the name on the Address Label indicates the time to which a subscription is paid, and the changing of the date is sufficient acknowledgment of the payment of a subscription. When this change is not made promptly notify us. In ordering change of address, be sure to give the old address as well as the new.

FARMING will be sent to all subscribers until a notice by post card or letter to discontinue is received and all arrears are paid up. Returning a paper is not a notice to discontinue. All arrears must be paid up before a name can be taken from our list. All remittances should be made by P.O. money order, express money order, or registered letter. Sending money in an unregistered letter is unsafe, and will be at the sender's risk.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

All communications should be addressed to "FARMING, 20 Bay Street, Toronto, Canada."

Representative for Great Britain and Ireland, W. W. CHAPMAN, Fitzalan House, Arundel St., Strand, LONDON, ENG.

## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

### Two Reasons Why Every Farmer Should Take "Farming."

(1) It is the only weekly agricultural paper published in Canada, and is thoroughly up-to-date in every respect.

(2) It contains reliable and accurate information regarding the markets each week, and its pages are replete with practical information on every phase of farm work. Every question affecting the interests of the agriculturist is discussed in its columns. FARMING is the farmer's guide and the stockman's friend.

To all new subscribers FARMING will be sent from now till the end of 1898 for \$1. Remit at once and get the full benefit of this offer. We will advance the subscription of any of our present subscribers six months for one new yearly subscriber to FARMING, and for two new yearly subscribers sent in we will advance it *one year*. Is this not an excellent plan of paying for your subscription? Try it and we are sure that you will succeed in getting new subscribers. Everybody wants FARMING and you have only to mention it to your neighbors in order to get them to subscribe.

### Tuberculosis.

During the past week Colonel D. McCrae has been addressing a series of farmers' meetings throughout the province on the subject of cattle tuberculosis. Practical demonstrations are given at these meetings, showing the application of the tuberculin test. Mr. McCrae reports a good attendance, and that farmers are taking the keenest interest in the subject. In several instances, when the symptoms of the disease have been fully explained, owners of cattle have stated that the disease was prevalent in their herds. This goes to show that tuberculosis may be present in many herds of cattle and the owners entirely ignorant of it. If such is the case the sooner our farmers and cattlemen are made thoroughly acquainted with the nature and tests for detecting the disease and the remedies for it the better. The good work the Government is doing in disseminating information among our farmers in regard to this important subject cannot be too highly commended. Owners of cattle should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the symptoms indicating the disease, so as to be able to detect cases in their own herds.

### The Great Stock Farm of the World.

In the recent "Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry," published by the United States Department of Agriculture, England is complementarily referred to as "the great stock farm of the world." English agriculturists are rightly enough pleased with this compliment; for, although the phrase expresses no more than the just truth, it is pleasant to have it expressed by a high authority in a country which has not always been too friendly to England. Some English journalists, however, are endeavoring to make out of the phrase a defense for a state of affairs which they wish to see continued, but which thoughtful persons think has continued long enough already. These journalists say that if English agriculture has won for the country the proud distinction of being "the great stock farm of the world," and has done so "without a penny of public money being spent" in government aid and direction for its development, therefore, the same policy should be continued, and no public money should be asked for now, or be spent now, in "the development of agriculture. This is the position taken by some journalists, though, not, of course, by all. This position, however, can be held only by those who are wholly blind to the conditions upon which modern international trade and commerce can be carried on. England owes its pre-eminence as a great stock-breeding country, among other things, to two principal contributing causes. The first cause is the fact that a great part of the development of live-stock breeding in England has been carried on by a class of farmers whose likes are to be found nowhere else in the world. Men with money and social distinction, who are willing to spend their money for the sake of maintaining their social distinction, and who know very well that there is no policy or line of conduct which will gain for them more credit with the rank and file of the English people than to live in country homes, and be the successful patrons of rural pursuits. To glance over an English stock show prize list, or to look through the advertising columns of an English live-stock paper, is sufficient to establish the fact that the great majority of the live-stock breeders of England, who are in the top rank, are *men of money and means*, who follow farming not as a business, but as a *fad*, an honorable and worthy fad though it be. The *ordinary* English farmer is like his mate anywhere else in the world—as slow to improve, as slow to give up grain growing and become a specialist in the raising of pure bred live stock, as any Canadian or United States farmer is. The second cause that has contributed to England's pre-eminence in the production of live stock is the fact that the English, from their natural fondness of live stock (for which let all honor be given them) were the first in the live-stock field. For years and years they had it all their own way. This is no longer so. Every progressive civilized country in the world is rapidly developing improved methods of live-stock breeding. England has come to Canada for some of her best short-horn blood and may do so again. Scotland is coming to the United States, even to-day, for better types of Clydesdales than she is able to find at home. The "old country" has no longer the distinction of being the "only stock farm in the world," though she still may rightfully claim to be the "great stock farm of the world."

The oft-repeated statements in the English public papers as to the sad condition of British agriculture, no less than the official findings of the British Agricultural Commission, emphatically prove that British agriculture, *as a whole*, needs just the sort

of government supervision and direction which is pushing forward the agriculture of Canada, of the United States, of Denmark, of Sweden, of Norway, of Australia, and of New Zealand. As the London *Live Stock Journal* remarks: "The rank and file of British horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, yet leave much to be desired in respect of quality, and there is no doubt great room for improvement in them." This is the plain truth of the case. Improvement is as absolutely necessary in England as it is in every other country in the world. In fact, it is needed in every country. And that country that recognizes the need of improvement soonest, and hustles hardest to effect it, will win in the race, the blind and the laggard will be left behind.

### Italy's Improvement in Horse-Breeding.

Italy with all its errors has a level head in some matters. It is bound to improve the quality of its live-stock, especially its horses. The Government maintains seven stallion depots, in which, last year, there were 557 stallions. These stallions, in the breeding season, were distributed over 378 stations, and served at these stations during the year, 20,797 mares. Besides the stallions of the Government depots, others are used; but these "outside stallions" must be "approved" or "authorized" before they can serve. They have to pass an examination before the "horse commission" of the district in which they are wanted to stand, and if they fail to pass the examination, they are not allowed to be used for stud purposes. During 1896 816 "outside" stallions were submitted for examination, and of these, 683 were passed. These 683 authorized "outside stallions" served 18,022 mares, making, with the 20,797 above mentioned, a total of 38,819 mares served during the year, all by approved stallions. This method of rapid improvement is not according to old-fashioned notions, but had the old-fashioned notions remained in force in Italy, her improvement in horse-breeding in a century would not be as much as she will now effect in five years.

### Canadian Horse-Breeding.

The government returns show that the number of unbroken horses in Canada for 1897 is 106,809, as against 123,482 for 1896, and 151,867 for 1895, or a reduction of nearly 17,000 as compared with 1896, and of 45,000 as compared with 1895. This is evidence how much the breeding of horses has fallen off. The number of breeding mares however, is put down at 69,940 for 1897, as against 66,883 for 1896, an increase of 3,000, which is some comfort. But unless we breed the horses that buyers want we cannot expect our horse breeding operations to prosper. Our principal market for horses is England, and an English buyer rarely finds on this continent the sort of horse he needs. The Americans are realizing this fact, and are waking up to its importance. Last year, out of the millions of horses raised by the United States, only 25,126 were exported, and only 13,984 the year before. This state of things the Americans are determining to improve, the Government Department of Agriculture are instructing the people everywhere what sort of horses are needed for export, and are determined that the supply shall be forthcoming. In their own language "America is competing with the world for the English trade, and in order to hold a share of it we must produce what the English want." This is precisely how the case stands with Canada also.