

The Live Stock Industry of Canada.

THE COLONIST received last month too late for mention or publication the following circular letter from the Hon. John Carling, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, calling attention to the matter contained in two recently issued bulletins of the Experimental Farm, dealing with the fattening of live stock. —

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OTTAWA, Nov. 21st, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—

I am so deeply impressed with the importance of the advantages which would accrue to the farming interests of Canada, from a more extensive and general feeding of the coarse grains to live stock on the farms on which they are grown, that I desire to call your attention to the subject matter of two bulletins which have been issued recently from the Central Experimental farm, Ottawa, and of which I enclose copies.

The first of these bulletins deals with experiments in the feeding of swine, and shows how the ordinary cereals, which can be produced successfully in this country, can be fed to swine with profit. By the consumption on the farms of coarse grains, the elements of fertility, which are so essential to the growth of good crops, are left on the farms in the form of manure. The permanent success of agriculture in this country must depend on the maintenance of the fertility of the soil. A continuous and general feeding of grains, tends to deplete the soil of the strength and substances which it requires for the bearing of large crops of good quality. Our climate and the adaptation of our soil for producing feed for swine and cattle, give us exceptional advantages in the excellent health which is enjoyed by the domestic animals on our farms, and by their freedom from diseases of a serious nature. The attention of the merchants in Europe, who buy large quantities of food for the millions of people in the industrial centres there, has been directed to Canada as a country from which the animal products are of a particularly excellent quality. Among the cheese importations into the British markets ours has now the highest reputation. Our creamery butter is fast gaining a good hold on the market, and when larger quantities of it are made during the winter months and shipped when the risk of injury from transportation is reduced to a minimum, it bids fair to win a place which will be relatively as high as that which is now held by Canadian cheese.

The superior excellence of the swine products which are sent from Canada is shown by the current market reports in Great Britain; and yet though Canadian bacon and hams will bring in that market from one to two cents per pound more than those from the United States, during the last three years the United States have, on an average, exported to the United Kingdom 44 million pounds, while Canada has not sent more than 6 million pounds. Again while the United States have, during the same period, sent about 20 million pounds of pork every year to the United Kingdom, Canada has only sent about 7,000 pounds. In fact also the United States send over 100 million pounds annually, while Canada does not send more than 67,000 pounds. It is within the easy reach of our farmers to capture a much larger share of this market, with direct advantage to their pockets, as well as to the fertility of their fields, through the feeding of swine on barley, wheat or other grains which may have been slightly damaged, in exceptional circumstances, by frost or unfavorable weather. Farmers would thus find a profitable outlet for what have hitherto been unsaleable products, at remunerative prices. The experiments which have been tried at the Dominion Experimental Farm show that from 43 to 73 cents per bushel, may be realized for frozen wheat when fed to swine, when they bring five cents per pound live weight.

To meet the requirements of foreign markets, it seems desirable that the farmers should sell their swine alive, in order that they may be slaughtered, dressed and cured in such a uniform manner as to meet the preferences of those foreign customers who are willing and able to pay the highest price per pound for the products.

I desire also to call attention to the information which has been presented to the farmers in the pages of bulletin No. 16, giving results from experiments in the feeding of steers. The economy of growing fodder-corn for ensilage or for feeding as cured fodder corn, is clearly set forth by the experiments which have been made and reported on. In our competition with the producers of foods in other countries, our ultimate success must arise from our farmers adopting those methods which will enable them to produce at the lowest possible cost, in order that they may have a margin of profit for themselves, no matter in what market they may meet competitors. It appears that a large number of farmers in Canada, feed excessive quantities of meal and concentrated feed to steers which are being fattened. This is unquestionably a most wasteful practice. By adopting the methods which are recommended in the bulletin for the fattening of cattle, it may become more profitable for our farmers to finish until fit for the butcher, all the beef cattle which they have to sell.

I feel confident that when the attention of the farmers is directed to these matters, they will derive great benefit from the adoption of the best methods of feeding both of these classes of stock. It would be to the advantage of everyone interested in the welfare of Canada, to encourage and assist the farmers to produce what they have to sell in the most economical way, and to make it of the very best quality. They would thus obtain larger profits, as well as a most desirable and valuable preference in the market to which Canadian products are finally sent.

You will confer a favor upon myself and also upon the agricultural community in which your paper circulates, if you will be good enough to call attention to these two bulletins, and advise your readers that copies can be had, postage free, on application to the Directors of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN CARLING.

British Columbia Notes.

A contract has been let for the dyking of 600 acres of land at Langley.

A local branch of the Seaman's Union is being organized at Vancouver.

The British Columbia Legislative Assembly has been called to meet on January 26th.

A Sick Benefit Society for Japanese has been established at Vancouver by Mr. Kito, Japanese consul at that city.

Arrangements are being made in Victoria for the formation of a society to be known as "The Native Sons of British Columbia."

The new town of Lardo is said to be very prettily situated at the head of navigation on Kootenay Lake and is the terminus of the trail leading into the famous Lardo country.

The Chinese Highlanders in Nanaimo are greatly excited over the disappearance of their treasurer, Mah Kee, who, along with over \$1,000 of the funds of the society, has suddenly vanished.

It is expected that there will be a considerable number of tourists and sight-seers visit

Vernon this year. This town is situated at the entrance to the Okanagan mining country and has adjacent to it the finest farming country in British Columbia. Lord Aberdeen's farm is in this district.

Tenders for the construction of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway will be asked for in February. It is the intention of the promoters to let the work to British Columbia contractors if possible.

According to the latest assessment the value of property exempt from taxation in Victoria is \$1,573,310. On this sum church property figures for about \$335,000, the provincial Government property for \$335,000 and Dominion Government property for \$167,000.

The return of the Inspector of Fisheries shows that the salmon pack of 1892 is 80,414 cases less than that of 1891. The figures are as follows:

	Cases.
Fraser River	68,132
Skeena River	90,000
River's Inlet	19,123
Nasas River	26,250
Various	15,292

Total B. C. Pack

As the time for the opening of the new sealing season approaches, says the *News Advertiser*, owners and masters in the fleet at Victoria are picking out and signing their hunters. Many have signed their men already, but still many have not. The exact figures at which men are signed for, are, of course, hard to get at, but it is plainly evident that as in the past there will be nothing like uniformity in the wages. Some have signed on a "one-fifth lay," others get "\$3 straight," and others \$3.50 while a few will get \$1 a skin. High line men are, of course, sought after and naturally get more money. Messrs. E. B. Marvin & Co. have shipped five absolutely "green men," as far as seal hunting goes. They are good shots and nervy, and will most likely make very good hunters. Seal hunters require lots of nerve in the first place. A man without it might as well stay at home. He must stand up in the boat and shoot from that position, and it is decidedly a ticklish position when the boat is in the trough of the sea, and a man looks up at the crest of a wave 10 or 20 feet high, which is sweeping towards him with a rear. Under such circumstances almost any man is willing to "give up the blow" and sit down in the boat. The shooting is done at close range as a rule. After a time all timidity wears away and then the energy and persistence are the requisites.

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