

FARMING

VOL. XV.

APRIL 12TH, 1898.

No. 32.

FARMING

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

Published every Tuesday by

THE BRYANT PRESS,
44-46 RICHMOND STREET WEST • 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.

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

TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

Our Clubbing List.

	Regular price.	With FARMING.
Canadian Magazine.....	\$2.50	\$2.50
Toronto Weekly Globe.....	1.00	1.50
Toronto Weekly Mail and Empire.....	1.00	1.40
Farm and Fireside.....	1.00	1.40
Montreal Daily Witness.....	3.00	3.00
Toronto Morning World.....	3.00	3.00
Montreal Weekly Witness.....	1.00	1.60
Family Herald and Weekly Star.....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Advertiser.....	1.00	1.40
Ottawa Semi-Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.60
Hoard's Dairymen.....	1.00	1.75
Rural New Yorker.....	1.00	1.85

Agricultural News and Comments.

The American farmer is returning to sheep breeding, and many United States journals refer to it as a new epoch in American agriculture. We believe also that there is a somewhat similar desire in Canada. Every farmer should keep more sheep.

Illinois is likely very soon to become a sugar producing state. The initiative work in regard to it promises good results. The promoters, instead of building the factories and trusting to the farmers to supply the beets, as has been done in most places, have decided to grow the beets first and show the farmers just what may be expected in labor and cost.

The farmers of the great corn belt of the United States have formed what is known as the American Maize Propaganda for the purpose of enlarging the market for that cereal. The scheme is a sort of huge co-operative organization for the benefit of corn growers.

The people of Jamaica are very much concerned in regard to the cane sugar industry of the island. The cultivation of sugar cane is the mainstay of the country. The development of the sugar beet trade has lowered the price of sugars to such an extent that it is not profitable to make it from the cane. The Board of Management of the local Agricultural Society have petitioned the British Government to impose a tax on beet sugar coming into the United Kingdom, or to adopt some plan that would lead to the abandonment of the bounty system.

An American firm has received an order from the Greek Government to supply 10,000 plows to be used in the cultivation of the districts of Thessaly devastated by the Turks during the late war.

It is the intention of the Greek Government to open up extensive corn fields in these sections. This is the largest order ever given by any foreign Government for American agricultural implements.

The Belgian Government has issued new orders relative to the inspection of fresh and other meats imported into that country. These orders provide for a minute examination of all packages containing fresh or other meats at the port of arrival, at the frontier towns, and at certain other places which may be designated as special. These orders would appear to be specially aimed at hams, bacon, etc., shipped from America to Antwerp.

An American exchange points out that every farmer has on his premises one of the best super-phosphate manures known. The elements are found in the old bones scattered carelessly over the yard, garden and farm, and common wood ashes generally allowed to go to waste. If the bones are gathered, placed under shelter, mixed with three or four times their bulk of ashes, kept moist with water enough to make a good lye, and occasionally stirred and mixed, they will in a few months become so tender and friable that they may be pounded into powder, and in this state they form a valuable manure, better than many fertilizers that seem so expensive. The ashes should be mixed with the bone.

During the last financial year in Great Britain no horses have been bought for the cavalry in England outside of Britain. The cost of cavalry horses has averaged in England £40, in Egypt, £25 to £30, in South America, £23 5s., and in South Africa, £35 to £40.

A recent writer gives an ingenious explanation for the habit of shying in horses. Shying, he states, is a relic of a valuable ancestral instinct. The wild horse feared few enemies when out on the plains, where speed was his protection. But every bush or tuft of long grass might, and often did, contain a fierce foe lying in ambush. Many a time must the wild horse have saved his life by a sudden swerve and leap in the opposite direction the moment he heard the rustle of the leaves. In this way the habit of shyness in a horse is a relic of the instinct of his ancestors.

Our British Letter.

(From Our Special Correspondent)

London, Eng., March 31, '98.

FARMING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

I had occasion yesterday and to-day to peruse and digest certain official information in regard to farming matters in Great Britain, which, if perused and properly digested by our agricultural community, would not only open their eyes (the metaphor seems a little mixed, but it will pass, I dare say), but should cause them to alter many of the methods by which they now eke out a livelihood. To properly understand farming matters in Great Britain, those outside our shores must remember that a farmer within them is a man who pays rent for the land he tills, and is not like so many men in other countries who have no rent at all to pay. Thus he, the farmer, starts with an expense not common, for instance, to thousands of farmers in continental countries. It is rather strange that he does not seek to become his own freeholder, but, somehow, he prefers to jog along in the old way. Then, again, the farmer here pays, generally speaking, a much higher wage for the labor he hires than does the continental cultivator, and, moreover, he works very much less

arduously than the latter. In two respects, therefore, at least, the British agriculturist is apparently handicapped, viz., (1) by the payment of a none-too-low rent, and (2) by the payment of a none-too-low wage for hired labor. It may naturally be asked by some who are unfamiliar with agricultural conditions over here, how, under such circumstances can the British farmer expect to cope with outside competition, and I certainly feel it incumbent on me to say a word or two on the subject. Now, I am one who has travelled my own country a great deal, and who has come into contact with all classes of agriculturists; and I find that, whilst unquestionably those in Great Britain do have to suffer unjustly from a foreign competition to which they have never been parties in forcing it upon the nation, they are, as a class, lacking in initiative, etc. In Scotland matters are somewhat better than in England, but it is, in my opinion, mainly owing to two facts. In the first place, the Scotch farmer is usually one who not only sees his men work, but he works himself and he works with them. In the second place he is a more skilful cultivator and better at driving a bargain. These qualities are possessed by many of the agriculturists just south of the Scottish border. But lower down than that, you will (I speak in the main) get them only in the smaller class of farmers, those, for instance, who cultivate 50 to 100 and 120 acres.

I have said that our farmers are lacking in initiative. Is it not true? There is Lord Winchelsea, one of our big landowners, who some three years ago started a movement on a national scale to get farmers to combine both for political and social objects affecting the class. The result of the organization he founded exists still, but that is all that can be said for it. It is of absolutely no force, whether from the social or the political point of view. It ought to have been quite the opposite. Now, on the other hand, in Scotland about a twelvemonth since, the butchering fraternity took it into their heads to boycott those farmers who dared to sell to any of the co-operative stores. In this they were supported by the auctioneers of cattle. The Scotch farmers, like a Douglas or a Bruce, were at once "up and at 'em." They determined to try and do without the butchers and without the auctioneers. Result? Butchers and auctioneers cried "Peccavi," and the farmers have been winning ever since all along the line. Other instances could be given in numerous matters where the English farmer might do better than he does if only he would take a resolve to be more active in the daily affairs of his life.

Let me give only one other instance, and this from the educational standpoint rather than what I may term the propagandist. The British (I refer now chiefly to the English) farmer is not at all great on education. He thinks he knows all about it—knows more than the scientific man above can tell him, and quite as much as the man who has practice with which to back up the science. A Frenchman, a Dane, or a German (and I hope a Canadian) would use somehow or other the information procurable from outside sources. Not so the English farmer. He has the Saxon instinct and accordingly is slow. He thinks "slow and sure" still a good motto, meanwhile he is gradually lagging behind, and even he feels something is wrong when his pocket becomes touched, though he ascribes this to everything but the right thing.

Well, well, what's to be done? Only this I am afraid, viz., to have hopes that the rising generation of cultivators will prove a little better than their fathers. You cannot, perhaps, put new wine into old bottles, or new ideas into old heads; but