

FARMING

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Agricultural News and Comments

The Nova Scotia Farmers' Association will hold its next annual convention at Annapolis on February 22nd, 23rd and 24th next, and it is probable that the next annual meeting of the New Brunswick Farmers' and Dairymen's Association will take place at Fredericton on February 15th, 16th, and 17th.

A new wheat, known as Steinweidel, has been discovered in Australia, which, it is claimed, will stand the severe drouths of that country. It grows very tall, has a large head that will drop off with the weight of grain. This wheat originated by a farmer preserving some grains in his wheat field which grew taller than the rest.

Mr. S. Flack, Red Deer, Alta., in sending in his renewal for 1899, says: "Creamery still running and proving satisfactory to patrons, who purpose increasing their herds. The net price of butter to patrons during the past summer season was 14.591 cents per lb. There was 42 per cent. increase in the amount of butter made over that of the first season."

An enterprising California dairyman is going to start a cheese factory and creamery in Alaska. There is a good market there for butter and cheese. He will locate on the Kodiak Islands, where there is a heavy growth of grass and cattle pasturing there are in splendid condition. It seems very much like carrying on winter dairying all the year round. Butter in Dawson City is worth \$1 a pound.

The co-operative pork packing movement seems to be spreading. Factories are talked of for Woodstock and Harriston. At both these places, in fact, preliminary arrangements have been made to open up stock books, and should a sufficient amount of stock be subscribed factories will be erected. At Woodstock it has been decided not to begin operations till \$60,000 are subscribed, and no stock holder can hold more than \$1,000 worth of stock.

In 1896 Canada sent to Great Britain 88 357 cwt. of butter, in 1897 100 402 cwt., and in 1898 156,865 cwt. The total consumption of butter in Great Britain in 1898 was 3,209,093 cwt., so that there is practically an unlimited field in which to develop a trade. The average prices paid for the choicest Canadian butter during 1898 was from 96 to 100s. per cwt. These prices were second only to those received by Denmark and Sweden. Of cheese Canada sent to Great Britain in 1896 1,234,297 cwt., in 1897 1,526,664 cwt., and in 1898 1,432,181 cwt.

Henry E. Alvord, chief of the dairy division of the United States Department of Agriculture, who passed through Toronto last week on his way to attend the Michigan Dairymen's meeting, had with him some good samples of Danish butter to show the dairymen there. The United States Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to help the American dairymen to get into the British markets, and to that end whenever any specially good samples of Danish or other foreign butter are offered there the United States agents purchase them and ship them in cold storage to this side for the information of American dairymen.

According to a French publication there are 22,000,000 horses in Russia; 12,000,000 in the United States; 4,000,000 in Argentina; 3,500,000 in Austria Hungary and Ger-

many, 2,880,000 in France, 2,790,000 in the United Kingdom and 2,624,000 in Canada. From the values allowed it would seem that the horses of Russia are of a very inferior grade and those of Argentina are of a fair quality. England and France are given the honor of having the most valuable horses, with the United States and Canada coming next. The greatest diversity of value is said to exist in Spain, while the horses of Norway and Sweden correspond in worth to those of Uruguay.

Rape Growing

We have received several enquiries lately regarding rape growing. As the cultivation of this plant is year by year receiving more attention in Ontario we asked Mr. John I. Hobson, Guelph, to prepare an article for publication on the subject. Mr. Hobson writes us as follows:

"It is very noticeable that, with few exceptions, the most successful farmers in the country are men who follow stock-keeping largely in some of its forms. In fact, so noticeable is this, that we may well be led to the conclusion that on the ordinary soils of this province stock-keeping is the basis of good farming, and that a farmer's success will depend a good deal on the quantity of dairy produce or meat per acre his farm is made to produce. As a means in that direction the growing of rape and feeding it off on the land has been found by many of our farmers to be followed by highly satisfactory results. It has been grown extensively in the Guelph district for many years, and thousands of lambs fattened on it have annually been sent to the American markets, yet I have found, when travelling in other parts of the province, that it is quite exceptional to see it grown to any considerable extent. It is a little surprising that such should be the case, for there is no question that those farmers engaged in growing it have made a good deal of money for years past in sending their lambs in prime condition to the Buffalo market, and it has been found to be no small factor in keeping their farms in a good state of fertility.

"I would say to the farmer who has never grown a crop of rape that he would be acting wisely to go into it in a small way at first, and prove by his own practice and observation whether the conditions in which he is placed are suitable to its production, and to find out for himself many little things that can be learned best by experience.

"The system which is generally followed by those who have grown it successfully is to prepare the land just as is done for the turnip crop. Taking it for granted that one of the objects in growing it be a cleaning crop, then it follows that if the land is pretty well worked the fall before, a good many thistles and weeds will have been got rid of and so much less work will be required in the way of hand-hoeing the next season. The last plowing should be done deeply, or if the land is inclined to be stiff, plowing in what is termed ridge and furrow—that is putting it into drills—is an excellent plan. I have found in my own practice that it answers a good purpose, the winter's frost making it more friable when worked the following summer. An important matter is to have the land in fine tilth when sown.

As to the soil best suited for growing rape, a fair crop can be grown on almost every variety if properly prepared. I have some acres of sandy land, it is what may be called a poor leaching soil, some of the finest crops of rape ever grown on the farm were on these fields. It was sown thinly,