

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## 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 Forestry	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
Hoar's Dairyman	1.00	1.75
Rural New Yorker	1.00	1.85

### Agricultural News and Comments.

For several years at some of the leading horse shows in the United States there has been considerable dissatisfaction over the judging. *The Rider and Driver* suggests that the exhibitors be allowed to select the judges, and believing the scheme to be practicable has opened its columns to public opinion on the matter by taking a vote of its readers. There may be something in the suggestion and it might be a good way to relieve the management of exhibitions from responsibility in selecting judges.

A special bill has been introduced into the British House of Commons having for its object the regulation of conditions under which dogs can be kept. This law especially regulates the keeping of dogs in towns and cities and gives power to the authorities to seize all dogs not wearing collars. It also provides for the registration of dogs and for forcing the keeping of dogs under control. This should prove a wholesome law. If the law governing the keeping of the same kind of animals in Canada were made more strict there would not be so many sheep "worryings" reported.

Farmers in Great Britain are looking for better prices for their meats this year than last. In 1897 the numerous strikes caused depression but it is hoped that no such contingencies will arise this year. During March the best quality of English beef was bringing 6½ d. per pound. Mutton holds its price better than beef all the year round, but that commodity as well as beef is always more or less affected by slaughtered stock.

Germany has 402 beet-sugar factories; Austria-Hungary, 205; France, 348; Belgium, 111; Holland, 31; Russia, 239; and Sweden, 61. It will thus be seen that in many other countries besides Germany the making of beet sugar is an important

industry. Recently Belgium sent out invitations to the other powers of Europe inviting them to a conference on the subject of the sugar bounties. This conference seems to be hanging fire and may not accomplish anything.

Considerable interest is being taken in the Western States in the growing of Kaffir corn. It was introduced from Africa in the early 80's, and is specially adapted for districts where drouth prevails. The roots are long, reaching to a depth of 18 to 20 inches, and the plant seems to have the power of sustaining itself through long dry spells by a kind of suspended animation, stopping growth during such seasons and beginning again when rains come. It is valuable as a forage plant, and is now known to be valuable as a human food. Kaffir corn meal makes delicious gems and delightful pancakes.

It is generally believed that the domesticated horse has existed from time immemorial—that is the earliest time of which we have any record. Assyrian sculptures, some of which are estimated to date from 4200 B.C., contain more representations of caparisoned horses than even men. Still it is a long time after this before we have any examples of favorite horses. The famous horse, Bucephalus, is as historically real as his master, Alexander the Great. This is the first authentic example of a favorite horse on record. Others are mentioned but they are somewhat legendary.

### Pound Butter Prints for the British Market.

*The Rural World*, of London, England, draws attention, in a recent issue, to the report of the Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, which points out that there are indications that with some effort printed butter and small packages for family trade might be successfully introduced into London. Commenting on this, it says:

"This is a point worth the attention of our Canadian friends. There is no question that our consumers buy, as a rule, in small quantities, and that they would naturally prefer to buy a 1 lb. or ½ lb. roll or print than a 1-lb. or ½-lb. piece of butter dumped down on a piece of paper from a tub or barrel. We should, of course, prefer that the British public should supply this butter to our consumers; but, if anybody outside our shores is to do so, then we prefer our own kith and kin to the agriculturists of the States."

There can be no doubt that there is an opening for a trade with Great Britain in butter put up in prints of a size suitable for the family trade. The United States is evidently giving some attention to the matter, and why should not Canada? We would certainly get the preference over our American neighbors, as the above extract shows. The preference for this trade to be supplied by Canada rather than the United States should touch a responsive chord here. Though we do not go very much on sentiment in trade matters, still it is pleasing to note the growing desire on the part of our kin across the sea to be supplied with food products by the colonies, and especially by our own fair land. Truly Canada's opportunities for improving her trade with the Mother Country were never so great as they are now. If we do not make the best use of them it will be our own fault.

### The Dominion Appropriation for Agriculture.

In the estimates brought down by the Hon. Mr. Fielding at Ottawa last week, we notice that the appropriation for Arts, Agriculture and Statistics is reduced from \$357,200.00 for 1897-98, to

\$332,000.00 for 1898-99, a decrease of over \$25,000.00. As the three items are lumped together, we are not prepared to state definitely how much this reduction affects the direct estimate for agriculture. It may be taken for granted, however, that the appropriations for arts and statistics do not vary much from year to year and consequently that the reduction is made largely in the estimates for agriculture.

If this be true, the reduction is to be regretted. Canada's great agricultural resources are just beginning to be recognized abroad and any retrenchment of expenditure that would tend to hinder developing them to the greatest extent possible would be very unfortunate at this stage in our history. What we need for the next ten years is a vigorous and progressive agricultural policy. Agriculture has many and varied branches, and not one of them should be allowed to retrograde in order to save the country a few thousand dollars. The opportunities for developing our export trade in food products with Great Britain were never greater than they are to-day, and it is the duty of the government to take advantage of these opportunities and make the most of them for the Canadian farmer.

There should be no retrenchment in the way of providing adequate cold storage facilities both on board the cars and boat for conveying all perishable food products from the producer to the consumer in Great Britain. Arrangements should be made so that all such products can be sent forward quickly and by the shortest route possible. The very existence of our butter, dressed meat, fruit, and egg industries, depends, upon these being maintained in as efficient a state as possible. Then there should be no retrenchment in the way of educating our farmers to produce not only the kinds and quality of food products required for the British markets but as to the style and size of package in which such products should be sent. There is absolutely no use in endeavoring to develop our export trade in food products unless the producer understands the needs of the markets and the kinds and qualities of products suitable for this trade.

It may be said that the education and training of our agriculturists is a duty that devolves upon the Provincial Government, and we believe that to a very large extent this principle holds good, and should be adopted as far as possible. But the Dominion Government has taken upon itself to do a certain amount of this work, and to this end has established the experimental farm system. The present government, however, may feel that it is not responsible for the acts of its predecessors, and that it is not its duty to pursue an aggressive policy in this particular line. The fact remains, nevertheless, that the experimental farm system is still in existence, and has a record for good, substantial, helpful work in many of its branches, and on the whole has been of great benefit to the agriculturists of the Dominion.

But those who understand the situation thoroughly will agree that there is room for better work in some of its departments. The live stock interests in connection with the experimental farms have never received the attention their importance in the country demands. The stockmen are looking for something being done in their interests, and whether it be a live stock commissioner or a professor of animal husbandry, it is about time that some effort were being made to place the live stock interests at the experimental farms on a proper footing. Then, the beekeepers have asked that the apiculture department be placed on a better basis, and in fact, at their last annual convention, passed a resolution recommending a