

Among the questions that are most frequently asked is, What luck? This is applied to the lamb crop, the spring litters of pigs, and the well-doing of foals and calves: in fact, is the general manner of enquiry regarding all lines of production. But is it not often another name for care? Without carefully-laid plans things are apt to go astray. It is prompt attention to details that prevents the casualties that too often creep in and destroy the hope of success for the season, whether it be in stock breeding and feeding, or grain producing.

Among the dairy news of the day, Hoard's Dairyman remarks that "Prof. Robertson has sold the mammoth cheese the Canadians are to exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition to an European provision dealer, who proposes to exhibit it without charge in all the principal cities in Great Britain, as an advertisement of Canadian cheese." Everything is being done to build up Canadian dairy interests. No filled cheese, no skim cheese made there, and the best of cheese their ambition. Such a people, with such practice, can be advertised and their reputation built up, and they will finally possess the land, for they have not tried to cheat the consumer.

When the question of the restriction placed upon Canadian cattle is brought before Mr. Gardner, President of the British Board of Agriculture, he still defends himself from the legal standpoint of the question. He is daily being questioned by the representatives of districts of Scotland that are equally interested with Canada. In reply to one of these he recently said:—"It would not be practicable for my department to conduct for itself on the spot any investigation into the sanitary condition of animals in Canada, but, as I have already stated, I shall give attentive consideration to any information on the subject which I may receive from the Canadian Government. I understand that the regulations at present in force in the Dominion require ninety days' quarantine in the case of cattle imported from the Eastern States of the United States, but some modification of this rule appears to be allowed in favor of settlers entering Manitoba and the Northwestern Territories," and further states that since last July 41 cases of pleuropneumonia, forming part of 18 different cargoes, have been discovered amongst cattle imported from the United States.

We are informed by Prof. Wm. Saunders that the work of testing the germinating power of grain and other agricultural seeds is now in active progress at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Up to the present over 1,600 samples have been tested and reported on this season, and on the whole with very gratifying results, showing a good percentage of vitality. There are, however, some districts in the Dominion from which samples have been received of very poor quality and quite unfit for seed. In some parts of Manitoba the harvest season of 1891 was very unfavorable, and considerable quantities of grain were left out in stock or stack all winter and threshed in the spring of 1892. A number of samples of such grain have been tested and they show a very low percentage of vitality, many of them ranging from 15 to 40 per cent. only, and are quite unfit for seed. In some other parts of the Dominion, and especially in some sections of Ontario and Quebec, the weather during the last harvest period was very wet, and the grain in the stock was subject to repeated wettings before it could be housed, and in the meantime some of it sprouted. A large proportion of such samples also show a low degree of germinating power, and if sown as seed will be likely to result in poor crops.

Any farmers desiring to send further samples for test should forward them without delay; the packages should contain about one ounce each, and they can be sent to the Experimental Farm free through the mail. The samples are tested and reports can usually be furnished in about ten days after the grain is received.

#### Agricultural Society—Grain Samples.

The annual meeting of the Central Saskatchewan Agricultural Society was held at Saskatoon, on the 17th of January, when Mr. Hy. Smith was elected President; Mr. Jos. Caswell, 1st Vice-President, and T. Copland re-elected Sec.-Treas. The reports showed that the society was doing a good work, 86 members on the roll, and \$376.50 awarded in prizes at the exhibition of 1892. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Mackay, of the Experimental Farm, Indian Head, acknowledging the receipt of exhibits from Saskatoon for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Mr. Mackay says:—"The threshed grain compares favorably with any so far received, and the heads in the sheaves are ahead of anything in that line, though they had been considerably damaged in transit." Four samples of Red Fyfe wheat weighed 63 lbs. per bushel, two samples 62 lbs.; black oats, 37 lbs.; white oats, 43 lbs.; flax seed, 53 lbs.; Marrowfat peas, 63 lbs., etc., etc. It was decided to hold the next show at Saskatoon on Wednesday and Thursday, the 4th and 5th of October, 1893.

#### Remedy for Hard Times.

There is at present a general complaint of hard times, which is not confined to one nation or one kind of business. This complaint has always been made by some at all times, but is now made by so many as to prove that it is well founded. If we discover the cause we may suggest the remedy. Peace has continued for a length of time, and adverse seasons have not prevented the earth from yielding a plentiful supply of food for its inhabitants; the sea still furnishes us with fish, and the great west and other recently stocked pasture grounds provide numberless cattle, and the improved modes of transportation carry these to the consumer, yet we hear the cry of widespread ruin from those who have more than enough of the necessities of life. Their produce they say will not sell for enough to pay cost, and they cannot pay for the advanced labor as they used to do; but why should the farmer complain who has enough to live on, because his surplus produce brings a low price? Then what is the name of the incubus that has paralyzed the energy of multitudes? It is debt—debt not necessarily incurred. It is not very consoling when we are in trouble to reflect that it is our own fault, but when it is the case it may be useful to know it, because that which we may have done ourselves we may possibly be able to undo by changing our practice. The remote course of difficulty may be placed to modern offices which enable every man, for the consideration of a heavy interest, to set his farm property afloat without the trouble of selling it. Most men wish to become rich, but neither the farmer nor the merchant will succeed in the wish without extraordinary industry and application, or without establishing a rule to spend less than he earns; and when this course has proved successful, many years of hard labor must elapse before wealth can be acquired. But when it was generally understood that a man could have nearly the value of what he owned in something that answers the purpose of cash, while at the same time he still retains all his real property, the spirit of speculation soon appeared on the scene. The manufacturer increased his work shops, the merchant doubled his importations, the farmer increased his business by purchasing more land than he could work without more help and more capital, and in too many instances left his own occupation for some other, by which he expected to acquire sudden wealth. For awhile every active man believed that he was growing rich, for it is perhaps more easy to gull half a nation than to impose upon one intelligent man. We are more frequently too lazy to think than to work, and when it is generally believed that wise men have done the thinking for them, we often follow their methods without reflection, as a flock of sheep follows the leader.

But these golden dreams ended and many awakened to discover they had involved themselves in debts which they have no prospects of paying, and all the value they have received was learning by sad experience what they might have previously learned by reflection—that the only way to become rich is to spend less than we earn. But during the time they believed they were going ahead, most of them had drawn upon their future wealth to introduce a more showy and expensive style of living—an evil which is never confined to those who begin it, for it always spreads till it reaches the lower classes. When men discover they are spending faster than they can make, few have the fortitude to retrench immediately, but in such cases the time soon arrives that gives an irresistible check to their career, and then the blame is laid to dull times, and it would be a pity to deprive people of the privilege of having something to blame for their mismanagement besides themselves. We all know that dull times cannot be mended by sitting down and grumbling; we must make use of our strength, both mentally and physically; let every one think before he acts, and calculate his projects so carefully as to ascertain whether they will be profitable. Let every one reduce his expenses below his income, if possible—and few farmers will find it impossible. Let strict economy be observed of permitting nothing to be lost for want of care or for neglect of doing work at the time it ought to be done. We have ourselves framed the regulations which compelled us to spend more than we have earned, and shall we not act as wise men in adopting a rule to earn more than we spend?

It is upon the proper preparation of the field that the well-doing of the crop depends. The field cannot be properly prepared unless the implements are in good working order. A careful inspection of these now before the busy season begins will save valuable time that cannot be spared later on. Therefore, do not delay in getting the outfit equipped for work when the season opens.

#### Timely Notes for March—No. 2.

##### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

In my last I said a few words about engaging teachers for our local schools. This time I mean to take up my parable of the education that we should expect our sons to receive at our schools.

It is granted that the vast majority of the Canadian people are engaged in farming in some way. Now, does it not seem foolish, nay, criminal, that nothing whatever is taught in our schools relating to farming? Is it not more desirable for our children to know how plants grow and feed, and how they are utilized, than to learn algebra, or the principles of simple mechanism and draught as applied to farm implements than the tonic-sol-fa system of music?

Practical education—that education from which the child who is now being taught shall be able to earn an honest livelihood—is what we all should insist upon. The remedy, practically, is in the hands of the ratepayers, and text-books are not wanting that can be obtained at very small cost—amongst others, "First Principles of Agriculture," by Messrs. Mills & Shaw.

Physical education, too, is sadly neglected in our rural schools. See how straight our townsmen walk as compared with the farmers.

Manners—well, the meaning even of the word seems to have been forgotten—do not belong to any school that I have yet come across in twelve years in rural Manitoba.

In a few instances a flower bed has been planted by some progressive teacher, and some of the scholars induced to cultivate a few of the same varieties at home; but, owing to the apathy of the parents, this generally dies out after the first year. Let us talk this up at the institute or the lodge meeting of the Patrons of Industry, and let us try to give our lads a better start in life educationally than most of their parents had. Our girls will also not be any the poorer for knowing how a potato obtains nourishment from the soil, nor why the clover plant is such a friend to the farmer on run-down land.

##### BACHELORS AND WHEAT.

Single men give as an excuse for growing wheat, and wheat only, that they have no wife to milk, make butter, look after poultry, etc. Is that what you marry for, to obtain a slave to work for you on the cheap? Or do you marry to obtain a helpmate, a home with loving faces and kindred? Young man, you are a coward, and what's more, you know it! No, the real reason you remain a bachelor and go on with your wheat growing is, because you fancy if you were to marry and "settle down," as the phrase goes, you would have to work in winter as well as in summer; you couldn't spend so many days and nights loafing away your time at billiards or cards, or even worse; you would be obliged to deny yourself many little indulgences, and for very shame's sake you would be obliged to turn over a new leaf in your farming as well as your behaviour. I don't mean to say that all bachelors in Manitoba are shiftless or self-indulgent, but the most of them I have come across are certainly losing money and time the way they are farming. But if you do intend to marry, let your future wife have a clear idea of what kind of life she may expect with you.

##### EXPORT CATTLE.

Indirectly the embargo on cattle being landed alive in England from Canada has had an effect in the number of pure-bred bulls that are being brought out this winter to head various herds and supplant the old-time "scrub." As long as the best beeves could be exported alive, the scrub steers could be sold at home; but the time is rapidly coming when the "scrub" will be totally unsaleable. Prices of all but first-class cattle have been very low the past winter, and as for fattening these ill-bred animals at a profit, it is simply out of the question.

##### GENERAL.

The stallion men are already looking out for customers. Think what your expected colt will be worth four or five years hence before promising any one your custom. Above all, don't patronize a cross-bred brute at any price; you'll not be able to sell the progeny. So why waste your time attempting to breed a valueless foal?

The best way I have yet found for bluestoning wheat for smut is to put say, 8 lbs. of sulphate of copper (pure) to eight pails or sixteen gallons of soft water in an ordinary coal oil barrel; dissolve thoroughly, then nail a board on edge of barrel; take a bushel of wheat at a time in a strong, coarse sack, and soak in the solution for a few minutes until it is all thoroughly wetted; then fasten your bag to the board or top of barrel, and let it drain off all surplus water; repeat until all the wheat you intend sowing next day is dressed. By emptying the damp wheat on a floor or into a wagon-box it will soon be dry enough to run through the drill. One pound of bluestone will do about seven bushels of wheat in this manner.

Don't buy that new kind of wheat. Try better cultivation.

Make preparations for feeding those young pigs all summer, and get your grain all crushed before the spring work begins.

Push those young calves along, and if any of your cows are weakly, feed them extra grain. Put them on to the grass in good condition, and they will well repay you. "INVICTA."