

trade did some years ago, when the superior merits of Canadian cheese were beginning to be recognized in the mother land. When that condition arises, which may be very shortly or several years hence, the American farmer and breeder will suddenly awake to the real state of affairs, and there will be such a demand for the bacon-producing type of hog as will fairly surprise the breeders of this country. When that time comes our breeders should be prepared for it by having developed the Canadian bacon hog to such a state of efficiency as will exactly meet the needs of the export bacon trade. Having in view this feature of the situation, as far as swine husbandry is concerned, it will be well for our breeders to bend their energies as fast as they can towards producing the bacon type of hog, and, if need be, to do as Mr. Brethour has done, make large importations of hogs suitable for this purpose from the mother country.

Inter-Provincial Trade.

The following extracts from a letter to the *Toronto Globe* by a British Columbia correspondent, who has taken the trouble to interview a merchant at Stanley, B.C., who is also a farmer, in regard to developing trade with the eastern provinces, contain some valuable information for producers:

Bacon was first discussed. He is well pleased with its appearance and flavor, etc., but says it gets hard after cooling when cooked. He thinks it is due to the process of pickling. Can this be remedied? . . . With Canadian butter he is delighted, and says he never got anything to equal it. He was quite ecstatic over some he got from Ayton Creamery, and said he could tell by the neat, clean boxes that the butter was good before he opened it. He finds nothing better than Canadian flour. He handles it entirely. Of fruit he gets two or three tons per year, and says some country packers put good fruit on top of the box, and inferior goods in the centre. . . . He likes Canadian cheese, but must have small boxes (ten pounds). His honey comes from the United States. He ought to be able to do better with some of our Ontario apiarists. . . . He is getting a new wagon and mower from the States, and says Canadian manufacturers put in poor wood. This should not be. Canada can make as good farm implements as any country in the world, and should control her own trade in these lines. In woodware, as axe and pick handles, he says they send inferior goods, and the freight kills the profit. Must have best goods, as freight is the same on good and bad articles. Sincerely trusting these few rambling and hurried remarks may be the means of encouraging home trade here, and that our manufacturers will do their best to see that only first-class goods are sent out.

The remarks in reference to Canadian butter are very *apropos* at this juncture, when the good qualities of Canadian creamery are beginning to be recognized outside of the Dominion. It is interesting to note that the Ayton creamery referred to is owned and managed by one of the early pioneers in the co-operative creamery business in Ontario, Mr. Aaron Wenger—and the remark that the neat, clean boxes were a guarantee that the butter was good is very significant, and is something that our buttermakers would do well to give special attention to.

There have been frequent reports in the past that many fruit packers dishonestly practise putting the good fruit in the centre or at the bottom of the package or barrel. Not only does such a practice injure our fruit trade with other countries, but with the other provinces also. It is eventually sure to react against the guilty packer, and is not fair so far as the honest packer is concerned. The honest packer, who puts the same quality of apples on the top of the barrel as he puts at the bottom, suffers from the fact that his neighbor's dishonesty injures the good name of the fruit from the district in which both reside.

In reference to this question of inter-provincial trade there is a feeling in some quarters that it is not as necessary to give as much attention to the quality of the product shipped as when it is sent to a foreign country. The experience of the British Columbia dealer proves that such a contention is incorrect. It is characteristic of the consumer everywhere that he is going to buy in the cheapest and best market, and where he can get the best value for his money. The merchant in British

Columbia is not going to get his supplies in the Eastern Provinces if he can do better in the United States. This is a point that our producers should note particularly when endeavoring to develop trade with the other provinces or with any foreign country.

Agriculture in the Public Schools.

The following extract from an address delivered by Professor Geo. M. Wrong, of Toronto University, upon the subject of "History and Education," before the Ontario Educational Association last spring, bears directly upon what we have been saying during the past few months in regard to the question of agriculture in the public schools:

"Coming to the facts of our situation let us see what we need in Canada. To know our need will be the first step towards satisfying it. Canada is a huge country, with the agricultural interest as yet predominant. In Canada, as in other countries, the tendency is to crowd into towns. In so far as this tendency springs from necessary economical conditions, it is useless to resist it, but the fact is that many are restless in the country who have no call to live in the town. Their education has unfitted them for the home life on the farm, and has implanted ideas that engender only discontent. Side by side with this tendency to crowd into towns we find a curious contrast. The city dweller longs to get away to the country for one, two or three months in each year. The weeks in the country are dreamed about in the winter, and are looked upon as the happiest part of his life. The country obviously has charms. Now, the education in our schools should help to an understanding of nature and thus to an opening of possibilities of enjoying her. I will not here profess to say how this can best be done, but surely we enjoy nature in some proportion to our understanding of her working. I do not think that our country boys in Canada have as a whole the sympathy with nature that a country boy in England has. Some years ago, walking near Oxford, I stopped a small boy watching the flight of some birds. This boy explained to me what he knew about the birds in his immediate neighborhood. I made a note then of the different birds' nests that he pointed out to me. In showing me the nests he also described briefly the chief characteristics of each bird. There were more than twenty varieties. I doubt if boys in this country have the powers of observation and the enjoyment in the life of nature that this Oxford small boy possessed. Here, then, is one direction in which our educational methods might be improved—a simple understanding of the ordinary phenomena, the birds, trees, flowers, fishes that are to be found about us."

Professor Wrong touches upon the real essence of this subject when he points out that the education in our public or rural schools should help to an understanding of nature, and thus to an opening of possibilities of enjoying her. If the teaching in our public schools aimed to give the pupil a correct appreciation of the nature around him, and a taste for knowledge of bird life, the nature of growth in the tree, the flower or the plant, it would go a long way towards counteracting the tendency at present existing to leave the country and the farm for a life in the city. True, there has been a little teaching along this line in the past, but it has been entirely of a secondary nature, and the pupil has not been made to feel that it is the important thing to be learned. What we want in this country is a reversal of this order of things, and instead of the study of nature and of subjects pertaining to a life in the country being made subsidiary to mathematics, history, etc., let it be placed upon the same footing and, if need be, given a position of even greater importance on the curriculum of our rural schools. The youth of this country are far seeing enough to know that if agriculture or any other subject is given an inferior position on the school curriculum, it is not considered by those who are responsible for educational training in this country, of great importance, and consequently there is no need of their putting forth any special effort to master it, or to obtain an extended knowledge of the subject. We are promised a new text book on agriculture this fall for use in the public schools. If it is not given the important position it deserves on the curriculum and by the teacher the good results that are looked for from its study will not be forthcoming. To get the most lasting and the greatest benefit from the study of agriculture in the public schools, not only must the teaching of the subject be done in a way that will create in the young mind a love for the country and rural pursuits, but it must be taught in such a manner as will impress upon the

mind of the pupil that it is the most important subject upon the school curriculum. Then, and then only, will it have the desired effect of directing the pupils to a life in the country and on the farm.

The World's Wheat Yield for 1898.

Considerable interest is now being evinced in the wheat yield for the present season. Just now there are estimates galore being compiled through numerous agencies, purporting to give fairly reliable information, as to what the world's wheat crop will be. All these estimates indicate a big yield in nearly all the wheat-growing areas.

Beerbohm's London list of July 8th submits an estimate of indicated gains this season in wheat production compared with last year for prominent countries, exclusive of Russia and Argentina; reaching the conclusion that the several countries covered by the estimate will show an aggregate gain of 344,000,000 bushels in excess of 1897. If these conditions are borne out the year's production will be approximately 120,000,000 bushels in excess of requirements. According to the same source the world's wheat crop for 1897 amounted to 2,256,000,000 bushels. If the estimated gain mentioned above be added to this amount we have a grand total of 2,640,000,000 bushels—a quantity never reached before in any one year in the world's wheat production. The highest previous estimate of Beerbohm's list is for 1894, when it reached 2,560,000,000 bushels.

The following table, from *The Cincinnati Price Current*, will be interesting. Taking twenty-five years, 1873 to 1897 inclusive, and averaging the production for periods of five years each, the result in comparison with the above estimate for 1898 is as follows:

	Bushels.
1873-77	1,850,000,000
1878-82	1,995,000,000
1883-87	2,160,000,000
1888-92	2,283,000,000
1893-97	2,438,000,000
1898 approximation	2,640,000,000

Coming nearer home, we find that, according to reports gathered by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, the estimated yield for the United States on July 1st was 603,000,000 bushels. The *New York Journal of Commerce* thinks this estimate too low by about 100,000,000 bushels, and reasons in this way. Last year the Departmental estimate was only 447,000,000 bushels. Later on, when the harvest was over, the Department admitted that the total yield of wheat for 1897 was 530,000,000 bushels. If the same ratio should be realized this year, the *Journal of Commerce* figures that the 1898 crop will reach at least 700,000,000 bushels. No definite estimate has been made yet of the probable yield in Canada. But a very large crop is assured. In Ontario and the Eastern Provinces, where the fall wheat crop has been harvested, an extra big yield is expected. In Manitoba the results are not so definite, but, without doubt, that province will have one of its biggest crops.

Taking the world's wheat yield into consideration, there is not likely to be a wheat famine for a time. There are, however, several conditions in the situation which may tend to counteract the depressing effect a large yield may have upon the market. In the first place, during the past year or two the invisible wheat reserves the world over have been drawn upon to an extent that has not been reached for some years past. Spot supplies in some of the consuming countries of Europe are very low, and it is probable that large drafts will have to be made upon the new crop much earlier than usual. Then there has been considerable talk in Great Britain about establishing wheat reserves in the United Kingdom as a national security in case of war, and it is within the possibilities that something may be done along that line in the near future, which would seem to strengthen the market somewhat.

However, it does not do to be too optimistic when the market outlook is being considered.