

EDITORIAL.

The American hay crop is estimated to be 5,000,000 tons less than in 1893.

The next American Fat Stock Show will be held at Chicago, from November 22nd to December 1st.

In addition to large quantities of tinned beef and mutton and preserved poultry, one Australian firm has, during the past season, exported no less than 530,000 rabbits.

Throughout a large portion of Canada, where dairy farmers have felt the pinch of drought the past two summers, next season will witness the sowing of a vastly increased area of corn.

The export sheep trade from Montreal to British ports is on the increase. During the week ending September 8th, 8,860 went forward. In 1894, up to September 8th, 69,470 sheep were shipped from Montreal, as compared with 427 up to September 8th, 1893.

"This horse importation is rather a serious fact for the British farmer. He can best meet it by aiming at breeding the heaviest possible class of sound lorry horses."—[Scottish Farmer. Why not clap on an embargo for *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa*!]

The Australasian reports that the final returns of the New South Wales election show conclusively that the people will have nothing further to do with restrictions upon commerce, and that the result ought to forward the great cause of federation among the colonies there.

The New Zealand Government have been requested by the agricultural section of the community to encourage the introduction of illustrated reading books, such as are used in the State schools of other countries, devoted to descriptions of stock, crops, and implements and plants.

Out of 64 samples of butter collected at public shops in Gloucester, Eng., and submitted to the Public Analyst, 15 were found adulterated with from 20 to 50 per cent. of foreign fats. A great deal of Danish butter has been adulterated in that way, by English dealers, it is alleged.

A new periodical is to make its appearance in England shortly, with the object of so promoting the marketing of all agricultural produce that the largest prices may be secured at the least cost. It will employ a systematic plan of collecting information regarding supply and demand.

The United States now export annually about 52,000,000 lbs. less cheese than fifteen or sixteen years ago, or in value a falling off of some \$7,000,000. This year is showing a further decrease. A writer in the Country Gentleman attributes this serious shrinkage in part to the turning out of skim milk cheese.

Russia appears to be the next country to join the dairy procession. According to the Grajdanine, the Russian Ministry of Ways of Communication has prepared a plan for a series of steps to be taken shortly with a view to giving an impetus to the export abroad of dairy products. Special transport tariffs will be issued for the direct exportation of these products *via* St. Petersburg, Riga and Libau, for Hull, London, Copenhagen, Stettin and Lubeck.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have announced a very considerable reduction in the freight on lumber from the mills at Lake of the Woods to Western points. To Winnipeg the reduction is from 15½ cents to 10 cents per 100 pounds, and to some points the reduction is equivalent to 35 per cent. per thousand. Of course this reduction is due to the lowering of the U. S. duty on lumber, as since the duty was lowered considerable quantities have been imported from the States, the dealers claiming inability to pay the high freight rates and compete with the imported lumber. Every little helps.

The Farmers' Institute is based primarily upon the old idea that knowledge is power, and there is no community of 50 men anywhere in the country that cannot, by adopting it, do themselves good and build up and strengthen each other in the effort to make a living. All that we have to do is to realize that we don't know enough, that in the multitude of councillors there is wisdom, and that by coming together, joining hearts and hands, and trying to help one another, we can help ourselves, build up the community, strengthen the cause of successful agriculture and increase our profits.

Three Old-Time Prize-Winners.

Our front page illustration represents three sows of what was then styled "The Improved Berkshire" breed, being the property of the Rev. C. T. James, of Ermington, Devon, Eng. (a deservedly successful exhibitor in his day, both of horses and swine), for which the first prize of £10 was awarded at the Royal Agricultural Show at Chelmsford, in the year 1856. The same three sows took the first prize at the Yeovil Show of the Bath and West of England Society in the spring of the same year. Their sire also took the first prize in his class at Chelmsford, and the dam was very highly commended. The three sows shown in our engraving were esteemed not only for their shape and quality, but for that great essential—early maturity. At the time of their being exhibited their weight was "twelve score," or 240 lbs. each at the age of only seven months. In an article of the time it was claimed for these swine that they were "well interlarded with fat and lean," a phrase which has not been forgotten even in 1894.

It is an exceedingly interesting study to compare the ideal Berkshire of to-day, as represented by the renowned "Enterprise," the property of Messrs. Snell Bros., as he appears on another page of this issue, with the ideal swine of about forty years ago.

It is worth our while occasionally thus to contrast the past with the present, noting the improvements that have been made, but at the same time it may prevent our running away with the idea that to-day's achievements overshadow everything in the past, or that the ideals of to-day were never thought of by our forefathers.

Better Farming Needed.

It is the tendency of many farmers, during a time of depression, to cut down expenses to a minimum. Such a practice is a wise one, when conducted with good judgment, but when done simply from the idea of paying out as little money as possible, there is liability of a great mistake. It is not uncommon to hear it said that "high farming don't pay," and when judged from some men's style of doing it, it certainly does not pay. But just now, if we look about us, we will soon observe that common and inferior produce of almost every sort is not in demand, because the competition is so great in such lines. "There is always room at the top." The demand for first-rate stock alone shows the importance of keeping only the best animals, and when once this is allowed, high farming follows almost as a matter of course. Of all the many outlays which a farmer is called upon to make, perhaps nothing pays so excellent a return as the expense of feeding growing stock a liberal supply of such food as to induce the most rapid development of the animal body. By this, not only the best and earliest matured animals can be produced, but the manure of such stock will increase the fertility of the land so as to produce a certain and heavy crop every year. Of course, to put a lot of expensive feed into inferior animals would be a gross mistake, although even that might pay; but it is not necessary to follow such a course in a country like ours, with so many fine herds of all the valuable breeds, from which one has the privilege of buying at a reasonable figure. We have the constant ocular proof of the immense benefit to land from grain feeding, and when judiciously used, the bill is paid for by the animals which consume the grain. What, then, becomes of the argument to give up "high farming" and betake ourselves to the wretched results of slipshod methods and miserable crops, with their inevitable accompaniment of foul weeds? If ever there was a time when only liberal farming, good stock and heavy crops could stand the pressure of the times, it is now. If good farming will not pay, depend upon it, bad will not—now or at any other time.

Cuttings of currants and gooseberries may be taken and set this month. Make them of liberal length, six or eight inches, and stick them into the soil so that only the bud shows. If the earth is a little moist, nearly all will live.

In connection with the possible development of a dressed meat industry in Canada, we would warn Canadian dairymen and their parliamentary representatives to guard against the insidious growth of a bogus butter, or oleomargarine, business, with which the United States dairyman is now having a life and death struggle. An inkling of how this creeps in will appear from the letter of Mr. Helliwell, in another column, where he contrasts the live and dressed beef methods of reaching the British markets.

The Situation in Manitoba.

The harvest of 1894 is over, and the Manitoba and Northwest threshing machines have been for the past month pouring the golden grain into the granaries and elevators. Economy has been a marked feature in carrying on the farming operations throughout the season just past; only such expenses as were absolutely unavoidable have been incurred. Little or no machinery was bought, the old binder being made to do duty once more. The harvest began early, and the weather throughout was perfect; labor was cheaper than ever before. The straw was, in most cases, light and short, requiring less twine, which, by the way, was also sold at a very low price, owing, in a great measure, to the manufacture of this article by the Patrons of Industry at Brantford, Ont., and by prison labor at Toronto and Kingston; this being undoubtedly brought about by the agitations carried on by the Farmers' Institutes and by Patrons of Industry, in Ontario and Manitoba. The Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, followed by the large Elevator Companies, have reduced the rates for handling and storing grain; for all that, with the desperately low price of wheat, there will be little margin left for the producer. If the C. P. R. would now reduce the freight rates on wheat, as they have done on lumber from Lake of the Woods, and on coal in the west, it would be a great boon to the farmers, and through them to the whole community.

The wheat yield promises, at this writing, to exceed the August estimate of the Government (15.6 bushels per acre), and the sample will be high in quality, though the berry in some sections may be lean. There are individual cases of smut reported, and it is somewhat doubtful if a market will be found this year for smutted wheat. Parties having smut have themselves only to blame, as the remedy is sure, cheap and easily applied, and has been thoroughly advertised in the columns of the press, as well as by the Farmers' Institutes, Boards of Trade and Departments of Agriculture.

The writer, having driven about five hundred miles through some of the best sections of the Province, in the month of August, was surprised to find such a marked difference in the results of improved and thorough methods over no system and slovenly ways, or the attempts of two-horse farmers to run four-horse farms; on one side the road a fine, clean piece of wheat, good enough for 25, 30 or even in some cases 40 bushels, while on the other, under exactly similar natural conditions of soil, rain-fall, etc., but under a different management, would be a poor, thin, dirty crop, which would scarcely pay for the twine required to bind it.

CULTIVATION WILL TELL:

more especially so in a season like the past one. While we saw some well-worked summer-fallows, they were the exception rather than the rule. Most of them had been ploughed late (just before harvest and some during harvest) and not harrowed at all. This plan only blackens the ground, leaving the weed seeds to ripen and lie under cover, ready to spring into life on the first opportunity, and allowing every vestige of moisture to evaporate out of the soil, and except that it is *ready* (?) for spring seeding, the last state of that land is worse than the first. Some wonderful crops of oats were seen, Black Tartarian and American Banner seeming to give best results: one field of the former, on the Carberry plains, looked good enough for 100 bushels per acre. The English varieties of oats appeared weak in straw, and not as good yielders. Barley, generally, was poor, thin, short in straw and head, and weedy, but in cases where given half a chance and well worked, some fine crops of Odessa were noticed, which would probably yield 40 to 50 bushels per acre. Timothy is much more extensively grown than formerly, and in most cases gives satisfaction.

On the whole, the prospects of the farmer are improving, and we predict that bottom has been touched and that a period of *home* making will now be in order. Everywhere, even in the least favored districts, where men have settled down with the intention of making *homes* and not fortunes, and where the careful, economic, intelligent methods pursued in other agricultural countries have been adopted, success is written in plain letters across the gateways of such farms, but unfortunately these are not in the majority.

We found in Southern Manitoba, between Morden and Pilot Mound, many large barns newly built or in course of erection; and herein lies the key to the situation: farms of ¼ or ½ sections, good buildings, a variety of live stock, rotation of crops and thorough methods.

The attention of our readers is especially called to the fact, which we announce elsewhere, that the Russian Thistle has gained a foothold in the western part of Ontario.

"Let the farmer go for a single day entirely without salt, and it will quite likely cure him of the mistaken notion that sheep need it only once a week, and that is as often as it is generally given to them. If it is omitted from a single article at the table, the good wife is informed of it at once. Sheep need a constant supply within their reach. It promotes health, and three parts of salt mixed with one part of hard-wood ashes is an excellent preventive of worms."—The Cable.