

to water; it should be further protected from the infiltration of surface water by being furnished with a tight-fitting top, placed at some little height above the surface of the surrounding ground; it should from time to time be thoroughly cleaned out; household slops, garbage, etc., should never be thrown near it; it should never be used as a cold storage receptacle (a too common practice we fear); and finally, dairy and other vessels should not be washed out near it, unless ample and careful provision is made to carry off the wash-water by a well constructed drain.

Free Rural Postal Delivery.

The United States Government has been trying an experiment of great interest to farmers—free rural postal delivery. In the New England States the experiment has been tried in Maine and Massachusetts, and so far the plan has worked so well that it is expected that the inspectors who have had the experiment in charge will recommend to the next session of congress that the plan be made permanent and general. It has been found that a carrier can cover a route of from 16 to 24 miles long, once a day, for an expense of not more than \$300 per annum. The increased revenue to the post office department because of the increased amount of mail matter that is carried when free delivery is ensured will, it is supposed, largely make up for the increased expense. The carriers on these routes also collect mail matter from locked boxes located in conveniently accessible places and convey it to the post office.

In the West and South there are vigorous demands for the general adoption of the system all over the country. Governor Mount, of Indiana, is a very earnest advocate of the "farmer's free mail." In a recent address he thus forcibly expressed his views:

"The farmers have a right to demand that the government at least co-operate with them in securing better mail facilities for the country. The farmer of the twentieth century must be a man of the broadest mind, of the highest development. The farmer's home must be supplied with books, papers, and magazines. He must keep in touch with the intellectual, social, and business world. To secure the advantage of daily mail good roads will be a necessity. With good thoroughfares to insure speedy transit, then by the co-operation of the farmers and the government arrangements can be made for the deposit by the postman of the farmer's mail in a box opposite his home. Good roads and daily mail to the farmer of the coming years will be indispensable to the highest success, socially, financially, and intellectually."

The Home and Farm, of Louisville, Kentucky, has had a series of vigorous articles on the subject. In a recent issue it spoke as follows:

"Free mail for rural districts ought not to be longer postponed. Merchants and manufacturers and all business houses in great cities have their mail delivered to them four times a day, and have their letters as often collected. Farmers living five or ten miles from the post office have themselves to go to the post office to get their letters, and many of them do this not oftener than once a week.

"The experiment of free delivery of mails in cities was much objected to in the beginning on the same grounds that its extension to rural customers is now objected to. It was said to be far too costly. Experience has shown that the new business developed, has more than paid for the expense.

"What rural free delivery will do is this: It will bring about closer connection between farmers themselves. Men living twenty miles apart, with the post office midway, may then communicate daily with one another, and communicate with the merchants in town. Delivery of goods would follow delivery of mails. Merchants in town would find that it would pay them to extend their own delivery system. The farmer would not then have to stop plowing or harvesting and take his horse from the field to go to town to buy some important machinery. The women of the household need not then wait on the farmer until he can stop plowing or planting, before they can communicate with their neighbors or their country merchants.

"Further than this, it would bring the farmer into more direct contact with the best influences of the city—books, newspapers, and magazines. Free delivery would lessen the isolation of the farmer and keep him more easily in touch with the men doing most for agriculture on the farm and elsewhere. It is simply a method of securing prompt diffusion of good influence and a broader diffusion of knowledge in all the branches of human life.

"Free delivery will not come all at once; it ought not so to come, but it should be extended little by little from the towns and villages until finally even the most remote sections would be in frequent communication with the post office system. When the farmers themselves awaken to the full importance of this change, when they unite in the demand for it, they will not have long to wait for the free delivery of their mails."

We recommend our readers to consider this question carefully. Free postal delivery would mean a very great deal to the Canadian farmer. It would place him where he ought to be, on a par as regards business advantages with his fellow-traders in the cities.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

English agricultural papers are agitating for the passing of a "Weeds Act," one that should compel the cutting down of all free and light seeding weeds, like the thistle, before going to seed. *The Rural World*, of London, England, thinks that "a million pounds would be saved to British farmers by such a simple act." "Good farmers," it says, "would herald such an act with joy, while bad ones for shame would not go against it."

Mr. Kearley, an English M.P., in an address in the House of Commons on January 25th of this year, asserted that 25 per cent. of the milk sold in London is adulterated. He said that the people of London paid annually for water sold under the guise of milk no less a sum than £1,500,000.

England imports about £14,000,000 worth of butter annually. A good deal of this is adulterated. The Board of Customs has recently been testing the purity of the butter obtained from different countries. Of the samples tested Holland showed an adulteration of 42 per cent.; Germany of 30 per cent.; Belgium of 20 per cent.; Denmark, of 10 per cent. The samples from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, France, Sweden and Norway were all pure. It is proposed to institute an examination of imported butter at the port of entry.

The recent advance in the price of hogs is not explainable by the fact that the swine plague of the west has reduced the supply. From March 1st to September 1st, over 1,600,000 more hogs were slaughtered in Chicago than in the same period last year. The advance is due to an increase of consumption, and this again is no doubt due to an increased confidence on the part of the people in a return of better times.

The pacing horse has passed the goal of a two-minute record. At Readville, Massachusetts, on Saturday August 28th, 1897, the pacing horse, Star Pointer, made a mile in 1.59 $\frac{1}{4}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ second less than 2 minutes. It has taken 58 years to reduce the record from 2.30. The lowest record of the trotting horse is 2.03 $\frac{3}{4}$. The two-minute record is, of course, the goal at which the breeder of the trotting horse is also aiming.

By an act passed this year by the Danish Legislature it is provided that in Danish made butter no preservative is to be used except common salt. "All buyers of Danish butter," says Professor Bernhard Boggild, Dairy Expert to the Royal Agricultural Society of Denmark, "are thus guaranteed against boracic acid and similar chemicals more or less injurious to the health of the consumers." Three inspectors have been appointed to make the act efficient.

At the Iowa State Fair held at Des Moines, Sept. 9-18, a new feature was introduced. Parties attending the Fair were invited to "camp out." Camping places were provided on the grounds, free of charge, tents were loaned at reasonable rates, furniture was supplied at schedule prices, and food and groceries were sold at guaranteed regular retail prices. All this by the fair authorities. The only charge made was the regular fee for attendance, which was collected each morning at the door of each tent.

Wisconsin is making a new move in the manner of conducting its Farmer's Institutes. At the

county institutes the owners of the animals that have won prizes at the county fairs are expected to have selected specimens of their prize-winning animals present. These are then made the subject of object lessons to the members by the attending delegation of speakers. At the Waukesha County Institute, for example, Superintendent George McKerron is to speak on "The Kinds of Horses to Raise," "Judging Sheep," and "Judging Horses," using the prize-winning horses and sheep as his texts; and Mr. C. P. Goodrich is to speak on "The Breeding and Development of Dairy Cows," and "Beef and Dairy Types," using prize-winning cows as his texts.

A colored man, Mr. Gilchrist Stewart, has learned the art of dairying at the Wisconsin Dairy School, having taken a full course of dairying at the school, and a full course of bacteriology from Professor Russell, of the University of Wisconsin. Governor Hoard speaks of him as "one of the brightest students it has been his good fortune to meet." Mr. Stewart has been appointed professor of dairy science in the Tuskegee Institute, at Tuskegee, Alabama, an institution for colored people, of which the well-known Mr. Booker T. Washington is the head.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

III.—Mr. John Campbell, of Woodville.

Mr. John Campbell, of Woodville, is an excellent example of what industry and energy, conjoined with ability and business shrewdness, will do for the Canadian farmer. With no better advantages in his birth, education, or upbringing than the great majority of farmers' sons of his day and generation possessed, Mr. Campbell stands to-day, at forty-eight years of age, in the very first rank of the farmers of the Dominion, and as a breeder and successful importer and exhibitor of Shropshire sheep certainly without superior.

Mr. Campbell had not long been farming on his own account before he realized that if he wanted to derive from farming all the pleasure there was to be got out of it, and if he wanted to make money out of it, he must go into the keeping of purebred stock. Having come to this conclusion, he determined to make Shropshire sheep his specialty. Accordingly, in 1881, just sixteen years ago, he purchased some choice imported ewes, and so successful was he in his first purchase that the first ewe he bought cleared for him over \$100 a year during her seven years of life. Since 1889 he has made personal importations of Shropshire sheep almost every year, and has bought the best blood obtainable from such well-known old country breeders as H. Williams, J. Bowen Jones, P. & G. Evans, and the Bradbournes.

Mr. Campbell had not been long keeping Shropshires before he became a prize-winner. His first great success was at Toronto in 1883, where he won first for his pen, and every year since that date he has been a winner of numerous prizes, as the pages of *FARMING* and *The Live Stock Journal* have often testified. But his great success was at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893, when he carried off half the total first premiums offered for Shropshires, including the sweepstakes for ram, all the three first pen premiums, and six other first prizes. Of the nineteen sheep shown by Mr. Campbell at this show, twelve won first prizes, and of these twelve, eleven were bred by himself. *The Breeder's Gazette*, commenting on this exhibit, expressed the opinion that "the Columbian Shropshire class totally eclipsed anything in the way of a mutton sheep this country has ever seen." Amongst other prizes that have been won by Mr. Campbell is the Dominion gold medal offered by the Ottawa Exhibition in 1885, the only gold medal for Shropshires ever awarded in Canada.

One of Mr. Campbell's greatest achievements was the selection and securing of that grand Shropshire ram, the champion Shropshire ram at the World's Fair, Newton Lord. But the get of Newton Lord have been almost equally successful in the show ring as Newton Lord himself, and have frequently won prizes over imported English first prize winners. Of course these get of Newton Lord have brought high prices at sales. Sons sired by Newton Lord have this last year brought as high as \$100 each.

Excellent as Mr. Campbell's reputation is as a sheep-breeder, in his own neighborhood and township he is equally well known and esteemed as a general farmer. His farm comprises 200 acres, and we venture to say a better managed farm, or a cleaner or more orderly one, will not be found anywhere. And this opinion is not merely a local or private opinion either, for in 1885 Mr. Campbell won the gold medal in the prize farm competition of the Agriculture and Arts Association of that year. Mr. Campbell attaches great importance in feeding to the use of roots, and we have seen no finer root fields anywhere than those he can show.

Mr. Campbell is a thorough believer in advertising, and he knows how to advertise too. No man patronizing the columns of *FARMING* watches his advertisements more closely or prepares them more carefully than he does. By means of his judicious advertising he has made the name "Fairview" a household word among sheep men the continent over, and of course this helps him greatly in his business.