

Farming in Foreign Lands.

From the *American Agriculturist*.

There are 27 agricultural schools, with 726 pupils, in Italy.

In the German empire there are 869 dairy associations.

The Queensland government is experimenting with the cultivation of hops and olives.

The linseed crop of Russia was 11,805,000 bushels last year, as compared with 13,861,000 bushels in 1890.

Many farmers in New South Wales are giving up growing grain, and are turning their attention to mixed farming.

Prince Edward Island is improving the quality of its live stock, especially horses, and sheep grown for mutton.

Italy's wheat crop is placed at 140,000,000 bushels, as compared with 127,000,000 bushels in 1891, and 133,335,000 bushels in 1890.

The area sown to wheat in South Australia will not be so large this year as last, the season having been late and the ground hard for plowing.

In Palestine the early rains fall in October and November when the seed is sown, but crops will not mature unless the latter rains also fall in April.

Out of every 10,000 persons in Cape Colony there are 4,403 who are engaged in agriculture, the aggregate number being 672,458 persons, of whom 333,612 are males, and 258,846 females.

The largest number of sheep held by one owner in New South Wales is 550,000 head, and there are 330,000 owned by the Momba pastoral company. There are nine owners who each hold more than 200,000 sheep.

The New Zealand government proposes to erect receiving depots for butter at the principal places of export, so as to encourage dairying by shipping abroad the surplus product.

Cultivators and horse-hoes are of rather antiquated style in France, and most agricultural implements there are much behind those of America in utility and durability.

Exports of wheat and flour from Canada averaged 2,993,000 bushels per annum during the ten years ending with 1891. This year they are likely to show an advance.

Sugar-cane has been badly ravaged by grubs in Queensland, nearly half the acreage being destroyed. In one case 700 pounds of grubs were picked from a single acre. The insect is the larva of a greyish-white beetle.

The island of Mauritius contains an area of nearly 435,000 acres of which 40,000 are planted to sugar cane, 2,000 to aloes, 1,400 to beans, 1,000 to peas, 300 to orchards, and smaller areas to coffee, vanilla, maize and other crops.

Indian wheat was imported into Belgium last year to the extent of 8,700,000 bushels as compared with 4,350,000 bushels in 1890. Part of this was for consumption in Germany and Switzerland, and all three countries are satisfied with the quality.

The Victoria government finds itself compelled to reduce the bonuses paid for the export of butter. Last year as much as \$150,000 was used for this purpose, six cents per pound be-

ing paid on all butter that realized over 25 cents in the English market.

Nova Scotia averages yields per acre of 18 bushels of wheat, 21 of rye, 35 of barley, 34 of oats, 33 of buckwheat, 42 of corn, 42 of turnips, 250 of potatoes, 22 of beans, and 2 tons of hay. Fruit growing is limited, except apples, of which the annual yield is about 300,000 barrels.

Arrangements have been made with the regular mail steamship lines to run extra steamers between Tasmania and London during the fruit season, so as to afford space enough for all shipments offering. It is estimated that 300,000 bushels of apples will be shipped next season, beginning about March, 1893.

Eighty per cent. of the population of Italy is, directly or indirectly, dependent upon her agricultural resources. There are 5,000,000 acres cultivable lands, of which 4,125,000 acres can be irrigated. The farmers feel keenly the competition of the farmers in Russia, Hungary and India.

The oranges of Paraguay are very similar to those of Florida and California in size and flavor. The tree begins to bear at five years old, and there are thousands of trees over sixty years of age that are as prolific as ever. The exports of oranges last year were over 65,000,000, valued at \$82,000.

The number of miles of fencing in New South Wales is 1,690,000, at an average cost of \$209 dollars per mile. There are 32,000 dams used for stock purposes, at an average cost of \$412; 33,000 water tanks, each costing \$965; and 3,744 wells, averaging \$1,145. This total expenditure exceeds \$400,000,000 for improvements in stock raising.

Immense swarms of flying locusts have destroyed a large proportion of the winter crops in South Africa. Wheat, winter barley and oats have been completely eaten off, also the sweet grasses, so that little nutritious feed is left for sheep. In some sections the potatoes and corn were damaged, and peas and beans though spared at first, were finally devoured.

The finest tea plantations in China are those on the mountain side, neither too warm nor too cool, where the soil is dry, although rains and dews are frequent. The force of the wind is broken, there is a maximum of sunlight, and the surrounding ground is free from weeds, or other vegetable growth. Such plantations are worth enormous sums of money and are controlled by the Chinese millionaires.

In Uruguay there are 400,000 acres under cultivation this year. Pastoral exports have formed ninety per cent. and agricultural exports only six per cent. of the total shipments of produce heretofore, but there is a gradual extension of the agricultural area. Last year's wool clip was rather less than 46,000 bales, and there were 666,000 head of cattle slaughtered in Uruguay, as compared with 801,000 in Argentine, and 455,000 in Rio Grande du Sul, a province of Brazil.

The 1891 crop of dried currants in Greece was 160,000 tons, of which 140,000 tons had been exported by the close of the year, 16,500 tons going to the United States. The fig crop was large but of poor quality; tobacco was a

good crop and 6,500,000 pounds were exported. There was a half crop of oil, giving 6,000 tons for export at \$100 a ton, besides which 2,500 tons of pickled olives are annually shipped abroad, the United States taking about 45 tons as well as 20 tons of pickled citrons.

The area planted to wheat in Ecuador is 40,000 acres, and small farms, from one to ten acres each, are the rule. No machinery is employed to sow, cultivate, gather or thresh the grain. A wooden plow drawn by oxen turns the ground over, the seed is sown by hand and wheat is cut with knives. The treading of horses and mules separates the grain from the straw, and it is winnowed by being dropped through small sieves held in the hand, the wind separating the dust and chaff from the grain.

The principal products of Bermuda are potatoes and onions, few other vegetables being raised, except boots. Both potatoes and onions are exported to the United States. Very little fruit is raised. Flowers bloom all the year round, and lily and other bulbs are largely exported to the United States. Not more than 50 acres are usually held by one person, and only British subjects can buy and hold land. Farm wages range from 75 cents to \$1 per day. The land is generally let out for an annual rental or on shares.

The orange industry in the Bahamas is on the decline owing to the ravages of scale and the competition of Florida and California oranges. The pineapple crop, however, has increased both in quantity and quality owing to the use of commercial fertilizers. The quantity of fruit exported to the United States in 1891 was 510,403 dozen as compared with 476,000 dozen in 1890, but the trade in canned pineapples has fallen off because the American canning factories now obtain the fruit duty free while there is a duty of 35 per cent on the foreign canned fruit.

Australia has a total area of 1,937,000 acres, of which 6,700,000 are cultivated. There are 8,700,000 cattle, 1,400,000 horses, and 76,000,000 sheep. The Argentine Republic has a total area of 729,000,000 acres, of which 14,900,000 are cultivated. There are 16,000,000 cattle, 3,700,000 horses and 114,000,000 sheep. As a pastoral country Argentine is by far the greater. Exports of wool to August 1st were \$30,000 bales. The corn crop has been the heaviest on record, and the total value of all agricultural products in Argentine, this year, amounts to \$202,000,000, this including what is used for home consumption.

Just a Word of Caution.

From statements made in letters received from Eastern Canada, and from items appearing in eastern papers, it appears that people east have altogether too exalted an idea of Manitoba's crop this year. People east appear to think that the outlook is wonderfully bright, and they are preparing to push business in this direction on the strength of these opinions. Altogether the opinion east seems to decidedly over-rate our crop prospects and the business outlook here. THE COMMERCIAL therefore believes that a word of caution is necessary. The Manitoba crop is not an enormous one. It is a