

EDITORIAL.

Reports from Great Britain show that the present lambing season has been one of the most prosperous for many years.

The School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, has instituted a special course in dairying and domestic economy for young women.

All the bills for the extermination of the Russian thistle, that have been pending in the U. S. House Committee on Agriculture, have been reported adversely.

The Rural New Yorker has sent Mr. Bull \$52.50 as the first instalment of the gratitude fund, which it is collecting for the originator of the Concord grape, who is in needy circumstances.

Great indignation is expressed by all horse and turf papers in what they term the official white-washing of those who were engaged in the famous Alix-Pixley case, by the extraordinary verdict or finding of the Board of Appeals of the American Trotting Association.

It is reported that, although the United States Secretary of Agriculture decided to discontinue the experiments which have been conducted for the past two years in rain-making, several of the railroad companies operating in the far West will continue experiments in this line.

Michigan has a very stringent law against the introduction of fruit trees affected with the black knot. Any person who neglects to remove or destroy diseased trees will be subjected to a fine of one hundred dollars, three months' imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the judge.

The Governor of New York has signed the Thornton Bill, providing for the compensation of the owners of cattle killed for tuberculosis, and horses killed for glanders, and also the bill appropriating the sum of \$8,000 for horticultural experts at both Geneva and Cornell Experiment Stations.

As an example of how many of the big wheat farmers in Manitoba are diversifying their crops this year, Mr. Leech, the well-known Secretary of the Central Institute, informs us in a recent letter that he has this year sown 325 acres of wheat, 60 of oats, 45 of barley, 20 acres green feed, 5 in corn and 3 in roots.

Nebraska is making distinct progress with the sugar-beet problem. In 1891 she produced 2,700,000 pounds; in 1892 she produced thirty-three per cent. more than in the previous year, while in 1893 she turned out 5,835,900 pounds, or a gain of fifty per cent. over 1892. Next to California, Nebraska produces more beet-sugar than any other State in the Union.

Just at present, the question of the inoculation for anthrax is interesting the Australian world. The experiments of Mr. J. A. Gunn appear to have convinced the shepherds of that country that an animal vaccinated with the anthrax virus is proof against this flock-destroying pest. The cost of vaccination, by the Gunn process, is only four cents per head.

We learn, by mean of the New Hampshire Mirror, that at Narragansell Park, where public betting is not allowed, immense fields face the starter, many of them composed of the best material, and that the daily attendance is enormous. This shows that, with proper management, it is possible to do away with the great evil of race tracks—betting—without lessening the gate receipts.

The New York State Board of Health and its tuberculin-injecting inspectors have, by legislative enactment, been relieved of their work of ordering suspected cattle slaughtered. A commission, to be composed of one veterinarian, one physician, and three members of the State Dairymen's Association, has been created a board, by the Legislature, to supersede the Board of Health in this work.

Mr. Hatch's new anti-Option Bill, which is intended to repress bogus transactions and gambling in grain and other farm products, has been favorably reported on by the Agricultural Committee of the American House of Representatives. It is thought that the prospects for the passage of this bill are good, and that it will not only be a source of revenue to the Government, but will have a tendency to stop all reckless gambling in grain and provisions.

Knight of the Vale.

Our frontispiece engraving is a representation of that superb carriage stallion, Knight of the Vale, the property of Messrs. Knettel, Boissevain, Manitoba. Knight of the Vale (1799) is registered in Volume V. of the Yorkshire Coach Horse Society of Great Britain, also recorded in the American Cleveland Bay Stud Book, (999), Volume III., and No. 17 in the Horse Breeders' Lien Act of Manitoba. He was bred by Wm. Codling, Eskdalside, Slights, Whitby, England, afterwards passing into the hands of John White, "The Grange," Appleton, Roebuck, Bolton, Percy, Yorkshire, from whom he was purchased by his importers, Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., Brandon, Manitoba, subsequently being purchased by his present owners.

Before leaving England he made for himself a remarkable showyard record, winning second place at the great Yorkshire show in a strong and representative class, and third at the Royal at Warwick in 1892; these are the largest and most important shows of Cleveland Bays and Yorkshire Coach Horses held in the United Kingdom.

Since coming to this side of the "pond" his successes in the show ring have been numerous, always heading the lists wherever shown. At the Winnipeg Industrial in 1893 he stood first in the four-year-old class, and took the sweepstakes (silver medal) for all ages; he also captured the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE" special (a very handsome marble clock and bronze ornament), given for the best carriage stallion in classes 8, 9 and 10, which included Thoroughbred, Hackney and Coach Horses. He also won first and silver medal at the Boissevain Spring Stallion Show, and at the Boissevain Agricultural Societies' Show in the autumn.

Knight of the Vale is a beautiful bay in color, stands 16½ hands high, and at present weighs about 1,600 pounds. He has the clean blood-like head and neck of the Thoroughbred, well-laid shoulders and grand top, good feet and large, flat, hard bone so essential to the roadster. He moves with that elegant and forceful action characteristic of the Cleveland Bay.

Foaled in 1889, sired by County King 110, first dam by Wonderful 533, third dam by Bass Rock, S. B., etc., etc., of extremely fashionable breeding, combining some of the most celebrated sires in the Cleveland Bay, Yorkshire Coach and Thoroughbred history. Among them such names from the Cleveland Bay records as Statesman, Wonderful, Cleveland Lad and Skyrocket; and from the stud book of Thoroughbreds, Necromancer, Bass Rock and Darley Arabian.

Manitoba is fortunate to have such a horse within her borders, and great credit is due to the importers and owners of such horses, and now when ordinary horses are so low in value it is the more important to breed only good mares to the best available stallions.

The Knittle Bros. can accommodate a limited number of approved mares during the season, with care and pasture at reasonable rates.

Manitoba Crops.

A crop report will be issued by the Department of Agriculture early in June. From what information we have been able to gather, we expect the wheat area will be about as large as last year, there being always some new land coming under cultivation, but there will be a much larger area than before devoted to other crops—barley, oats and flax, while corn, roots and grasses will be sown in far greater quantities than ever before in the history of the West. The Winnipeg seedsmen report largely increased sales this spring of all field and garden seeds. Keith & Co. state that in all lines they have greatly exceeded last year's business, there being a special demand for corn, peas, turnips, rape and millets, while Mr. Perkins says he has sold forty bushels of North Dakota Flint, besides considerable quantities of other corns, and also large quantities of timothy, red clover (principally to the far West) and red-top grasses, onions, turnips and mangolds. Body & Noakes, linseed oil works, say the demand for flax-seed far exceeds any previous year.

Messrs. Bousfield and Greenwood, of Douglas, are establishing a creamery, on the cream-gathering system, at Douglas. They purpose securing a large supply from the farmers near Carberry, and have it shipped every day by train.

Ex-Postmaster-General Wanamaker states that he spent \$10,000 in testing the free delivery of mail matter in rural districts, and that the results were that, in the majority of the cases, the mails and revenues increased, and the business at the post-offices became so much larger that private arrangements were made to have the service continued, when it became evident that the present United States Administration would not continue it.

A Teachers' Institute.

Mr. Gilbert Wilson, principal of the Brandon Collegiate, read a paper on "Agriculture in the Rural Schools," at the late teachers' institute, at Brandon. The following notes of the essay, and discussion which followed, we clip from the "Free Press":—

"He would place the subject on the programme of studies, because of (1) its educational value, (2) its sociological value, (3) its economic value. In the junior classes, nature herself should be studied, and in the senior divisions the knowledge thus gained would be applied to the practical home life of the pupil. The pupils must study nature—not a text book; the only book required would be one in which to set down their observations and conclusions. The pupils themselves should bring the materials of study, such as samples of soils, samples of hay and grain in different stages of growth, etc. Lessons could be frequently given out in the fields. In this way, a living interest would be fostered, which could never be the case if the subject were taught by text book alone. Pupils should be encouraged to experiment themselves, on a small scale, to ascertain principles of growth, etc. All this would tend not only to accurate knowledge, but also to a genuine interest in farming. Agriculture should be made compulsory at teachers' examinations, being substituted for physics or botany, and the Normal schools should give instruction in best methods of presentation."

Messrs. W. A. McIntyre and H. S. McLean agreed with much advanced by Mr. Wilson, which was not as great an innovation as many suppose. Much of the work outlined was being actually carried on at present, under the name of nature study. Mr. J. D. Hunt gave hints and suggestions as to many points in which improvement might be made in the social and economic condition of the farmers of the Province. Mr. J. Ridington pointed out that there was considerable difference between the plan as outlined by Mr. Wilson and that for which many were at present agitating. He took issue with the position laid down by the essayist, maintaining that the sphere of the Public school was not to prepare pupils for any special business, but merely for the duties of citizenship. He agreed most heartily with the essayist that the work outlined in the paper should be done, but contended that this was not the duty of the Public school, but of the Agricultural college.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis, at the present time, is receiving a great deal of public attention, not only on this continent, but in Europe. Science has thrown new light on this hitherto little-understood disease, and it is now enjoying what might be termed a "boom." The newspapers publish, under glaring headlines, all kinds of misleading statements, generally mixing up tuberculosis and pleuro-pneumonia. "Expert evidence" is not wanting of the most blood-curdling nature as to the imminent danger to human life in partaking of the milk or meat of an animal however slightly affected; others, again, taking the opposite extreme, claim that tuberculosis is no more prevalent nor the death rate from consumption in the human subject no higher than in past years.

While "doctors disagree" as to the extent to which the human subject is liable to contract the disease, one thing appears clearly demonstrated: that the tuberculin test is an almost infallible diagnostic of bovine tuberculosis; something over 80% of cases, showing the reaction from the test, prove to have tubercles in some organ of the body. The rise in temperature, however, is just as marked if only a bronchial gland is affected as if both lungs and all the intestines were far gone with the disease, although its extent or location cannot well be located till after death.

One thing more that seems not very clear as yet is that in most cases where the disease has effected whole herds, it has been among pure-bred cattle, kept under what has been considered most favorable conditions, as to care, warmth and ventilation.

Now, while science is settling these problems, every cattle-breeder should look well to his own herd, and, if he has any suspicious cases, it would be well to have the tuberculin test applied, and do all possible to stamp out this dreaded plague.

Veterinary surgeons should provide themselves with the lymph and acquaint themselves with the method of application.

The city and town populations are wakening up to the seriousness of the situation, and demanding protection in their milk supply, and rightly so. Corporations should insist upon the inspection and purification of all dairies supplying milk to consumers within their limits; but if animals belonging to private individuals are to be killed for the public weal, the public should be willing, in some way, to compensate the individual loser.

Read "Invicta's" queries in this issue re water supply. We would like to hear from any who have satisfactorily solved this problem. Your experience will certainly assist someone.

The farmers in the vicinity of Portage Creek have organized a creamery company. The capital stock of the company is \$2,000. The directors are: Chas. Cuthbert, President; W. R. Robinson, Sec.; Treas.: C. J. Green, W. G. Smith and T. E. Byers.