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FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

Read This.

CREEMORE, Feb. 24th, 1898.

Dear Sirs,—Please find enclosed \$2.00 for the past year and also for this year. We did not instruct your agent to send us FARMING, but when it came we liked it very much and receive a great deal of information from it, and after some time found that we could not get along without your paper.

Yours truly,

JAMES NAYLOR.

GREENBANK, Feb. 18th, 1898.

Dear Sirs,—Enclosed please find \$2.00 for FARMING to June, 1898. I am highly pleased with FARMING, and especially with the market reports. I could not get on without it, and I would be lost if I did not receive its weekly visit.

Yours truly,

GEORGE LEE.

The opinion expressed by these letters is that of every subscriber for FARMING. They all appreciate its regular weekly visit and its timely and up-to-date articles. The weekly market review and forecast is most highly commended. It is really worth ten times the price of one year's subscription to any farmer who has produce to sell.

We are open for receiving new subscriptions at any time. Look up our special seed premiums in this week's issue. Specially selected varieties given for new subscribers for FARMING. You should not miss this offer of securing new seeds for both the garden and farm. Now is the time to begin.

Our Clubbing List.

	Regular price.	With FARMING.
Canadian Magazine.....	\$2.50	\$2.50
Toronto Weekly Globe.....	1.00	1.50
Toronto Weekly Mail and Empire.....	1.00	1.40
Farm and Fireside.....	1.00	1.40
Montreal Daily Witness.....	3.00	3.00
Toronto Morning World.....	3.00	3.00
Montreal Weekly Witness.....	1.00	1.60
Family Herald and Weekly Star.....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.75
London Weekly Advertiser.....	1.00	1.40
Ottawa Semi-Weekly Free Press.....	1.00	1.60
Heart's Dairyman.....	1.00	1.75
Rural New Yorker.....	1.00	1.85

Our British Letter.

The Agricultural Depression in England and its Cause.

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

London, Eng., March 9, '98.

Every newspaper one picks up at the present time devotes a portion of its space almost daily, or weekly, as the case may be, to the gold-finding business in the Klondike. So much has this sub-

ject taken hold of men's minds here—as elsewhere—that even at the pedigree stock shows of the past fortnight one found the subject cropping up wherever a bevy of farmers happened to find themselves talking together. I was at the annual show of pedigree hunters to-day (a large and first-class show too, it is), and I had not seated myself in the press stand (to be seated in a stand sounds a bit paradoxical, but let that pass) more than twenty minutes, when a breeder, who had just been awarded a prize called out to me, "Holloa! that's almost as good as going to the Klondike."

There was more than a modicum of truth in the jocular assertion, and I have lead up to this point in order to say a word on the subject to which, stripped of metaphor, it clearly refers. Now, at this hunters' show we see the *crème de la crème* of the pedigreed hunting horses of Great Britain. The breeder in question meant to infer that having won at this, the best show in question, he would for the produce of his animal be able to get tip top prices. The same principle is being recognized, I am glad to say, more and more by farmers in general—whether what they send for competition be horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, or dairy produce. In England, of all countries, it is the best which pays. And if this is so, as applied to what we ourselves grow, it is doubly so as applied to those outside our shores who desire to gain or to retain a foothold in our markets. I am glad, therefore, to observe in an issue of FARMING to hand this week that this lesson is enforced; and if I refer to the matter it is but to enforce a truth which I am afraid is sometimes forgotten.

Farming in England at the present time is better than it has been for some few years past. Not that it is bright even now. Perhaps I ought rather to have said that farmers here are now *losing less* than in recent years; for, whilst many are just now—with the rise in wheat and fair prices for stock—holding their heads fully above water, I am afraid there are very many more who are still losing their capital, though more slowly than two to five years since.

I cannot, of course, here go into a long statement as to why British agriculturists, as a body, are depressed in their calling; but if you ask the farmers themselves why it is, they will commonly answer that it is owing to Free Trade, high rents, and bad seasons.

Free Trade has undoubtedly hit our agriculturists uncommonly hard; but I don't think that is anything like an adequate cause for the depression. Bad seasons, too, have something to do with it, but I cannot remember that the seasons have lately been much worse than formerly. Then as regards high rents, why even a Radical politician writing in one of our chief reviews this month admits that high rents have not been the cause of the depression. I don't know what a Radical is in Canada. I know what he is here: and in a few words, he may be described as "one who is always agin' the landowner." The politician in question is the exception who proves the rule, and, being such, his statement merits recognition.

This same politician, however, quoting *The Rural World*, puts down the farmers' depressed condition very much to the lack of technical education. It is, I think, unfair to account for the depression in this way. It is not due to any one cause, though the lack of technical education is no doubt accountable for a good deal. This is, indeed, the view which the paper in question enforces. It may seem strange to Canadian farmers that I should charge British agriculturists with any lack of technical knowledge, seeing that they produce the finest farm live stock of every

breed. But, after all it is true. The be-all and end-all of farming is not the production of stock, though even here half of our agriculturists are not experts. Where our farmers are lacking in technical knowledge is in their cropping and feeding arrangements. Science to them is a "bugbear," and yet without science, you cannot have such technical instruction as is common in other countries.

The San Jose Scale.

A bill has been introduced at Ottawa and which has already become law, by the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, which prohibits the importation into Canada of fruit trees from countries where the San Jose scale exists. A great many trees come into Canada every year from the nurseries of the United States where the San Jose scale is known to exist. Mr. Fisher's bill will absolutely put a stop to this trade and compel our fruit men to get their new stocks of trees from Canadian nurseries.

This may seem like a pretty drastic measure, but considering the nature of the disease known as the San Jose scale, and what a scourge it is when it gets a foothold, no legislation can be too strong when it has for its object the protection of our fruit trade from injury from this destructive pest. The disease is so hard to locate and necessitates a microscopic examination in order to detect its presence on trees in its initial stages, that only an absolute prohibition of the importation of trees from countries where the disease exists will prevent its coming into the country. From the very nature of the thing the most rigid inspection would not suffice. As Mr. Fisher pointed out in his address when introducing the bill an inspection of the trees at the port of entry would necessitate the unpacking of every bundle of trees. This, owing to the tender condition of the young trees, would be extremely risky and would entail serious loss to the shipper. The only sure way, then, of combatting the disease is to prevent its coming in with young trees, and if a rigid inspection of the fruit trees already in Canada is enforced our fruit interests may be kept free from this pest.

Though this legislation may perhaps injure our fruit trade with the United States, it will serve to strengthen our position very materially in the European markets. As we have pointed out elsewhere there is already an agitation in Great Britain in regard to the matter, and measures may be adopted there very shortly to prohibit the importation of fruit from countries where the San Jose scale exists. Then, the action of Germany in prohibiting the importation of fruit from the United States may afford an opportunity for Canadians to develop their fruit trade with that country if it is known that the San Jose scale does not exist in Canada, and that such regulations have been adopted as will absolutely prevent its being brought into the country. Self-protection is one of the fundamental principles of all legislation, and when a necessity arises any government is perfectly justified in making laws, however drastic they may be, when this object cannot be attained in any other way. For this reason, this new legislation will meet with general approval from everyone interested in the development of our fruit trade, and we do not think our friends to the south will take it in anything but a kindly spirit.

Early versus Late Sowing.

There is a doubt sometimes as to when is the best time to sow spring grains, and as to whether early or late sowing will be the more advantageous. If the soil be in a suitable condition and