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To Our Subscribers.

In our last issue we sent envelopes to all of you, whether your subscriptions were paid or not. Those that have paid are not expected to pay again until the proper time arrives. Accounts have been sent to all that are in arrears. Thousands of the envelopes are already returned, nearly all of which contained payment for the present year. To each of you we return our sincere thanks for your prompt remittances.

We are pleased with the numerous expressions of approval contained in many of the letters, and are doubly thankful to those who have added one or more names to our list. There are still many envelopes to come in. We well know that some are waiting to add a name or two with theirs; we hope you will all try this week to send us one more subscriber each, and if only half of you succeed it will give us power to vastly improve your paper.

There are some names on our list that are too far in arrears; to them we must again appeal for prompt remittance.—We do not wish to put them to costs, which would be heavier than they contemplate, unless we are compelled to do so, but in justice to ourselves and all punctual payers, we must now have our pay sent in. This compulsory step will not be enforced on those that are not over six months in arrears.

Seeds.

It has been one of the specialties of this journal to give information regarding new seeds that appear to be advantageous for cultivation. Many kinds that we have introduced have proved of very great advantage, and the demand is for more.

The great desideratum at the present time is a new variety of spring wheat that will prove better than the old varieties. The Fife or Scotch Wheat is not giving general satisfaction; in some sections it still does well, but in many parts it is almost discarded. The Rio Grande, the McCarling, and the Red River wheats are cultivated with but various success: from some parts we hear good reports, from others the most discouraging. The Baltic, the Siberian and the Morden varieties have all received praise from some and utter condemnation from others. The Farrow wheat, the most recent variety we have introduced, appears to share about the same fate as the others. It yielded a little better than the other varieties of spring wheat which we cultivated this year, but the sample is so shrunk that but few farmers would be satisfied with it if we sent it to them.

We therefore ask if any of you have any good variety or any really good clean seed of the old varieties that is pure.—Have any of you got the old China wheat? If you can send us reports of any good, clean, plump and pure wheat that is likely to be of advantage, please inform us, for we were never in a greater dilemma before.

We have tried all the varieties we have heard of not one of which we can confidently recommend. Price would be no object. One bushel of good spring wheat at the present time that would surpass the present worn out varieties, would be worth \$100 to us and \$100,000 to the country, it would net a fortune to any man that could introduce a really valuable variety at the present time.

There are and have been and will be numerous attempts to palm off inferior kinds, or even fine samples under false names. We know of a large quantity of fall wheat having been sold to farmers as spring wheat. We would caution our readers against being caught by chaff; is there is anything in the way of spring wheat that is likely to prove more beneficial than your old varieties, you may depend that we will hear of it and will give you information about it. You may aid us in sending any reports of really good seed of any kind, as we require them; also good, pure, clean oats and other seeds.

Caution.

We have received accounts of a pretended agent's taking subscription for our paper. The Hon. G. Brown informs us that he has received a dozen telegrams regarding one person; this individual in particular should be stopped; we do not know him to describe his appearance. He has passed himself off as a brother to your humble servant, giving his name as John Weld. We never had a brother of that name in Canada. He also takes subscriptions for the *Globe* and other papers. We have no agent connected with other papers.

Prize Notice.

As one of our subscribers enquires of us for the best means of destroying Wild Oats, we now offer a prize—one of Vick's chromos—for the best article on the subject, namely,

THE BEST MEANS OF EXTERMINATING WILD OATS,

the article to be in this office by the 20th of January.

CORRESPONDENTS must state their post office address, otherwise we cannot attend to them.

Supply of Animal Food for Great Britain.

The subjoined article in relation to the supply of animal food for the people of Great Britain, will be found of great interest to our readers. The day is not far distant when Canadian beef will be found largely in English markets, and contribute to the profits of the farmers of the Dominion.

"There is annually consumed in Great Britain and Ireland 12,000,000 tons of meat, or nearly 3500 tons per day, whilst, despite the enhanced price, the demand steadily increases. The artisan, mining and many other industrial classes now have butchers' meat several times a day, and the more thriving purchase beef and mutton at 10d to 14d per lb., and eschew bacon and pork at two-thirds the price. For our national prosperity it certainly augurs well that, with other commodities advancing in cost, we afford to spend about a hundred millions sterling in meat alone. These food supplies greatly conduce to the physical and mental health of the nation; they represent the fuel or raw material out of which is evolved the brain power, energy, and labor of our busy, hard-working people. Most essential is it that such be carefully cultivated and economized. A reduction of even one penny per pound amounts to an annual saving to the consumer of upwards of ten millions sterling!

"Enterprise and capital promise to bring within the reach of our meat-consuming population our inexhaustible colonial herds and flocks. Although the first cargo of Australian iced meat is reported to have been consigned to the Atlantic fishes, owing to the ice manufacture having somehow got wrong, cargoes of colonial beef and mutton may still reach us in good preservation.—The preserved tin meats are gaining ground, especially among the more frugal of the middle classes; female mill operatives in many localities find them palatable, economical, and readily prepared; many University men indulge in them for breakfast, lunch or supper.

"An extensive dead-meat trade is yet to be developed, drawing supplies from the great German grazing plains, and the extensive feeding sheds attached to the continental beet-root sugar factories, and the potato spirit distilleries."

It has been suggested that the shipment of meat in ice from the maritime provinces of our Dominion would succeed. The comparative shortness of the voyage and more temperate climate might ensure success, where the transportation from Australia has so far been a failure. There is much to commend the project; but in order to supply the meat the improvement of stock by judicious selection and liberal feeding must be more general. The example of our breeders and importers needs to be followed by our farmers, not in isolated instances, but generally. Let there be a good supply of the best beeves for the market, and there can be no reasonable doubt that means will be found to bring them to the English market, and they will command remunerative

prices. To ensure this supply the farmer needs to enrich the soil. A hungry, impoverished, or neglected soil will yield the food needed to supply good meat in the requisite quantity. Good farming is necessary to keep good stock in a profitable condition. A large stock well fed will make the soil fertile. The benefit to farm and stock is mutual.

This improvement in farming, while necessary for the profitable feeding of improved stock, will enable us also to increase the number of stock on our farms. It is well for us to compare our labor and its results with that of other countries, that we may see if there be a lesson to be learned from them. In the late census of the United Kingdom we find that for each one hundred acres of land cultivated the number of cattle is in England 15, in Scotland 26, and in Ireland a number about half way between these figures.

It may be said that the low price of meat in Canada does not hold out any inducement to feed a greater number than is fed at present. We advocate the feeding of beef for the English markets, which we have no doubt it will soon reach; and even now the prices of cheese and butter in our home markets is remunerative. Nor is the profit from dairy products the only profit from feeding stock. The increased fertility of the soil will amply remunerate the stock feeder for his expenditure of time and money.

The concluding portion of the article from the *N. B. Agriculturist* is equally worthy the attentive consideration of the Canadian farmer.

"But for some years to come the home grown article must, as now, constitute five-sixths of our meat supplies. These supplies which, like charity, benefit alike those that give and those that receive them, have not reached anything like their maximum amount. Even under the stimulus of brisk demand and remunerating prices, the cattle and sheep stock of the United Kingdom have not this year made an increment of more than eight per cent. on last year's figures. Various causes account for this tardy production. In no department of the farm does want of capital tell more disastrously. Common, unprofitable animals are kept for breeding stock; early maturity is not sufficiently regarded; often there is lack of money and enterprise, either on the part of landlord or tenant, occasionally of both, to provide that comfortable shelter which is absolutely essential for the economical rearing and feeding of cattle stock in this capricious, ungenial climate.

"There is, moreover, a disposition to depend too exclusively on home-grown feeding stuffs; turnips, straw and hay, costly though it often be to grow them, are given with no ungrudging hand, but seldom can the maximum profit be thus obtained. The more concentrated grains or cakes are needed to hasten growth, to save time, to enable the capital invested to be rapidly enough turned over. Throughout the Lothians and elsewhere, both in Scotland and England, are liberally managed holdings where the expenditure for purchased food exceeds the