

ties will follow this plan, and thus throw the onus of prosecuting upon a disinterested party.

FRUIT

Has been badly blighted by the frost, and all around it will be only half a crop, as the different fruit now developed shows. The fair prospects of the middle of May, when the trees were in bloom, promised more than an average crop of apples, pears and cherries, but only in shaded places, where the direct action of the sun's rays did not come in contact with the newly-formed fruit, will there be any fruit at all. In the counties bordering on our lakes, where the atmosphere is tempered by lake breezes, the damage has not been so great, and a fair crop may be expected. On Lake Erie there will be a full crop of peaches, as they have appeared to have escaped the frost entirely.

CATERPILLARS

Are making fearful havoc with the orchards in some districts. Take from London to Guelph, a number of the apple trees are completely denuded. The common wild cherry also has been stripped of its foliage, and this occurring two years in succession, has killed a great number of these trees. A number of the apple trees in the older orchards that were eaten off last year and leaved a second time, have succumbed to the exhaustion and died. There is no doubt, from the ravages at present committed, our orchards will suffer materially this year. Only by unceasing vigilance can the ravages of this insect be arrested. We hope our farmers will use every means within their reach to check their ravages, or most assuredly they will become a scourge to our orchards, gardens and forests.

High versus Profitable Farming.

The *Advocate*, of New York, under this heading, draws a line between the working farmer, whose care is that everything grown on his farm shall receive his practical attention, and the "gentleman farmer," who tills his fields and feeds his stock for amusement, or rather for the very great pleasure that exists in this most interesting of all occupations, and the good he knows he is doing. We select the *Advocate's* article on the subject, as it must commend itself to our readers, though we cannot see the difference between high and profitable farming. We know from experience that high farming is profitable when judiciously carried on. High farming implies the employment of labor when needed, the selection of the best farm seeds and implements, the thorough cultivation of the soil, the preparation and application of a sufficiency of fertilizers, including not only farm-yard manure, but also composts, lime, phosphates and others. It also implies the feeding the best live stock. This is an outline of high farming, and this farming can be profitable. This is not mere theory—it has been repeatedly proved in practice. The *Advocate* says:—

The "gentleman" farmer, who tills the ground for amusement, and produces fine crops at enormous cost, has long been the laughing stock of practical agriculturists. We confess that we do not quite sympathize with the laugh, for such men, having plenty of means at their command, are often enabled to carry out experiments which are beyond the reach of those who depend upon agriculture for a living. A subject which is worth the attention of every farmer, however, is the extent to which what may be called high farming may be carried with profit and secure good results.

In every case our course must be determined by the profits that may be secured, and not by the absolute expense involved. Thus butter may be produced of such a quality as to command a dollar a pound in the market; but if it costs a dollar and a quarter, it is a poor business to make it.

On the other hand, butter which costs forty cents and sells for seventy-five, yields a profit greater than the gross amount for which ordinary country butter usually sells.

Careful attention to the improvement of the

quality of his products is one of the chief means by which the farmer may secure certainty in his business. Fruit growers know this well. Every year or two we have a glut of peaches, when even a tolerably fair article hardly commands enough to pay for gathering and boxing. Some far-sighted growers, however, always provide against such a condition of things by carefully thinning their fruit and thus securing the very finest samples. First-class fruit always sells at a high price, no matter how much the market may be glutted with an article of common quality.

The same rule applies to almost all the products of the farm. A scrub cow which is worth perhaps twenty-five dollars costs as much as a fine animal that will readily bring three times that amount, and the same is true in regard to poultry and butter.

It will be found, however, that in order to produce articles of a good quality the farmer must have capital as well as skill. If the amount of capital is very limited, the only way to do is to concentrate it upon a small extent of business and the proportion of the extent of business which he carries on, as regards his capital, is the point which demands the greatest amount of thought and good judgment from the farmer. Unfortunately upon this point general rules are of little use. Each man must think out his own problem for himself, and adapt his course to the special circumstances in which he is placed.

Wool—Sheep-Farming.

American agriculturists are becoming aware of the great benefit to the farmer of sheep feeding. The *Western Stock Journal* impresses on its readers the policy of following the example of English farmers in this respect. Referring to the Dorset lambs in the London market about the first of March, the *Journal* says: "Of course you have got to get the sheep to breed the lambs, and the lambs must be bred early so as to mature and be suitable for winter feeding, and suitable shelter for protection provided; but a lamb will stand as much cold as an old sheep. * * We suggest this because we know it is a branch of farming that can be made profitable."

Sheep feeding has long been urged upon our readers, not merely for the immediate direct profit, but also as a means of promoting and maintaining the fertility of their farms. There is no other branch of farming that brings certain profit. The increase of the numbers in the flock, the steady demand at remunerative prices for well-fed mutton and lamb, and the return from the fleeces make sheep feeding a profitable business.

Wool, it is true, is selling at a low figure; the price has fallen to 20 cents, which is now the highest price in Montreal from responsible buyers. In New York the wools held at 46 cents in February last will not bring 36 cents now. The woolen mills are shutting down. This movement, it is said, is designed to regulate the amount of goods that will be thrown upon the market during the coming season, and will not necessarily have an important effect upon all wool interests.

The dull and unsettled state of the Canadian market is attributed to the fact that, judging from recent advices, it is feared the American market will not want much Canadian wool this year, and that it will have to be shipped to England. The fact is, we have been too much dependent upon the American market. We have looked to our neighbors to purchase from us the raw produce of our country, and afforded them a good market for them when manufactured. The effect of the American tariff in lowering the price of our wool is pointed out by the *Globe* in the following extract:

"There was nothing done on the wool market to-day. The parcels which remained over from Saturday's offerings were taken at 23 cents. As is usual at the commencement of the season, prices have not become settled, and dealers are not well advised what to pay. Based on sales in Boston, it would appear that 23 cents is rather high. Sales of Canadian combing are reported from that market at 38 cents per pound through a commission

house. To get at the value here it is necessary to subtract from this sum the duty of ten cents, the difference in currency one cent, the ad valorem of about two and a half cents, and freight and insurance one cent—or say fourteen cents in all. This would regulate the price here to a shade under 24 cents, but it should be remembered that one cent of profit on this market and two cents of charges on the American are to be reasonably expected, and thus we find that the price which might safely be paid in Toronto is not over 21 cents a pound."

Here it is clearly shown that the Canadian producer pays the tariff and all other charges, and reduces the price from 38 cents to 22 cents per pound. While we admit wool free of duty, the Americans charge a duty of from 25 to 50 per cent.

Does Farming Pay?

The best reply to this question is a statement of facts. Mr. John Cochrane, Duncieff, Lobo, has a farm of 100 acres. He fed on it during last winter 35 sheep, 25 of them ewes with lamb, and 10 hoggets. Their fleece this season was 286 lbs.; he sold it at 23 cents per pound to Lambeth & Sons, Siddleville Mills, Lobo. He has sold some of his sheep fat at \$9 each. The sheep are Leicesters. In his farming operations his system is to raise heavy crops in preference to sowing a great many acres. He manures heavily and tills thoroughly. The produce of his lightest crop of wheat for ten years was twenty-eight bushels. It made a very luxuriant growth in the fall. Then there was a heavy fall of snow, without frost; this seemed to smother the wheat almost wholly; patches of it were quite bare. As soon as the land was in condition to bear the horses' hoofs, he harrowed it once lengthways and once across. A soft rainfall that night. The wheat plants tilled well and covered the ground, and he had his twenty-eight bushels per acre from the crop that seemed killed. Last fall his winter wheat was too luxuriant; he turned his thirty-five sheep on it; they ate it down; they thrive on it, and there is a promise of an excellent crop. Good farming, he has proved, does pay well, but bad farming pays never. An idler on a farm cannot prosper. A clear head and strong arms are necessary for a farmer. They have made him what he is now—the independent proprietor of a farm inferior to none in Ontario.

International Agricultural Exhibition.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England, well supported by the civic authorities of the city of London, intend holding a specially grand exhibition of an international character, near the metropolis, during the summer of 1879. The Prince of Wales has consented to accept the presidency of the Society for next year, which in itself will go far toward insuring the success of the undertaking. Liberal subscriptions are beginning to come in, toward meeting the very heavy expenditures that will be required, and a tract of about 100 acres of land has been secured for the purpose at Brondesbury, just out of London.

Should sufficient notice be given in this country of the requisities for exhibition, time of closing entries, &c., we should hope that the stock breeders, as well as implement manufacturers of Canada might be well represented. Among the former there would certainly be much greater inducement to effort than has ever before existed on a similar occasion, now that the English market may be regarded as fairly open both for our horses, and for our cattle, sheep and swine, fattened for the butcher.

The Centennial and Australian Exhibitions have done Canada an immense deal of service, in promoting immigration, in displaying our native wealth, besides attracting our manufactures, especially of agriculture to all parts of the world.

Much more can be done in our stock and dairy