

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

### Notice.

As yesterday was Toronto's Civic holiday and as our large staff of compositors, pressmen, proof-readers, editors, etc., were taking a well-earned rest, FARMING will reach its readers one day late this week. We aim each week to have every copy mailed to subscribers from this office on Tuesday, and it is a great disappointment to us when any difficulties arise to prevent this. Our market review and forecast covers all the market transactions for the week previous to the time of issue and is finally prepared and revised on Monday morning, and we aim to get the valuable information it contains in the hands of our readers as soon as possible, in order that they may get the full benefit from it.

### Agricultural News and Comments.

At a public sale of Hackneys held recently in Scotland \$420 each was the average price for a good horse. The high knee actors are in great demand all over England, especially in the cities. The Scotch farmers go in for high quality, regardless of the service fees of \$25 to \$30. There is a pointer in this for Canadian breeders.

Did you ever hypnotize a chicken? It is a very easy thing to do. Just catch your hen, place it on the floor in front of you, with its tail towards you. Take a piece of chalk and draw a straight line, beginning at a point just under the hen's head and extending a foot and a half or more. The bird will fasten its eyes on the chalk, and in a twinkling almost she is unconscious of anything but that line. You can cuff and kick her about as much as you please, but her gaze will immediately return to the chalk line.—*Ex.*

The following method of keeping butter cool is given by an exchange: Get a common flower-pot and large saucer, fill the saucer half full of water and set the dish of butter upon it. Then cover butter and saucer with flower pot by turning the flower-pot. Close the hole in the bottom of the flower-pot with a cork, then dash water over the flower-pot every time it becomes dry. If set in an airy space a small dish of butter for the table can be kept cool and firm without ice.

The general tone of the reports from the portions of the United States where the fall wheat

threshing is completed are disappointing. This, however, is not because of extremely light yields, but because the yields are so much less than had been expected. The general fine appearance of the wheat fields before harvest seems to have caused too great expectations.

As far as can be learned at the present time, prices for apples are likely to be good this season. The outlook in the United States for a big crop is not at all bright. In fact, it is doubtful if the 1898 crop will be much larger than that of 1897, which was below the average. In Canada a small crop is predicted, though it is likely to be larger than last year.

The range cattle feeders of the west seem determined to get their stockers this fall for much less money than was paid last year. Last year stockers, as a rule, were not in as good condition as they are this year, owing to the pastures being better. In that case they will be worth more for feeding purposes. In addition to this, stockers are not so plentiful as last season, and feeders may find it difficult to get their supplies at the lower prices determined upon.

The price of merino wools in the United States is advancing. In European circles these wools have advanced in price fully twenty per cent. The goods made from these fine wools are always in stable demand by the wealthiest class of people, whose purchases are not usually affected by the fluctuation of prices. No limit, therefore, can be definitely settled for the advance in fine wools, which, according to some reliable authorities, must shortly ensue.

The biggest hog that we have ever heard of has been produced by a farmer of Decatur, Ala. This hog, which is only three years old, weighs 1,524 pounds, and is so fat that it cannot rise. It is ten feet two inches long and four and a half feet high, and is of the Berkshire breed crossed on the native southern stock. Its owner has refused five hundred dollars for it, as he thinks he can make more by moving it from place to place and exhibiting it.

A large share of the \$1,000,000 worth of American corn that now goes weekly to Europe is for the German farmer. For the past two years the German farmer has been learning how to feed this corn to his stock. It is estimated that there will be a yearly market for 150,000,000 bushels of American corn for this purpose in the German agricultural districts alone. Previously the German farmers had fed oats, Russian barley, and other cheap imported grains. Their own land is too valuable to permit them to grow feed.

Two creamery sharks showed up at Groton, Mass., and induced sixty-six farmers to subscribe stock to build a creamery in the neighborhood. Those who subscribed were induced to give notes and agreements to the amount of \$100 each. This would make \$6,600, which is nearly three times as much as a good, modern, up-to-date creamery could be erected for. When will farmers learn to enquire of the proper authorities, and not be duped by these travelling fakirs?

Adelaide of St. Lambert, Miller & Sibley's, of Franklin, Penn., celebrated Jersey cow, in an official test, gave in thirty-one days, 2,005 1/4 lbs. of milk; average per day for thirty-one days, 64 3/4 lbs.; highest single day's milk, 82 3/4 lbs.; for four

weeks, 1,817 1/4 lbs., three weeks, 1,370 1/4 lbs., two weeks, 917 1/2 lbs. Butter capacity as indicated by the Babcock test, 4 1/4 to 4 1/3 lbs. daily. In making this record she was milked three times a day at intervals of eight hours.

### Our British Letter.

Prof. Robertson in England. Quality the Important Thing in the British Markets. A Permanent Canadian Exhibition.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

London, Eng., July 21st, 1898.

Professor Robertson is now in England, and some of us have again had the pleasure of seeing and talking to him on the work he and the Dominion Government are attempting in the way of capturing the British markets. Some of the papers have said that "Canada is determined to become John Bull's 'home farm' over the water." Well, we are very glad to think and know there is a fair modicum of truth in the playful assertion. We are glad to know that Canada is attempting to take a share of our market profits, *i.e.*, providing we don't produce, ourselves, sufficient for our own requirements and, of course, we don't do so.

Mr. Robertson has been explaining how sedulously the Canadian Government considers the interests of its farmers and how industriously it cultivates British markets, and in this he secures a grand advertisement for Canadian produce—an essential nowadays even with a tip-top commodity. One of our daily papers goes on to speak as follows: "Although much has been done, the Dominion is just beginning its career as one of the great granaries, orchards, and dairy farms of the Empire. Canadians are concerned with only one market; they concentrate all their efforts to secure our patronage. As a mere example of beneficent government assistance, the system of agricultural education followed is a great achievement, as a piece of organism it is marvellous, as we have this immense territory, with its scattered population knit together with a series of links which establishes complete connection between the producer in the far North-west and the consumer in England with the fewest possible intermediaries, not less significant is the effect of all this in cementing the commercial bond between the motherland and her premier colony, and in increasing our common interests."

I will only add one thing to all that Professor Robertson has been saying (although I know the lesson implied thereby is already being enforced by the various agricultural experts in Canada), and that is, that to secure, and to retain, our market—a great and growing one—the great point to be arrived at is *quality*. If that be good, and if farmers are content to take a moderate profit for their wares, they will not be disappointed in achieving pecuniary success—the end of all their strivings.

I do not know whether the Canadian agricultural officials have it in mind to supply us with poultry and rabbits, for which there is a very considerable and increasing demand in Great Britain, but, if not, the idea might be worth attention, seeing that you are perfecting the system of cold storage for transit purposes. We receive enormous quantities of dead poultry and game from Continental countries, and if it pays the Continental farmer to supply us with articles of this description, it should also pay many a Canadian, for the cost of transit cannot be much, if any, heavier for the latter.