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RURAL NOTES.

THE exports of breadstuffs from the United States for the past year are valued at \$146,319,755, being \$26,415,839 less than for the previous year.

WHEN the farmer thoroughly understands the influence of agricultural wealth and product on the world's affairs, he will feel that he is a member of the ruling class of the world.

THE New York State law which makes it an offence punishable by fine to sell spurious butter has been in operation about a year, and the commissioner appointed to enforce it reports that the reduction of sales as compared with the previous year amounts to 50,000 pounds daily.

ONE of the best fertilizers for an orchard is wood ashes. It contains nearly all the elements required for nourishing a tree, and it may be applied to the extent of 100 bushels per acre. A clover crop ploughed under now and then will furnish everything else that is required.

IF hilly land be retained in forest the effect is to keep moisture in the soil and so store it that it may escape slowly to the lower ground in springs. For this reason it pays to re-forest the bare hills, especially if, as is usually the case, the soil of the hills be of little value for growing crops.

AT this time of winter the vegetables in cellars should be carefully looked over and all decaying specimens removed. This is necessary not only for the preservation of the vegetables, but more important still for the health of the farmer's family. A little fresh lime scattered around in cellars will absorb moisture, and make the air dry and pure.

IT costs now as little to transport a barrel of flour from say Chicago to Montreal by rail or water, as it does to carry it by horses and waggon a distance of fifty miles over an ordinary country road. The reduced cost of transportation is thus a very great boon to farmers, for where good service is provided it enables them to get the advantage of the best markets.

IN milking a cow never attempt to strip the milk out by pulling the teat down with thumb and fingers, for this works great injury to the bag and milk-veins. See that the hands are clean, grasp the teats with the whole hand, gently squeeze the milk out with a firm pressure, and continue the process quickly until the cow has been milked dry. Slow milking will injure any cow in a short time.

THE barn itself should be on the windward side of the yards where stock is allowed to run. But on other less-exposed sides a row of deciduous trees interspersed with evergreens will make a very desirable shelter. There is some warmth from trees in winter, and the fierce winds will not whistle around a mass of them as it will around a bare barn, blowing away straw and manure, besides making the barnyard uncomfortably cold.

THE scattered droppings of cattle in winter are difficult to manage profitably. In their frozen

state they will not decompose, nor can they be spread evenly. If piled in heaps and not trampled, then enough heat will be evolved to prevent freezing in cold weather, and during warm spells it will make rapidly. It will pay to do this, for manure in its fresh state does much less good to crops than it should or would if fermented.

THE corn crop of the United States for 1884 was the largest which that country had yet grown, being 1,795 millions of bushels. The average is estimated at 69,680,000 acres, the average yield at 25.6 bushels of shelled corn per acre, and the farm value at \$640,000,000. The crop of oats was also the largest aggregate ever grown in that country, the area being 21,300,000 acres, the yield 571,300,000 bushels, the yield per acre 27.4 bushels, and the estimated value of the crop, \$161,528,000.

MOST of the sugar bushes are the natural growth and so scattered that not more than twenty to forty maple trees can be found on a single acre. If planted six feet one way by twelve the other, there will be sixty-seven trees per acre, and they may profitably be grown even closer than this. Wide rows should be made one way for convenience in gathering sap with team and wagons. A sugar bush well managed is a profitable part of the farm, and there is no reason why its productiveness may not be increased as well as that of the cultivated fields which adjoin it.

THE Stratford *Beacon* alludes to this journal in terms following: THE RURAL CANADIAN, Toronto, has absorbed the *Canadian Farmer and Grange Record*, becoming thereby the official organ of the Patrons of Husbandry. THE RURAL is already one of the best agricultural papers on the continent, and is constantly improving. No one who cultivates the soil can afford to keep the dollar in his pocket that will pay for a year's subscription. We value these kind words very much, because the *Beacon* is second to no country paper in the Dominion, and gives from month to month a valuable lot of information on agricultural topics.

HOW much it costs to grow a bushel of wheat depends very much on how many bushels an acre of it will yield. The Detroit Board of Trade estimates it at about seventy-nine cents per bushel, but this apparently is on the Michigan average yield of seventeen bushels per acre. Had the yield been twenty-three bushels per acre, which is about the average in Ontario, the cost of production per acre would be very little more (if any) and the margin of profit would be very considerably increased. Say that the cost of production is \$13.40 per acre and that wheat sells at eighty cents per bushel. In Michigan the profit to the farmer would be seventeen cents per acre, and in Ontario it would be \$5.

THE steady decrease in the acreage of wheat in England is shown by the fact that it was only 2,607,632 acres in 1884, against 3,869,654 acres in 1873, a decrease of 702,032 acres in eleven years. This at twenty-eight bushels per acre represents 25,000,000 fewer bushels than then. In Scotland and Ireland the decrease in wheat acreage is proportionably greater than England.

IN 1856 Scotland had 263,328 acres of wheat, which was last year reduced 68,716. Wheat is the staple food in England and always will be. In Scotland even it has largely taken the place of oatmeal, which was formerly the staple food of the poorer classes. More and more of the tillable land of Scotland is being withdrawn from food production and devoted to deer parks for wealthy land owners. The tenantry are being driven by lack of work and food to emigration.

THE tariff on wheat in Turkey is forty-four cents per bushel, in Portugal thirty cents and in Spain twenty-three cents. In Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden there is no tariff on grain, but in France it was raised a few weeks ago from six and three quarter to fourteen cents per bushel. As a consequence of this action the Government of Austria-Hungary has instructed its minister at Paris to protest against the increase and to threaten retaliatory duties on silk and other French manufactures if the French Government should persist in crippling the Austro-Hungarian trade in grain and flour. The French movement is no doubt an outcome of an excellent harvest attended by very low prices, and the farmers are clamouring for more protection.

THIS is the difference between Jersey and Alderney cows: The former has been kept pure bred on the Channel Island of that name for a long time; no foreign cattle have been permitted to be imported into Jersey for over a hundred years. In the Island of Alderney importations of other cattle have ever been permitted. The Alderneys have not been kept pure, but are made up mainly of a cross of the Jerseys and Guernseys on their original stock. They are not so fine as either of these two latter breeds have now become and are more uneven in their make-up. The term Alderney was applied by mistake by the English to Jersey cows when they first began to import them many years ago, but it is not used now, each breed being distinctly classed by itself.

WHEN properly managed by a man who understands the business, dynamite or giant powder is not so dangerous as common gunpowder. It is much more effective in blasting rocks, and can be used to blow out stumps, which gunpowder can hardly be made to do. The cartridge of dynamite should be placed under the place or places of strongest resistance. If side roots run out on two or more sides the cartridge should be divided, or two should be used so as to lift both at once. It may not pay where land is cheap to clear a field where stumps are very numerous, but there are thousands of acres on the outskirts of woodlands where a few blasts will clear a large area. The cartridges cost in cases twenty cents each, or forty cents per pound. Many half-rotted stumps can be lifted out with a half-cartridge, and, whether the stump be green or rotten, the expense is less than it would cost to dig the stumps out. The dynamite, when put under a stump, should be well covered with earth, water or something that will offer resistance, and turn the force of the dynamite on the object to be shattered or up-lifted.