

FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

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 Poultry	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	1.60
Ottawa Semi-Weekly Free Press	1.00	1.60
Hoard's Dairyman	1.00	1.75
Rural New Yorker	1.00	1.85

Agricultural News and Comments.

Reports from Manitoba indicate that the spring seeding will be completed five weeks earlier than last year. This should prove a distinct advantage to the prairie farmer. His great difficulty is the summer frosts, and if the wheat crop is sufficiently mature before the frost comes not to be injured by it, the Manitoba farmer is sure of a good crop.

American fruit seems to be getting it on every side. The Austrian authorities have issued a decree forbidding the importation of American fresh fruit, plants, fresh fruit refuse, fruit wrappers and fruit packages, etc., in cases where the examination at the port of entry results in the discovery of traces of the San Jose scale. Such actions on the part of European governments may prove blessings in disguise to the American fruit-grower, as they will certainly have the effect of inducing more rigid investigation on the part of the authorities towards exterminating the pest in America.

Before the Agricultural Committee last week, Professor Robertson stated that there were 150 creameries in operation last winter, each turning out \$10,000 worth of butter. There are sixteen fully equipped creameries in the Northwest, which, in the year ending October 31st, 1897, produced \$85,264 worth of butter. Prof. Robertson spoke encouragingly of the prospect of working up a large trade in butter with Japan. The report of Prof. Robertson's department is now being prepared, and will be ready for distribution in three weeks. The Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, says that it will be the most complete compendium of agricultural information ever issued in Canada.

Quite an interest is being taken in some parts of the United States in what is known as mushroom farming. The demand for this fungus deli-

cacy is enormous as compared with the supply, regardless of the exorbitant prices at which mushrooms are sold. The mushroom can be grown at from five to fifteen cents per pound wholesale, and the present wholesale price is fifty cents per pound. The only expense attached to mushroom culture is for spawn, and time and labor of cultivation. The best spawn will cost from \$10 to \$15 per 100 lbs. The best soil is horse, cow and pig manure from grain fed animals.

Prof. Roberts, of Cornell University, values the manure produced during the seven winter months on a farm carrying four horses, twenty cows, fifty sheep and ten pigs, at \$250. In a great many cases from one third to one half of this is lost by neglect and poor management. By actual tests at Cornell it has been shown that horse manure thrown in a loose pile and subjected to the action of the elements will lose nearly one half of its valuable fertilizing constituents in six months, and that mixed horse and cow manure in a compact mass, and so placed that all water falling upon it quickly runs through and off, is subject to a considerable, though not so great a loss.

The following table is from the report of the United States Department of Agriculture, and represents the number and value of the hogs in the United States on the first of January each year for the past four years.

	No.	Value.
1898	39,759,993	\$191,972,961
1897	40,600,276	166,272,770
1896	42,842,759	186,529,745
1895	44,165,716	216,501,267

At the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, on April 8, 1898, prices ranged from \$3.75 to \$3.90 per cwt.; on April 9, 1897, from \$3.90 to \$3.97½; on April 10, 1896, from \$3.70 to \$3.90; and on April 12, 1895, from \$4.80 to \$5.00. In April, 1893, prices reached as high as \$7.30 for the medium to heavy grades.

The trade in eggs and poultry between Great Britain and France is declining, owing to increased imports from Belgium, Germany, Denmark, and Russia. During 1897 Great Britain paid for eggs to France £1,022,869, Belgium, £768,077, Germany, £813,022, Denmark, £596,282, and Russia, £812,297. The total imports from abroad amounted to four and one half millions sterling. Why is it not possible for Canadian poultrymen to supply a larger share of this trade?

The official estimates for the potato and hay crops of 1897 in Great Britain show a great deficiency of the former and an abundance of the latter. The yield per acre of potatoes was 16 cwt. per acre less than the ten years' average, while the area was 59,000 acres less than in 1896. The yield of hay from clover and rotation grasses was about ½ cwt. per acre over the ten years' average, and that of hay from permanent pasture was 2½ cwt. above.

So alarmed have the French breeders become regarding the importation of American horses into France that they have induced the Chamber of Deputies to raise the entrance duty to £8 for five-year olds and upwards, to £6 for four year olds, and to £3 for younger animals. In 1888 France exported 25,822 more horses than were imported, while during the last three years the imports have exceeded the exports by 14,000. No fewer than 46,000 horses were imported from the United States last year, which sold for about £35 each on the average.

According to the annual report of the superintendent of the London Central Meat Markets, there

was a falling off in the supply of country killed meat to those markets of 7,061 tons. On the other hand, there was an increase in the European meat of 6,995 tons, in Australia and New Zealand, 13,314 tons; but a falling off in American killed of 2,258 tons, giving a net increase in the foreign supply of 18,051 tons; and after deducting the loss on the country killed supply, from which must be taken an increase in the town killed supply of 1,774 tons, which left the actual reduction in the home supply only 5,287 tons, it appears that in 1897 there was an increased supply of 12,764 tons.

The Wool Situation.

According to *The Monthly Bulletin* of the National Wool Growers' Association, the world's supply of wool has been growing smaller for three years and the demand is increasing. European manufacturers are said to be very much in need of merinos and fine cross breeds, and in their endeavor to find cheap or reasonable values they have been seeking wool in very unusual places. England has cleaned up the Cape and South America wools at 15 per cent. advance over December values. Among the features in the European situation is an advance of 2 cents in the price of tops since the first of the year.

In America the volume of trade has been steadily advancing, and one can reasonably expect 25 to 33 per cent. greater volume in 1898 than in 1897. In this connection the situation of the wool manufacturer may be considered fortunate. The American wool grower is described as being "in clover." He will have a large amount of wool to sell and will very likely receive 75 to 100 per cent. more for his wool than the average for the past five years.

If it is true that the situation in the United States and Europe is so favorable for the wool grower, it is to be expected that the Canadian producer of wool will also come in for a share of the good things. There is no reason whatever why he should not profit by these favorable conditions. The one thing that may prevent him from doing so is the scarcity of supply. Many Canadian farmers of late have gone out of wool growing to a large extent.

Intensive Farming.

A correspondent asks for information regarding intensive farming. It is hard to say in so many words what is really meant by intensive farming. It may be described as a system of farming by which the farmer can by thorough cultivation, by regular rotation of crops, and by feeding more stock on the farm, not only increase the fertility of the land, but make it more productive. To do this successfully the farmer must be a student and must thoroughly understand the nature of the soil he has to deal with, and must also bring active business principles into his farming operations. A good sample of intensive farming is that practised in England. The English farmer practise thorough cultivation, and makes every effort to conserve the fertility of the soil.

In our issue of December 28th last we published an account of the farming operations of Mr. D. M. MacPherson, Lancaster, Ont., for 1897. Mr. MacPherson's system may be taken as a good example of intensive farming. Everyone who read that account must have realized that Mr. MacPherson practises a system of farming quite different to that practised by the average farmer. If the figures given in that account are correct, and we have no reason to doubt them, what Mr. MacPherson has produced from his 125 acre farm