

The wheat crop of India is reported to be unusually good, and the average yield six per cent. greater than last year.

Says Mr. Scott at an Ohio Institute meeting: "Feed your lambs before they are born. Weak and puny lambs are the product of illy-fed ewes. Strong, vigorous, healthy lambs are the offspring of well-fed mothers."

One of our staff who attended the late meeting of the American Shropshire Breeders' Association succeeded in inducing that Society to grant \$50.00 cash to be awarded at the next Winnipeg Industrial Show. See the report in other columns.

John Sharman read a very interesting paper at a recent meeting of the Souris Farmers' Institute, and among other things he said: "I am about convinced that it is a waste of land and labor—this summerfalling. A plan that has been adopted by several good farmers is, I think, much more advisable, that is to seed down to timothy when the land becomes a little foul; take one or two crops of timothy, and immediately after the crop of hay is secured plow. Then after harvest harrow, and you will have an earlier and a better paying crop of wheat than you would have off fallow, and you are a hay crop ahead."

The question has often been asked, Can sweet ensilage be obtained? According to good authorities ensilage can be cured so that it will taste and smell pleasantly sweet. The cause of ensilage being sour is due frequently to imperfect sealing. According to Mr. Van Alstyne, in the Country Gentleman, sweet ensilage has been made at Cornell. The ensilage was composed of June grass and clover, made in a metal silo, and had been treated, after placing it in the silo, with carbonic acid gas, the silo being embedded in the ground; the ensilage was perfectly sweet. This question of sweet ensilage is one worthy of investigation and study, as sour ensilage fed to milking cows certainly gives the milk an objectionable flavor.

At the present time many people are changing their plans and lines of work. Dairying and poultry raising are both being taken up by men who once thought such work was only fit for women folk, but these have changed their minds on account of greater branches of agriculture being no longer remunerative. These two growing rural industries can be made to go hand in hand with good effect. While egg and chickens are being sold butter can be taken to the buyer as well. Dealers in one are nearly always dealers in the other. Both products can be packed in the same box and marketed at the same time, thus economizing time and labor.

In commencing a new branch by one to whom it is new it is well to exercise caution. An instance is given in an exchange where a man who was commencing poultry business went into the nearest market town and purchased 1000 hens, old and young, pure-bred and mongrel, whatever they happened to be. As might be expected, a weedy lot was obtained—useless under the most favorable circumstances. The pens and runs were so much over-stocked that disease soon swept a large number of them out of the way, making room for a better lot to be more judiciously handled. The object lesson was rather an expensive one, but, nevertheless, lasting. The only way to achieve success is to start quietly, gradually breed up to the requirements, and learn along the way. The most successful businesses are conducted upon these lines, and many dangers are avoided by adopting this plan.

A Poultry Show.

An important meeting of the Manitoba Poultry Association was held in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE office, on January 15th. After considerable discussion, it was decided to hold a Poultry Show, and March 6th, 7th and 8th was the time selected. A general committee, consisting of Messrs. Chadwick, Wise, Williams, Greig, Smith, V. S., and Hinman, Secretary, was then appointed to arrange the necessary preliminaries; and sub-committees were struck, to solicit subscriptions from merchants, and others interested in poultry; to arrange for a suitable building for holding a show; to interview railroad and express companies re transportation; to arrange for judges, advertising, printing prize list, etc., etc. It is confidently expected that substantial prizes will be offered in all poultry and pet stock classes. The dog fanciers are invited to attend the next meeting, and possibly arrangements may be made to have a dog show in connection with the poultry show.

Mr. John A. McGillivray's Dorset Horns.

Our front page is beautified by a life-like illustration of three of Mr. McGillivray's Dorset Horned sheep. The flock owned by this gentleman is a very large and a very good one. Drafts from these pens have been most successful in all leading Canadian and American show rings where exhibited. A full review of this flock will appear in an early issue.

Our Subscription Prizes.

See our list of subscription prizes on page 58. We have carefully selected the grains offered. The subscription prizes presented in last issue, though not advertised in this number, are still offered. See last paper, page 39. We have sent out a number of World's Fair Triumph Watches; all who have received them are pleased with them. Our rings are genuine, and have given perfect satisfaction wherever sent.

We have again made arrangements with some of the most reliable breeders of live stock of the various sorts, and can supply young animals of high excellence, and of either sex, as subscription prizes. See page 58. An energetic person can thus obtain pure-bred animals, and pay for them by canvassing for us. A short time ago a gentleman and his daughter sent us two hundred and eighty names, as a result of twenty days' work. We send out a number of animals each year as subscription prizes, each is selected by an expert before being shipped.

Tuberculosis in New York.

About 20,000 animals were examined by the three inspectors of the State Board during 1903, and of this number 686 were found infected and killed. Many valuable animals, in fact whole herds, which took years to bring to their high standard of excellence, have been slaughtered. Dr. Balch has had the milk of infected cows tested by expert chemists. Recently Prof. Slotter analyzed a sample of milk from an infected cow, whose udder and teats were quite free from the disease, and found it crowded with tuberculosis bacilli, which, if used by a person, might develop consumption. Owners of cattle will sooner or later awaken to the necessity of having their herds examined, and if any are found diseased have them killed at once. When purchasing cattle farmers should insist upon having them tested with tuberculin, as in many cases the disease is brought into a herd by the purchase of cattle which outwardly appear to be in perfect health.

Tuberculosis.

We learn with regret from The Country Gentleman that tuberculosis has been discovered in the magnificent Guernsey herd of Mr. Morton, Ellerslie, Rhemcliff, N. Y. Seventeen animals have been condemned and will be slaughtered, only one of which is imported; all the others, except two, are young heifers of Mr. Morton's own breeding, most of them due to calve in a few weeks.

Mr. Morton writes:—"The test was made by Dr. John Faust, of Poughkeepsie. Just before the fire Dr. Gardner, of Hartford, inspected our herd by the usual methods, and pronounced them entirely free from tuberculosis. Dr. Faust made an examination since the fire. His examination was made in the usual way, by sounding the lungs, examining the glands, etc., and he pronounced the cattle perfectly healthy as far as this method would show. He then injected every animal with tuberculin, and 17 showed reactions for tuberculosis."

"Several of the condemned are due to calve soon. Dr. Faust proposes to isolate them and wait until their calves are born, when he will again apply the tuberculin test. It has been suggested that young heifers when pregnant might show reactions from the injection, even when perfectly free from disease. Dr. Faust proposes to test this."

"The rest of the cattle will be killed Jan. 10th. Secretary Edward Norton, Dr. Gardner, and others interested will be present."

"We are very anxious to determine whether the tuberculin test is accurate or not. If it is accurate, it will be used on all animals we purchase to stock our new barn."

Scotch and English cattle breeders have united their efforts against Canadian cattle, and are using their best endeavors to prevent the removal of the quarantine regulations now in force. This is as a matter of protection from a financial aspect—not because any sane Briton believes Canada has or ever had a case of pleuro-pneumonia.

Timely Notes for February—No. 1.

EXEMPTIONS.

Just now a hundred and one remedies are proposed to prevent farmers getting into debt, and to help those that are deeply, and in many cases hopelessly, involved. Many of these methods are no better than highway robbery. To advocate legislation that will prevent any creditor getting paid is to legalize robbery. To extend exemptions so as to include a large amount of stock, grain, etc., is to simply give an incentive to dishonesty. There are already too many now who take advantage of the exemption act to keep out of range of the county court. I believe the only way to prevent much misery and indiscriminate credit is to do away with exemptions altogether, whether it is the professional man with his books and instruments, the church with its free-tax lands, the factory or mill with its bonus and exemption from taxes for a term of years, the merchant or mechanic with his stock-in-trade, or the farmer with his cows, his grain and his land. If exemptions are such a good thing, how is it that, in spite of them, the country is being sold up and depopulated in so many districts? The chattel mortgage generally does away with all that may be left as an "exemption". Another method for enforcing a cash trading system would be to abolish suits for debt, but this also, though one of John Stuart Mill's pet theories, would cripple business and would be found impracticable. It may be said against my plan of abandoning exemptions altogether, that it would place such great power in the hands of the bankers and loan companies, but this could be circumvented by a provision that no debt should bear a greater rate of interest than the legal six per cent. I would like to see other and slier pens take up this subject of credit and exemption.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

Who are they? Those I have seen are chiefly farm laborers and "navvies". Their migratory instincts, and the desire to get the highest possible wages for the least possible labor, are responsible for most of them being idle. In many, if not most instances, these men would not take steady work on farms for reasonable wages, but would only work during hay and harvest and seed time, and trusting to farmers being rushed for time to exact high wages for a short time. If farmers could only hire men for the year, they would be only too glad to do so, as they would then be able to diversify their work, and not have to teach several new hands each season. Isn't \$15 or \$20 a month the year round better than \$30 a month for two months, or \$25 a month for five months or so? The present agricultural laborer is becoming more of a tramp than a worker, and more and more incompetent each year.

PREPARING FOR SPRING.

It is time to look out for spring work and its needs. Make out a plan of your farm, and note on it what you intend sowing on each field. Then clean up your seed grain, send for your garden seeds, overhaul your cellar and pick out the firmest and best shaped potatoes for seed. Those plowshares should be seen to, and the harrowssharpended. There is generally plenty of time in February to think over and do all these things. Pick out your best laying hens, and then choose a rooster of some pure breed whichever your fancy runs to, and mate him with say six or seven hens. The rest of the flock are better without any escort, and at any rate you only want chickens from your best hens.

Are you going on breeding to a scrub bull, or do you intend turning over a new leaf and improving your stock? It is about time now, so as to have your cows calve in the winter.

Sharpen your fence posts, buy your fencing, whether barbed wire or smooth, clean up and mend your harness, hags, hoes, etc. Hire your men for the year, if possible, and give a reasonable living wage.

GENERAL.

Are you going to have enough hay and other feed for the balance of the winter and spring? If not, buy before it becomes so scarce that half the neighbors are also wanting feed.

Have you attended the institute meeting, and so strengthened the hands of the secretary and other leaders?

Have you learned anything this winter from your own failures, or those of your friends, or from their successes?

This has been a hard winter so far for many, through no fault of their own. If you have been successful and are prospering, then

"Help a worn and weary brother
Pulling hard against the stream."

"INVICTA."

Errata.

Under the heading "Sheep at the Ontario Agricultural College" in our last issue, near the end of the article, the writer was made to say, "Owing to a sterile ram and other avoidable causes." This clause should have read, "Owing to a sterile ram and other unavoidable causes."