

# FARM AND HOME

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## Dominion and Financial Affairs.

### Our Foreign Trade in Produce.

Canada's best customer the past 31 years has been the mother country, says Statistician Johnson. She has taken more than one-half of the whole, or \$1,260,565,563 in this period. Our next best customer has been the U S, which country has taken over \$955,000,000, or 305 millions less than the U K. The B W I come next with purchases from us amounting to nearly 60 millions. Newfoundland has taken 49, France 12, Germany 9, and all other countries 118 million. Great Britain began in '68 by taking about 18 millions of our products; by '72 she had got beyond 25, by '82 nearly 40, by '92 beyond 54, after which year her takings increased steadily till, in '98, they were over 93 millions.

The U S has shown no such activity in buying from Canada. In '68 the purchases of that country from us amounted to over \$22,000,000. By '72 they had increased to nearly 30; by '82 to 41 millions. That is the highest figure their purchases ever reached. They have been steadily decreasing, and in '98 they were only \$34,400,000. During the 31 years Great Britain's purchases from us have increased five times what they were in the first year of confederation. In the same period the U S purchases have increased about two-thirds more than they were in '68. Great Britain, which purchased in '68 \$1,400,000 less than the U S, bought in '98 \$58,300,000 more than the U S. The development which has taken place during the period under consideration may be seen by the comparison of 1868 and 1898:

#### CANADIAN EXPORT VALUES COMPARED.

	1868	1898
Cheese .....	\$ 620,543	\$17,572,763
Butter .....	1,038,042	2,046,086
Flour .....	2,254,489	5,425,760
Wool .....	12,506,484	22,683,748
Ships .....	837,522	191,069
Other manufactures .....	2,331,198	8,304,296
Total .....	\$20,278,347	\$56,224,322

### Keep a Dog and a Gun.

A farmer living near St Thomas, Ont, made the remark that he was going to procure a dog and a gun and keep both loaded. The remark was caused by a robbery that recently occurred in the neighborhood. Three masked burglars entered a house at about 9 o'clock in the evening and pointing revolvers at the inmates, forbade them to make an outcry. There were four women and an old gentleman of 80 years sitting around the stove at the time. The inmates were completely cowed by the burglars, who helped themselves to all the valuables in the house and departed. There was a revolver in the room, but it was not loaded, as is generally the case. Another household in the neighborhood was aroused a few nights previously by the barking and snapping of a terrier dog, who no doubt was the

cause of the burglars' calculations failing. House robbery has become a common occurrence and the best preventive is a little cur with a big bark. A good revolver, good enough to kill, should be kept in every farmhouse to go with the dog, and it should be so placed after dark that it can be secured quickly enough to get the "drop" on the first burglar in sight. It is a good plan to bolt all doors as soon as darkness comes. As a rule, there is not enough precaution taken by farmers to protect their families and property from depredations of the criminal class.

### A Big New Industry.

The horse won't be abolished by the automobile for many a year, yet it is true that the interest in motor vehicles is extraordinarily keen. In the palmiest days of the bicycle industry, there were not as many inventors and as much money going into the business as are now seeking to develop the automobile idea. This is true not only in the U S, but in England and Europe. Within a few years, motors will become so cheap and effective as to be applied to any vehicle. When that time comes the changes inaugurated in rural life by the electric railway will be intensified, for with a private motor carriage in which one can go 20 miles an hour, well-to-do people will not be satisfied to live in towns. Motor vehicles will also come into use among progressive farmers and market gardeners. A western concern already claims to have a motor that can be rigged onto any vehicle at a cost of \$75 to \$200 and do the work of several horses. Truly, we live in a "fast" age.

### The Profits of Implement Manufacturers

will be less under present advanced prices than during the low values of the past few years. Why? Because the increased cost of iron and steel makes the margin of profit smaller than it was under the old schedule. It behooves the whole manufacturing world, however, to resist any further advance in iron. The receipts from agriculture and other industries will not warrant outrageous prices for iron. The trusts that shove up prices will be killed by their own weight. People won't buy except when absolutely obliged to.

### While We Think of It.

Speaks well for Manitoba soil! Mr White of Riding Mountain received 3 lbs Carman No 1 potatoes from the Central experiment farm from which he harvested 25 lbs good merchantable tubers without the assistance of manure.

The experiment farms planted 104 varieties potatoes; the highest yield at Ottawa, Ont, was at the rate of 393 bu p a for Holborn Abundance, 448 bu for Irish Daisy at Nappan, N S,

682 bu for Seedling No 7 at Brandon. Man, 706 bu for Polaris at Indian Head, N W T. 623 bu for Dakota Red at Agassiz, B C.

Dominion Commissioner of Agr J. W. Robertson of Ottawa offers \$50 divided among 12 prizes for the best 100 heads bearing the largest number of seed of oats and the same for wheat. This contest is open to boys, girls and teachers.

Busy? Making money? Happy? Oh, yes. Getting out of debt and laying by a bit for a rainy day? Oh, no, haven't thought of that. Well, friend, think, then act.

Have you gotten up a club for Farm and Home yet? If not, why not? There's money in it for you, and good, too.

Successful effort is like a watch; persistence is the spring, enterprise the escape wheel, judgment the regulator, shrewdness the minute hand and thrift the hour hand.

The general sentiment among the farmers of Canada is thus expressed by R. T. Bayless of Wakeham, Manitoba: "I like the Canadian Farm and Home very much. The short, pithy articles are full of information, and yet not too long, nor difficult for an ordinary person to understand."

### CO-OPERATION IN MANITOBA.

As a firm advocate of co-operation, our Canadian Farm and Home will be glad to know that petty jealousies among farmers are giving way to a spirit of union. Farmers' co-operative elevators are getting to be pretty numerous in Manitoba, and where properly managed are most beneficial and a decided financial success. A large, well-equipped elevator has been built by a number of our Mennonite farmers at Jretna and is in operation this season, and will be of great benefit to all concerned. These Mennonite settlers are also conducting a most successful mutual hail insurance business, which is most economically managed and is gradually gaining the confidence of the English-speaking farmers, many of whom insured their crops with them this year, but fortunately in our district there was very little loss from this source.—[R. C. Bayless, Wakeham.

Canadian Cheese Stands High in the estimation of English consumers, who have been buying freely for some time at the good prices ruling. Stocks in Montreal and further west in Ont are reported very much smaller than a year ago, and a sharp advance of 3 1/2 c p lb since late summer has been well maintained until recently. Within a short time slight concessions have been granted, due partly to the belief that high prices must materially restrict the consumption, both in this country and in England. The British markets have shown some weakness with fine Ont, Sept made, quotable at 25 1/2 c p cwt. Montreal exports of cheese for the season up to Oct 21 were 1,646,000 boxes compared with 1,630,000 boxes same period in '98.

## Root Crops and Their Culture.

### PREPARATION FOR FEED CROPS.

On every well-managed farm there is a properly arranged rotation of crops and where this is steadily maintained all is plain sailing. Where such a happy state of affairs is present, half the difficulty of management is surmounted, all is prearranged and the work thus well begun is half finished. No shift or course of crops is perfect without placing roots and other winter feed crops in a prominent position, as on the amount of food grown on the farm depends the volume of the output in animal products, be they under the class or beef, dairy or pork.

Throughout the east and mid-west the management and production of stock must be given a place and stock of the highest class, or they will fall short in the keen competition which exists through the cheaper lands of the ranch and range, where cheaper meats are produced. When farmers once know the profit of root crops they will pay more attention to their growth and take more stock in this most valuable adjunct to the daily winter ration. Again, it is not alone through the direct financial return that the advantage of the growth of root and feed crops is found, for it will be obvious the earlier the manure produced is again returned to the soil and again at work assisting the growth of the feed supply, the higher will be the state of fertility attained, the greater the number of animals supported upon a given acreage. On the other hand, if the manure produced is applied to a crop sold from the farm, much of the stock in trade in the form of plant food is sold directly away from the farm.

It is during the autumn previous that the beginning for the preparation of the soil intended for next season's root crop should begin, and for this purpose there is nothing equals a clover sod. Through two years the soil has lain dormant, and a large proportion of the annual weed seeds will have lost their vitality and will not germinate, hence the number of weeds to fight will be reduced to a minimum. Again, after turning down a clover sod the soil will be left in the most friable and mellow condition, and by this means the most tenacious clay may be reduced to a state in which good root crops may be grown, while a soil that is really suitable for this purpose will work with the least possible expenditure of labor, thereby reducing the work in the root field to a real pleasure instead of a most disagreeable task.

Two plans are practiced in fall preparation. Perhaps the most approved plan is to plow the clover early in Sept and then more deeply just before winter. Should there be a supply of summer-made manure on hand, this should be applied before the second plowing. The part of the field thus prepared will be best adapted to mangolds or sugar beets, as they should be sown as early as the ground will work readily. At the same time, working the soil while yet wet must be strictly guarded against, as this will work badly for future success.

Where the ground has been plowed but once, this should be performed just before winter sets in. Then the manure