

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL.

Prizes for House Plans.

On the preceding page of this issue appears an announcement that will interest every owner of an improved farm dwelling. In order to encourage the erection of a superior and more comfortable class of farm homes, we have set apart the sum of \$45 to be divided into three handsome cash prizes for the best and most complete written description, with plans and photos or drawings, as set forth in the conditions on the opposite page. This competition will be open for one month to come, viz., till October 1st, and the liberal prizes offered should bring us plans and descriptions of not a few model residences. Read over carefully the conditions, and at once prepare and send to us, as directed, the description, etc., for the competition, in order to obtain one of these valuable prizes.

A Good American Corn Crop Assured.

The permanent success of Canadian farming is dependent on live stock rearing and feeding. The long-continued drought in many sections has made serious inroads upon the supply of fodders, and present prospects are that hay and coarse grains will be high priced for a considerable time to come. It is, therefore, satisfactory to note that the United States is assured of an abundant corn crop for 1899, on which the Canadian feeder can draw to supplement the home-grown supply of foods. The August crop report from Washington estimates the yield at 2,138,244,000 bushels, as compared with 1,924,184,000 in 1898, and the largest grown since 1896.

Pure-bred Live Stock Interests Prospering.

A careful review of the whole situation, from East to West, indicates that the pure-bred live stock industry of the Dominion is now enjoying an era of very great prosperity. From all parts of Canada and points in the United States the demand for good pure-bred stock for breeding purposes is remarkably strong. It is peculiarly gratifying to note that it comes not only from men known as breeders, but from farmers generally. Prices, too, are satisfactorily strong and steady, but without the intermittent sensational figures that sometimes precede a relapse. Breeders have been compelled, through the steady drain upon their "studs, herds, and flocks," to import from Great Britain to a greater extent than for probably a quarter of a century past. All this is due to no organized effort to work up "a boom," but to a real known scarcity of stock over wide areas, the increasing demand for animal products, a more general recognition of the success of farming with live stock, and the great gulf of difference between the values of common and high-class quality, which is sustained by consumers constantly becoming more critical in their tastes. This fortunate condition of affairs for the breeder has the substantial backing of higher prices for farm stock generally, good horses being from thirty to fifty per cent. higher than three years ago, and the best export beef cattle bringing from \$5 to \$5.25 per cwt. in Toronto and up to \$6.50 in Chicago, bacon hogs selling around \$5.00, the country being scoured for sheep, which are moving out weekly in carloads and in smaller lots at paying prices, eggs and broilers high, July cheese at no less than 10½c. per pound, and butter in proportion! The outlook is indeed encouraging to those who are strengthening their sails to catch the breezes that are coming their way. The healthy condition of the live stock trade in Canada should serve as an inspiration to all breeders to further improve and to raise the standard of the quality of their herds and flocks by selection and the introduction of fresh blood from reliable sources through sires and dams of strong

individual merit. If we are to hold our own, or take a higher stand in the competition for the best prices in the markets that are open to us, we must improve the quality of our offerings. Both the demand and the prices encourage us to do so.

That Canadian breeders are alive to the need of sustaining the supply is evidenced by the rapid increase in the number of animals imported within the past year, the records of the quarantine station at Quebec alone showing that since September, 1898, no fewer than 216 pure-bred cattle and 690 sheep of various breeds for Canadian breeders have passed through that port; and we have knowledge of several other consignments which came through the Maritime Provinces ports during the winter season, when Quebec is closed to this trade. Another satisfactory feature in the business is that more than ordinary discrimination has been observed by importers in regard to the quality of the stock brought out; and we believe the character of the importations this year will rank higher than those of any period in the last decade, which speaks well for the enterprise of Canadian breeders, and will tell for good in the improvement of the stock of the country. The present is an opportune time for founding herds and flocks of pure-bred stock and for grading up the general stock—a course which, if generally adopted now, will in a few years add millions to the value of Canadian farm products.

Cream Separation.

To defective methods in cream raising or cream separation, as it is called, can be traced the most constant and serious of all the losses that occur in buttermaking. Dollar after dollar is steadily running away just as certainly as if they were slipping through a hole in the dairyman's pocket. And the aggravating feature of it all is that the losses are easily and cheaply preventable by the application of a little knowledge. Getting practically all the cream out of the milk in good condition is the foundation of success in buttermaking, and we therefore gladly give space in this issue to the comprehensive, practical and clear-headed communication from Mr. J. W. Mitchell, Superintendent of the Dominion Government creameries, Assiniboia, N. W. T., which is a valuable contribution to the dairy literature of the day. The raising of cream by deep-setting cans, shallow pans and centrifugal separation is forcibly presented and contrasted, and we look for another letter from Mr. Mitchell dealing further with separator management in order to obtain the best results.

The Fruit Crop and Prices.

The peripatetic apple-buyer has already been abroad in the land, contracting in some cases, we are told, for whole orchards in the lump, and in others at so much per barrel. The prices quoted for the latter appear very small when crop prospects are considered, together with the upward tendency of all farm products. A recent official report from the statistical department at Washington indicates a general decline in the condition of apples throughout the Republic, most of the States being considerably below the average of the last fifteen years. In many cases marketable apples will not be half a crop, Missouri, for instance, only reporting about one-fourth of a full crop. Michigan, New York and Maine are also reported far below the average. In the Province of Ontario the Bureau of Industries' Report for August indicates the likelihood of a scarcity of fruit of all kinds, the apple crop being very light. Peaches are reported practically a failure, but plums and pears have done better, notably the former, and there will be an abundant yield of fine grapes. The extraordinary long spell of dry weather in many districts has hastened the maturing of fruit to some extent at the expense of size, consequently apples good enough for export

should bring higher prices than last year. Fall fruit and any that will not fill the bill for shipping and which is in excess of local demand should be evaporated or canned. Mr. John B. Pettit elsewhere in this issue rings out a clear note of warning on the subject of packing for the English market. Last year some Canadian farmers received only \$1.25 per barrel for apples that would sell for probably \$4 in the English market, sometimes one barrel being taken from a tree and four or five rejected as culls. With other buyers in the same district for the same class of fruit, that order of things was reversed. Let the fruit-grower be paid a first-class price for first-class fruit, and there will be less cause for complaint. The Dominion Department of Agriculture is paying a vast amount of attention to studying the requirements of the British market and the facilities for reaching it. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE would suggest that the needs of the people of Manitoba and the Northwest, with a rapidly-growing population, who relish and are willing to pay well for the apples of Eastern Canada, be given greater consideration than they have received in the past. Why not cultivate this great home market by better and more liberal transportation facilities?

Revival of the Sheep Industry.

Not for many years have so large a number of sheep of the different breeds been imported to Canada as have been brought out this summer. This may safely be regarded as an indication of the existence of an active demand for this class of stock. Indeed, it is well known by those in touch with the business that so heavy have been the drafts upon Canadian pure-bred flocks in the last two or three years that they have been reduced in numbers to a lower point than has been touched in the last thirty years; and the importation of fresh blood on a larger scale than usual has been felt to be a necessity if we would maintain the standard of our stock and hold the markets which the high-class character of our sheep has won for us. It is gratifying to know that so many Canadian breeders have the courage and the enterprise to assume the risk of importing on so large a scale; and we are glad to learn that commendable care has been exercised in the selections made for importation this year, and that a larger proportion of high-class stock than usual has been brought over. The magnificent display of sheep of all the principal breeds at the leading exhibitions in Canada amply demonstrates that we have a country admirably adapted to the production of this class of stock in the highest degree of perfection, and that we have practical shepherds not a few who are well qualified by training and experience to bring them out in the pink of condition and in robust health and vigor. The splendid record made by our flockmasters in winning honors at the great international exhibitions in which they have competed, notably at the Columbian in 1893, with Canadian bred and fitted sheep in their own hands, and those of others to whom they had sold, furnishes abundant evidence of the high-class character of our sheep, the undoubted skill of our shepherds, and the suitability of our climate, our soil, and our stock foods for the growth and development of sheep and the production of mutton and wool of the very best quality.

In view of these facts, it is unaccountable that so few sheep, comparatively, are found on Canadian farms, that by a very large proportion of our farmers they are entirely neglected, and that the aggregate number of sheep in the Dominion has been steadily decreasing for the last fifteen years. We are confident this fact is not due to any general disability affecting the industry. We believe it is absolutely safe to say that in no other country are sheep liable to so few diseases or disadvantages of any kind. The climate is as near an ideal one for the successful raising of this class of stock as can