

time to do any spring plowing and only a very limited area was plowed last fall.

The decrease in wheat acreage is variously estimated at 20 to 30 per cent. and every cold day now will increase that percentage. The hard frosts every night are the most serious drawback at the present time, as it is impossible to get on the land even for a few hours in the middle of the day.

The gravity of the late seeding is most clearly indicated by the number of men who are holders of large quantities of wheat withdrawing that wheat from sale. Winnipeg markets are strong and the October option is the strongest and most active month on the market, showing that speculators are already anticipating a short crop, with correspondingly high prices. When October wheat sells at \$0.65 in May, it is safe to reckon there is something doing.

The ground is in splendid condition, once the dews are warm enough to get on it, and every preparation is being made to rush the seeding once it starts.

There will be a largely increased acreage sown to barley and oats.

New Brunswick Notes

This year we have had an unusually cold April and May is opening up none too favorably, but as we have had our fields well covered with snow until all hard freezing was past we are looking for early grass and a good hay crop if we have our average moisture. This always means much to our farmers and as there is yet abundant time to sow grain, roots and potatoes, we feel hopeful of a good season.

The greatest difficulty with which we have to contend is the scarcity of farm labor; it is almost impossible this spring to get men either to rent farms or to hire for farm work and this is having a most serious effect upon our dairy business. It is almost a standstill for the last five years and it is largely due to labor conditions. The writer knows of farms where last year from 25 to 27 cents per pound of butterfat was paid for cream that this year will not produce one single pound of cream for sale. On one farm the proprietor is keeping one cow only for milk and butter and turning out the rest of the herd with their calves to raise them in the pasture. Representations have been made to the Provincial Government that they should take active steps to try to bring in labor, but so far they have not moved the matter.

To show how serious this is in its bearing upon the dairy business of this province, a few statistics will show: In 1902 we made 1,910,733 lbs. of cheese, and in 1906 only 1,320,858 lbs., a shrinkage of 589,875 lbs. As the prices for this would mean a loss of \$65,299.16. In 1902 we made 750,911 lbs. of creamery butter, and in 1906 1,320,858 lbs. of creamery butter, representing at last year's prices a gain of \$48,962.70. On the whole, there was a net financial loss last year, as compared with 1902, of \$16,632.46.

As a further encouragement to the raising of heavy horses, the Government has appropriated \$25,000 for the importation of pure-bred mares and the Commissioner of Agriculture has just sailed for Europe to import some Clydesdale and Percheron mares and fillies.

A few stallions will also likely be brought out at the same time. The whole importation will be auctioned at some central point and everyone will have a chance to buy. They will likely be sold under restrictions such as keeping them in the province and breeding them to pure-bred stallions.

For the past six months there has been considerable discussion upon sheep raising, and there seems to be

quite a general desire among many farmers to get back into the raising of more sheep. To assist in this direction the Commissioner of Agriculture intends to bring out from Scotland and England about 100 head of good breeding stock, which will be auctioned at the same time as the mares.

Fruit trees have apparently wintered very well and fruit buds promise a good crop of apples. There is a very commendable disposition among our St. John River farmers to plant more apple trees and the Government's plan of starting illustration orchards will no doubt lend encouragement to apple growing in other parts of the province. The object of these orchards is to show how apple trees should be planted and cared for and also to test the adaptability of different varieties to the various localities. If the idea is properly carried out it should be of great benefit to apple growers all over the province.

There are now two cold storage schemes on the way for the port of St. John and if either or both are carried out they will be of great benefit to the growers of fruit and all kinds of perishable products, as well as of great

service to the handlers of these products in St. John.

The increase in the price of lumber in recent years has boomed that industry in the province, and it is at the basis of nearly all our commercial activity. While this will continue to be so for years to come, there is no reason why, with an influx of the proper kind of people, agriculture should not eventually be the largest industry and be a thoroughly profitable business.

Horse breeding is receiving some impetus, a number of heavy draft stallions having been brought in during the last few years and some good colts are being raised. During the past six months McLaughlin Bros., of Ohio (and other states), have been introducing horses, and have succeeded in selling quite a number on their syndicate plan at prices that seem to be entirely beyond the actual value of the stallions. These horses were mostly Percheron and French Coach and worth from \$500 to \$1,000 each in the open market, but they have gone for from \$1,000 to \$4,000 each in farmers' notes and have thus walked off with magnificent profits.

MCADAM.

Our English Letter

Crops and Stock—London Meat Supply—Items

London, Eng., May 4th.

The brilliant weather of the end of March has given way to more seasonable, if unpleasant, conditions. Crops are looking well, wheat is especially good and is tolerant of mild frosts, oats and barley have come up quickly and evenly. Seeds have lost vitality to some extent and look none too thick. Keep of every description will be exhausted by the end of the month, and we hope for an early turn out for beasts. Those who have a good supply of mangels are to be congratulated, as Swedes have rotted very much, not because of the frost, but from the effects of the great heat of last September.

Fat lambs have sold well, Easter coming early this year, and the ewes are going off better than for some time past. Breeding flocks have had average luck on the whole, twins have not been numerous, but owing to the favorable weather losses have been exceptionally light. Milk is very scarce just now and great expense in feeding must have been incurred in keeping up supplies.

LONDON'S MEAT SUPPLY

The annual statement in respect of the business and revenue of the London Central Meat Market for the year 1906 shows that during the year a further marked increase was apparent in the deliveries of colonial and foreign meat, with a resulting decrease of home products. The natural rate of increase of deliveries to the London Central Market had not only not been maintained but showed a serious falling off.

Supplies from the United Kingdom had decreased 4,099 tons, and only formed 80.8 per cent. of the total products marketed, as compared with 21.7 per cent. last year. That decline was attributable to the continued keen competition of methods of North and South America, Holland, and the colonies of Australia in maintaining and increasing the demand for their respective products. The uniformly good quality, cheapness and improved system of grading, standardizing and handling colonial and foreign produce is gradually ousting home supplies from the position once held in the market.

Australasian produce marketed weighed 104,770 tons, as against 96,518 tons last year, and equalled 25 per cent.

of the total supplies. The supplies from the Australasian colonies constituted a record and exceed our home supplies by 18,363 tons. North and South American products were again the heaviest on record, 182,148 tons, an increase of 6,537 tons over last year, and equalled 13 per cent. of the total supplies. Supplies from the continent, although 4,129 tons below the year of 1905, showed signs of improvement towards the end of the year, and formed 11.5 per cent. of the total supplies.

Approximately, the yearly demand upon the live stock of Great Britain and other countries was put at 750,000 cattle, 5,000,000 sheep and lambs and 700,000 pigs. Of the 421,927 tons of produce dealt with in the meat, poultry and provision sections during the year 50,407 tons were products of the United Kingdom and 335,520 tons colonial and foreign produce.

ITEMS

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the International Horse Show next June. There will be many American visitors.

A day or two ago I visited the Walter Winan's stud in Kent to see some of the horses he will be exhibiting. They were a good lot.

The whole affair promises to be a huge success.

Preparations are also well in hand for the Royal Show at Lincoln, on June 25th, when cattle, sheep and pig men will have their innings.

Of new breed societies there appears to be no end on this side of the water. The very latest is the Lincolnshire Curly Coated Pig Breeders' Association.

The name in this instance fortunately explains the sort of animal represented in the herd book.

The small holdings question is much to the fore lately, and every other day one or other member of the Government is expounding its benefits.

The writer is one of those that do not believe that small holdings on a large scale is practicable. I would like, however, to see some limitation on land use for "pleasure purposes" only.

Agricultural education is affording a splendid battleground for the quid nuncs. No two so-called authorities appear to be agreed.

A. W. S.

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