

The British Wheat Problem.

Recent British exchanges devote considerable attention to a problem which seems to be confronting the British people. That of making themselves independent in regard to a wheat supply in war time. Just now the wheat market there is somewhat stationary, and dealers have a little time to consider the whole situation more carefully. *The Mark Lane Express*, whose counsel may generally be relied upon, makes the following remarks upon the situation:

It may easily arrive, therefore, that there will now be persons willing to "unload," but, whether this occurs or not, the total supply of wheat available between now and a new harvest will not be increased by a single sack. The recent rise has been only partially due to war. Writing in these columns on the 3rd of January last, in reviewing the year just then closed, we said: "The prices of 1894 and 1895 are likely to remain the lowest wheat quotations of the century, and it is probable that as 1897 advanced on 1896, so 1898 will advance on 1897." The rise of 1897 on 1896 was 4s. 2d. per quarter, so that, to such an extent as was foreseeable without war, we may fairly claim to have advised our readers four full months in advance.

This same journal, for several months back, has been advising the British farmer not to sell, and it now turns out that if farmers had done so they would have been much better off than is actually the case. This same journal now advises the British farmers to hold the eight or nine hundred thousand quarters of English wheat still in their possession, and not to part with it under fifty shillings. This would indicate that a further rise is expected, and the same journal points out that it is more likely that sixty shillings will be made for English wheat in July than that the present London average of 48s. 11d. will be the highest price of the season. What grounds there may be for this rise are not stated. But if this claim should turn out to be correct, not only will the British farmer benefit by it, but the Canadian farmer also.

But, as we have stated, the important matter to be dealt with is to secure a sufficient supply in case of any national emergency. From some quarters a proposal was submitted to the Imperial Government to provide national granaries for storing wheat for future use. However, this has not met with the approval of the Government, and besides it is hardly comprehensive enough to meet all the necessities of an extended war period. Two or three other schemes are proposed, which, if carried into effect, might help to solve the problem.

One plan is to encourage the British farmer to grow more wheat. To induce him to do so it is suggested that when wheat goes below 40s. per quarter, the price which corresponds with a five-penny loaf there, should be a duty collected on all wheat imported, but when the price is above 40s. no duty should be imposed. Such a plan would no doubt tend to keep up the price so that it would pay the British farmer to grow wheat.

Another method is to adopt what is known as the Russian system, because it is in Russia where it chiefly exists. This is the system for enabling the farmer to carry the necessary stores in his own granary or barn, the Government advancing cash on the security of the grain, under the force of special enactments, giving the State a first charge and rendering the sale, or rather the resale, of such stores a criminal offence. The great merit of this scheme is that it would prevent a rush of farmers to sell grain after a new harvest. But it is claimed that such a plan would not regulate the price in any way.

A third plan, and one which to our mind seems to be the most feasible, is to develop wheat cultivation within the Empire. This, of course, would necessitate preferential duties in favor of the colonies. But even so, if the scheme were developed so that a sufficient amount of wheat could be grown within the Empire to supply all needs it would make the United Kingdom completely independent of other nations, and infuse new life and new vigor into the colonies. England's navy would be a guarantee that no shipping from the colonies would be interfered with.

Will our Breeders Exhibit at Omaha?

On another page we publish the proposed classification for prizes for live stock at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition with a view to giving information to prospective exhibitors. It is doubtful if many of our breeders will take advantage of this opportunity of exhibiting their stock to the breeders and feeders of the Western States, who are gradually becoming large purchasers of high-class Canadian stock, though we certainly think that it would be in the interest of our live stock trade to do so.

In conversation with Mr. James Russell, President of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, last week, he expressed the opinion that it was not likely that many Canadian breeders would make a display at Omaha. In the first place, Mr. Russell said, the cost would be too great, and it is not known yet what the prize money will be. To induce a breeder to go so far with an exhibit of stock the prizes should be large and the chances of winning very great. Personally, Mr. Russell thinks he has already carried off enough honors in the United States. He exhibited at Philadelphia in 1876 and at Chicago in 1893, and carried off most of the highest honors in the Shorthorn classes. Mr. Russell estimates that the cost of sending a car of stock to Omaha would be in the neighborhood of \$200, and this would only be a part of the expense. During the World's Fair the Government paid the cost of transportation and other expenses, so that the exhibitor if he did not succeed in carrying off some of the prizes was not so much out of pocket as he would be at Omaha if no prizes were secured.

Canadian Apples for the Omaha Exposition.

A Montreal firm has received an order from the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, for six barrels of fancy apples for exhibition purposes. These apples are to be sent to the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha, Neb., which commences this month and will continue till November next. The variety of apples will be Northern Spies, Roxbury Russets, and Cooper's Market, and will cost the Government \$12 per barrel. These apples are now in cold storage at Montreal, and will be forwarded to Ottawa, where they will be held in cold storage till they are sent forward by the Government.

If these apples reach the Exposition in good condition, as they undoubtedly will if kept in proper cold storage, they will furnish visitors to the exposition with an opportunity of judging as to the keeping qualities of Canadian fruit. It is likely that some of this year's fruit will be exhibited also, and we are of the opinion that it would be of great benefit to have a large exhibit of all Canadian products. In this issue we give the proposed classification for the prizes for live stock, and we believe it would be in the interest of the Canadian live stock trade if a number of the best animals of each kind were shown at Omaha.

The Pace of Harness Horses in the Show-Ring.

This is the subject of a very interesting article in a recent issue of the *London Live Stock Journal*, in which the writer contends for more uniformity in the movement of harness-horses when on exhibition before the judges in a show-ring. He points out that where a number of animals are travelling at different rates of speed it is not possible to make a satisfactory comparison as to the merits of each horse. Another point touched upon and which is of importance is that of allowing the horses too little time after they have settled down to their regular pace to show their staying powers.

All this is worth considering by judges at our leading fairs, though it may not be as applicable as to the English shows, where American harness-horses are brought into competition with the home-bred animals and, as they are trained to greater

speed in the show-ring, it is difficult to compare them satisfactorily with the English harness-horses, driven at a slower rate of speed. Even if no foreign animals are shown it would be an advantage to have a more uniform rate of speed when harness horses are being judged in a show-ring; and also to allow them a sufficient time to keep on moving in after they have settled down to their work, as many animals make a good showing for about 300 yards which would go all to pieces if sent twice that distance.

Poultry-Raising as a Business.

Poultry raising as a business offers many inducements to the ambitious farmer. A great many farmers have the idea that poultry-raising is woman's work and that it is beneath the calibre of the average farmer to devote his time and attention to such matters. No greater mistake was ever made by any farmer than to have such a one-sided view of the business of poultry-raising. It may lead to a serious loss in the year's business which might have been turned into a profit if properly looked after.

Success in any particular line can only be obtained by conducting it on strictly business principles, and poultry-raising is no exception to this general rule. Those who are making a success of poultry farming are those who pay strict attention to every detail of the business. There is no such thing as good and bad "luck" connected with it, or for that matter with any other business. What is often attributed to bad luck is due to following wrong methods and lack of proper care or attention. If every farmer who keeps poultry would give as much attention to this branch of the farm operations, as he does, for instance, to his dairy, poultry raising would soon prove to be a source of profit instead of a source of loss, as is now very often the case. It is surprising what the hen can do if properly looked after.

The Value of Honey as a Food.

How many outside of those who make bee-keeping a study and a business realize the value of honey as a food for the human body? The analysis of pure honey shows 37.58 per cent. of dextrose; 36.22 of leonlose; 26.06 of water and .14 of ash. According to this the essential constituents of honey are dextrose and leonlose. One of the advantages of honey as a food over other foods such as cane sugar is that these constituents are in a form ready to be absorbed by the system. In the analysis of honey the ash invariably shows from 0.1 to 3.05 per cent. of phosphoric acid, an indispensable ingredient in the food of plants and animals, and of immense importance in the human organization, forming an essential constituent of the brain, nervous and other tissues.

According to a writer in *The Jamaica Journal*, honey is cheaper there than butter, and is recommended as a substitute for the latter for poor people. Bees can be kept very easily, and if properly understood require comparatively little attention. The writer above referred to sums up the advantages of bee-keeping and honey in the following order: (1) Honey is a food in a form very readily taken up by the system. (2) Honey is a carbohydrate and as such is a producer of energy and heat in the body. (3) Honey is a cheap food. (4) Honey is invaluable for young children especially. (5) Honey may be made a therapeutic agent of marked value in medicine.

The largest farmer in England, curiously enough, bears the name of Farmer. His residence is in Wiltshire, and the entire amount of his holdings exceeds 15,000 acres. He milks at least 1,000 cows, and has a stock of upwards of 5,000 sheep. By paying his men good wages, he commands the most useful class of labor. He also obtains his farms on the best possible terms.