

WORMS IN POTATOES.

C. H., Montreal, Que.:—"Last summer I had two fields of potatoes. They were well cared for, kept clean, and bloomed and looked well, the bugs having been destroyed several times. When taken up in October in the two fields they were very small, and completely eaten all over to a depth of one-quarter to one-half inch in depth, and all covered with black scabs, which I presume was caused from the bleeding of the sap in the potatoes. The injury was caused by millions of worms half an inch in length, and were in clusters sticking in the potatoes. The worms in question, some called them cutworms, others thinking them a new variety of worm. They are nearly black in color. What can I do to destroy them? The soil is a sandy loam."

[I am unable to identify with certainty the worms which occurred in millions, and which were in clusters sticking in his potatoes. They are not likely to have been any of the cutworms, and if they were wireworms they could at once have been recognized by their yellow color. As these are stated to have been nearly black, it is probable that they may have been *Julidae* or millipedes. These creatures are sometimes troublesome in potato crops in Nova Scotia, and this is said to be particularly the case when sawdust is used as a vehicle for liquid manure. Occasionally in England they have done injury to mangels, potatoes, carrots, and onions, as well as other crops. It has been found that salt and water will kill millipedes in a short time, and Miss Ormerod, the eminent English entomologist, has suggested the treatment of land or manure heaps with salt, nitrate of soda, caustic lime or gas lime. Mr. Shutt, the Chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, informs me that these substances may be applied in the following quantities without injury to crops: Common salt, 300 pounds to the acre; nitrate of soda, 100 pounds to the acre; caustic lime, if on light land should only be applied at the rate of 20 bushels to the acre, but if on clay twice that quantity may be used. Gas lime should only be applied to land required for immediate cropping, after being exposed to the air for six months, when as much as 40 bushels to the acre may be used to advantage.

The millipedes mentioned above may be recognized by their numerous legs and by their habit of curling up into a ring when disturbed. Although so well provided with legs, they cannot walk fast nor for very long distances. It is quite exceptional their occurring in large numbers in a locality or their remaining for many years. I shall be obliged if Mr. Hughes will send me specimens for examination should he find any this year. The common-sense precaution of not planting potatoes on the land next season will naturally have suggested itself to him.

The scab of potatoes is a distinct disease, due to the attacks of a fungus known by the name of *Oospora scabies*. Many experiments have been tried of late years with a view of finding a reliable remedy, and probably the treatment which has given the best results, and which it will certainly pay potato growers to adopt where scab is prevalent, is to soak seed potatoes for two hours in a solution of commercial formalin, using eight ounces to fifteen gallons of water. Corrosive sublimate has been widely recommended for the same purpose (two ounces to sixteen gallons water), but formalin has a decided advantage over this poisonous chemical, for formalin is neither poisonous nor corrosive, while corrosive sublimate is a fatal poison if taken internally. It also corrodes metals. The solution must therefore be made in wooden or glazed vessels, the former of which must not again be used for other purposes. All treated seed must be planted or destroyed, and any solution left over must be poured in a hole dug into the ground in some safe place. In the case of the formalin solution, none of these special precautions are necessary. It is perhaps even more effective, and can now be obtained through nearly all druggists.

J. FLETCHER, Entomologist.
Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Lincoln County.

Some welcome rains have made the prospects for the season's hay crop look decidedly brighter, and though much depends on the weather of the next two or three weeks, it is likely that a medium crop will be harvested. Old hay keeps pretty steady at from \$8 to \$8.50 a ton. Pork advanced the last week of May, and choice stuff was handled by buyers here at \$4.60, but after all's said and done there has been little money in the pork business for the farmer. Butter has taken a big drop during the last few days, the ruling price on St. Catharines' market on June 3rd being 12½¢ per lb.; some even realized only 10¢. Potatoes, which were realizing 90¢ a bag readily a few weeks ago, are now slightly lower, and I question if more than 50¢ a bushel will be paid for what are left. The last month has revealed with painful distinctness the widespread injury to the fruit industry. It is a little difficult to make estimates on hearsay, but from what I see and hear I should think that from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent. of the peach trees in this district are either killed or materially injured. By next month I hope to get a fairly accurate idea of the loss. It is pretty certain that peaches will be a small crop as regards the whole acreage of this district, and prices must necessarily be higher than they have been during the past few years. On all hands I hear that apples are likely to be light. Strawberry factories are looking well, and promise to be a full crop. The canning comes out of this for picking. Two cents doesn't seem much for the producer, but many growers are satisfied that they make more this way than by trusting to the commission market. Raspberry plantations have been hurt severely by the winter, and I shall be surprised if the fruit does not command a high figure this year.

M. B.

Huron County, Ont.

The latter half of May was cool, but the first week of June made up for it; the thermometer frequently registering over 90° in the shade. Occasional showers have kept the pasture in good shape, and spring grains are looking well. Fall wheat—well it's hard to report on its condition, a number of fields are looking well and nicely headed out, other fields that were not plowed in spring ought to have been; some are being pastured. Hay will be light. Timothy seems to have been injured by the frost, as well as the clover. The past week's hot weather is bringing the corn up nicely. The young clover sown this spring is looking well and promises a good catch. Many are supplementing the hay with millet. The fruit prospects have changed some since last month, though bloom was abundant and promised an exceptional crop. There will be but few early or fall apples; the Blenheim Pippin will, perhaps, be a fair crop; the King and later varieties will apparently be good; orchards, of course, where pigs are not allowed to run and spraying not practiced will yield the same crop they always do—more codling moth and scab than marketable fruit. The small fruits will be a fair crop.

The S. Huron Farmers' Institute have an excursion on the 13th to Guelph. This annual excursion is becoming more popular year by year, and many get valuable hints and information.

The markets are: Wheat, 68c-69c; oats, 30c; barley, 35c; peas, 60c; potatoes, 50c-60c; butter, 10c-12c; eggs, 9c-10c; hay, \$3.50-\$6.00; hogs, \$1.65-\$1.70; wool, 12c-13c.
June 8th, 1899. F. C. E.

Bruce County.

Vegetable growth the last few days has been somewhat phenomenal, the heat and moisture being sufficient to make the prospects for the farmers of the brightest. Fall wheat promises to be about seventy per cent. of a full crop, commencing to head out at date. Hay promises to be a fair crop. The spring crops are generally good, for the season. Fruit prospects are fairly good. Cherries, pears, plums and apples all bloomed abundantly, and plenty of fruit has set. We are having a terrible siege of the forest caterpillar. They are stripping the leaves off the forest trees, and the fruit trees the same where they have not been looked after.

The stall-fed cattle are about all shipped. The prices were somewhat lower during May than they were in the early part of April, ranging from \$4.75 to \$5 per cwt.

The cheese factories have got started, with fairly good prospects; plenty of grass for the cows, and the market has opened at good prices. The creameries have been in operation for about a month, paying at the rate of 15c. per lb. for the butter-fat. One cheese factory in this vicinity is making butter this spring so far, but intends making cheese some part of the summer.

Those that are following the grazing method of feeding cattle have had a difficulty to get the right kind of animals to put on the grass. A few carloads have been got in Toronto. For cattle suitable for this purpose, prices have ranged from 34c. to 44c. per lb.

Butter at the stores brings 12c. per lb.; eggs, 11c. per doz. The price of wool is the lowest I ever knew it to be—13c. to 16c. per lb. for washed wool. In the early spring we sheared our sheep, and sold the wool, unwashed, for 11c. The sheep-shearing was later this season than usual, on account of the cold and wet weather during the middle of May.

The South Bruce Farmers' Institute held a very successful annual meeting at Teeswater (Miss Rose was one of the principal speakers), and they also held a well-attended picnic, in conjunction with the Culross Township pioneers. The first settlers came here about 45 years ago.
June 7, 1899. J. T.

Important Cable from South Africa.

R. A. Lister & Co., limited, Montreal, inform us that a telegraphic message just received from South Africa announces that the "Melotte" separator has secured the first prize at the Great Trials of Hand Cream Separators held at Port Elizabeth, in competition with the "Alpha" and other machines. This signal award, so closely following the report of the Judges of Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the honors obtained by the "Melotte" separator at the last London Dairy Show, and the great Munich Exhibition (Bavaria) of 1898, would appear to ratify the guarantee issued by the "Melotte" Separator Company, of Bristol, namely, that the "Melotte" separator takes less power to turn and does more work than any other hand separator in the world, with equal efficiency. We understand the Melotte Co. are prepared to prove the merits of their separator by sending any size machine on free trial for fourteen days to any bona fide intending purchaser, to be worked alone or alongside any other make; and if at the end of that time the machine does not fulfill the statements made concerning it, the users are at liberty to return same at the expense of senders. A fairer offer could not be made, and buyers will be studying their own interests to write at once and avail themselves of same.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following table shows current and comparative live stock prices:

	Extreme prices now.	Top Prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1898	1897
Beef cattle.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$5 15 to \$5 60	\$5 65	\$5 15	\$5 30
1350 to 1500 lbs.....	4 90 " 5 00	5 55	5 20	5 20
1200 to 1350 lbs.....	4 60 " 5 00	5 40	5 00	5 10
1050 to 1200 lbs.....	4 10 " 5 35	5 20	4 95	5 20
900 to 1050 lbs.....	4 30 " 5 20	5 10	4 90	4 75
Hogs.				
Mixed.....	3 55 " 3 92½	3 95	4 32	3 60
Heavy.....	3 45 " 3 95	4 00	4 37	3 57
Light.....	3 50 " 3 95	3 90	4 25	3 62
Pigs.....	3 20 " 3 80	3 80	4 00	3 60
Sheep.				
Natives.....	2 75 " 5 25	5 60	5 00	4 85
Western.....	4 50 " 5 10	5 50	4 90	4 50
Yearlings.....	4 35 " 5 25	5 85	5 50	5 00
Lambs.....	4 00 " 6 65	7 00	6 35	6 00

Receipts at four leading Western markets for the first five months of 1899, with comparisons:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Chicago.....	983,227	3,451,307	1,545,083
Kansas City.....	609,219	1,396,567	410,228
Omaha.....	250,846	882,849	522,100
St. Louis.....	214,573	859,177	138,037

Western corn-fed range cattle comprise a large share of the current offerings. Many of the choicest cattle—indeed, some of the highest-priced ones—are branded. Generally speaking, however, the branded cattle usually sell a little above a medium price for good to choice beefes. One day recently T. B. Horn, of Nebraska, sold 180 head of 1,289 to 1,560 lb. fed Western steers at \$5.15 to \$5.25, and 42 heifers, average, 1,226 lbs., at \$5.10. The Standard Cattle Company, of Nebraska, sold 46 fed Western steers averaging 1,444 lbs., and 134 head averaging 1,461 lbs.; both lots at \$5.10.

An agent recently bought in Texas, for Pierre Wibaux, 5,000 choice two-year-old steers at \$25 per head, with a 20 per cent. cut out. These cattle were out of Gillette Shorthorn cows, and sired by White-faced bulls. The lot is said to represent

sent the cream of Texas two-year-olds. They will be shipped from Amarillo to Moorecroft, Wyo., and then driven to the Wibaux ranges, on the Northern Pacific.

Prices for Texas two-year-olds above the quarantine line are \$21.50 to \$25 per head.

Average weight of the 3,451,307 hogs received at the Chicago Stock Yards the first five months of this year, 234 lbs. The 3,539,813 hogs received a year ago averaged 227 lbs., and the 3,322,095 received the first five months of 1897 averaged 235 lbs. Average last week, 234 lbs., against 237 lbs. the previous week, 231 lbs. a month ago, 233 lbs. a year ago, and 238 lbs. two years ago. There is every reason to believe that June receipts of hogs will be liberal, but the prospects are for stronger markets later. Hog prices are lower than they were awhile ago, on account partly of increased receipts, partly on account of the recent extreme heat, and partly on account of the yellow fever talk in the South.

"Let the sheep market start on the down grade," said a salesman, "and everybody in the country commences shipping." The sheep market lately has suffered a good deal, and it does look as if the people who deal in sheep are somewhat inclined to follow the leader.

The 1898 Year Book, recently issued by the United States Agricultural Department, shows a decrease of the number of horses in Iowa from Jan. 1, 1898, to Jan. 1, 1899, of 40,890 head. The census practically shows the same percentage of decrease throughout the United States. Jan. 1, 1898, there were reported 1,022,212 horses in Iowa, valued at \$34,370,027; and Jan. 1, 1899, the returns gave 981,352 horses, appraised at \$37,636,888. Horses are increasing in value. George McMan, Rochelle, Ill., sold a load of 22 high-steppers for an average of \$364. This average has been beaten but once during the season in the regular auction, when in March P. A. Immel sold 22 head for an average of \$275. Horse prices are not quite as high as a while ago, but there is a good strong market for them.

The following gives an idea of the size of the mammoth packing plants. Buildings are usually measured in square feet, but the size of Swift & Co.'s plant is best computed in acres, as follows:

	Buildings, acres.	Floor space, acres.	Land, acres.
Chicago.....	38	67½	40½
Kansas City.....	81	28	19½
Omaha.....	6	19½	23
St. Louis.....	51	13½	27½
St. Joseph.....	41	16½	19½
St. Paul.....	3	6	16
Totals.....	65	150½	145½

Toronto Markets.

The cattle trade shows renewed strength. Drovers report cattle to be scarce in many districts. A carload of cattle is shipped weekly to Port Arthur. Two carloads of hogs, mostly thin stores, were also taken to Sudbury. A large number of export cattle, held over for want of space on board the steamer detained in quarantine, taxed the resources of the market to-day.

Export Cattle.—Choice well-finished export cattle were in good demand. The quality offered was very good. Prior firm on all choice picked stock. Heavyweight well-finished cattle sold from \$4 to \$5. It was reported that \$5.20 was paid for a bunch, but we could not verify the sale. The bulk sold at from \$4.75 to \$5.15 per cwt.; light export cattle at \$4.50 per cwt. Mr. W. H. Dean bought five loads of exporters at \$5.15 per cwt. Mr. H. Talbot bought two steers, weighing 1,620 lbs. each, from Mr. Wm. Mairs, of King, Ont., at \$5.15, the top price for the day.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of butchers' cattle, weighing 1,000 to 1,150 lbs., sold at \$4.50 to \$4.65 per cwt. The drovers complain that cattle are too high to make any money, that owing to competition the farmers must certainly have done very well with their cattle this season. Mr. Wm. Levack bought 150 cattle at \$4.25 to \$4.80 per cwt. Mr. Hummsett bought two loads of heifers and cows (average, 1,110 lbs.) at from \$4 to \$4.60 per cwt.

Feeders.—Heavy feeders in good demand; scarce and wanted; handy weight, 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. each, for feeding purposes, prices firm, at \$4.40 to \$4.60 for well-bred stock suitable for finishing at the byres.

Stockers.—Prices of Buffalo stockers were easier, selling at \$3 for poor to medium. For select good class, at from \$3.50 to \$3.80, extra choice, per cwt. Stock heifers are easier at \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls of good quality sold at \$3.75 to \$4.25 per cwt.; light export bulls at \$3.40 to \$3.65; inferior stock bulls from \$2 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Sheep.—A great number of sheep are exposed for sale half finished. Prices easier on all offered—\$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt., clipped. Unclipped sold at \$3.75 to \$4 per cwt.; bucks, \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt.

Lambs.—Deliveries fair of yearling lambs, at \$4 to \$4.50 for choice grain-fed lambs. Spring lambs delivered freely, and sold at \$2.50 to \$4 each.

Calves.—A large number of small scrub calves on offer at \$2 per head. Good well-fed veals brought up to \$10 per head.

Milk Cows.—About fifteen milk cows on offer. One very promising animal fetched \$51. Prices ranged generally from \$25 to \$45 per head.

Hogs.—Although the grass during the early part of May was scarce, the recent favorable weather has resulted in very rapid growth, and our attention has been drawn to a large number of sides of bacon recently from the salt that showed to be slightly off color and soft. The reason given for this state of things was feeding the hogs on pasture. This reacts on the Canadian consumer, as this bacon cannot be exported, and is forced on the local market. Deliveries heavy. The Ingersoll Packing House lowered the price (to \$4.37½) for choice. This caused a large supply to reach this market—nearly 6,000 this week—at \$5 for choice singlers, \$4.37½ for light fat and medium, and \$4.25 for thick fat. Sows, \$3; stags, \$2. We anticipate a rise of 25c. per cwt. for next week on choice singlers, and all other grades in proportion, except stags and sows. They must be the right kind of hogs—long, lean, 160 lbs. to 180 lbs. live weight. Many of the hogs coming forward are little dumping fellows—balls of fat—weighing 150 lbs. and over.

Grain Market.—Receipts of farm produce at the St. Lawrence market have been very fair for the past week. To-day 600 bushels of grain, 30 loads of hay, 2 loads of straw.

Wheat.—Very steady; 450 bushels sold as follows: White, 77½¢ per bushel; red, 75¢ per bushel; goose, 68¢ per bushel.

Barley.—Easier. Two loads sold at 42½¢ per bushel.

Oats.—Steady, at from 36c. to 38c. per bushel.

Peas.—Scarce and wanted at 62c. per bushel.

Hay.—The supply equal to the demand. Price steady, at from \$11 to \$13 per ton. Clover at from \$7 to \$9 per ton.

Straw.—From \$6 to \$7 per ton.

Dressed Hogs.—Prices unchanged; none coming forward. Quoted at from \$5.25 to \$6.25 per cwt.

Butter.—In good demand. Very little choice butter on the market. Quoted at from 11c. to 16c. per lb. Creamery rolls at from 17c. to 20c. for extra choice.

Eggs.—Choice new-laid eggs scarce on this market. Guaranteed new-laid, 12c. to 12½¢ per dozen.

Toronto, June 10th, '99.

Live Stock Exports.

The following is report of live stock shipments for week ending Wednesday, June 7th, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal: Cattle, 3,495; sheep, 1,033.