OUR FARMERS' CLUB

Contributions Invited

NOVA SCOTIA

KINGS CO., N. S.

Already signs of spring are manifest. Where the snow has melted, spring bulbs, such as daffodils and tulips, have pushed above ground. Maple trees are being tapped and it has been said that the sap has never run so freely as now. A change in the maple buds is quite evident. However, the snow is still deep in the woods, and it will be a long time yet before the cows will be able to go to pasture—which reminds one that the hay is getting low in the hay-mows, and the prices are correspondingly high. Pruning is now the occupation out of doors, for which the weather has been favorable. Root grafting will soon commence indoors. Farmers have co-operated in the buying of fertilizer, and the agents, anxious to secure the company's custom, have made big cuts, thus saving the orchardists several dollars a ton. One of the farmers' co-operative grocery stores has been paying 10 per cent. during the last year. Several farmers have shares in these companies, which sell goods for cash at different points throughout the county. Missionaries are needed to preach ventilation and sanitation for our homes and barns. Many pigs and cows are suffering from tuberculosis, which is not to be wondered at when we see the manner in which they are kept.—Eunice Watts.

QUEBEC

SHERBROOKE CO., QUE.

LENNOXVILLE.—The outlook for sugar is not very bright, very little having been made as yet. There is no frost in the ground, and the land should dry quickly as soon as the snow clears off. Farmers are hoping for an early spring, as hay is getting scarce and in some sections fancy prices are being paid. Six cents is being paid for good beef and even more for choice lots. Pork is worth 15c. in carcass. All kinds of cattle, including cows, will be high this spring. Butter is selling at 30c. and eggs 30 to 32c.—H. M.

ONTARIO

LEEDS CO., ONT.

GANANOQUE.—Farmers are busy making syrup and report some good runs. Pork is still going up, live hogs being much in demand at from 9 to 10c., dressed at 12c. Good veal calves bring $2 a week Calf hides sell for 75c.; eggs, 24c.; butter, 23c.; oats, 38c., and hay at $15 a ton.—C. H. C.

HASTINGS CO., ONT.

CHAPMAN.—Sugar making has begun, and the indications are that the amount of syrup made will be larger than usual. There will not be any scarcity of feed if spring opens as soon as it promises. Potatoes are being shipped at 35c a bag and hogs are selling at 9c a lb. Dairy cattle have wintered quite free from disease.—H. S. T.

THE RIDGE.—Feed seems to be somewhat scarce. Many are inquiring for hay and straw, also oats. Hay is selling for $15 to $18 a ton; straw, $5 to $6 a load; feed oats, 55c. and good seed for 60c. and 65c. a bu. Pork sells at $12 a cwt. dressed; beef cannot be got at any price. Milking cows are selling at rather good prices, from $35 to $40 each.—A. B. C.

WELLINGTON CO., ONT.

MOUNT FOREST.—Sugar making operations are just commencing. There have been one or two good short runs already. The majority still boil with the old-fashioned kettles, for as a rule just a few trees are tapped on the average. There were two new Champion evaporators sold here this year. We are enjoying our share of the high prices paid now for hogs, as they are now selling for $9.50 a cwt. Many are now anxious to buy stockers, but they are very scarce and selling around 5c. per lb.—C. N.

ELORA.—The long steady winter seems to have come near its end; the first spell of spring-like weather is with us at last. Farmers have been watching for signs of spring for some time. Straw being shorter than usual last fall caused heavier feeding of hay, and in consequence this class of feed is getting low. Beef cattle are leaving the stables early, however, and this will relieve the situation to some extent. A large number of choice cattle left here Saturday last. Many of them brought over 5c a lb., giving fair returns for the feeder. Everything in live stock is exceedingly high in price, and no prospect at present of coming down. The returns for last year's crop, as sent away alive, should be satisfactory from the standpoint of the farmer, while the citizen and the laborer must feel that living is dearer, and this may eventually create the feeling that tilling the soil intelligently is worth while and compares favorably with any other business in Canada today.—G. W.

VICTORIA CO., ONT.

WOODVILLE.—Spring seems to be approaching rapidly. Most of the farmers have marketed their grain at fair prices. Live stock is selling for high prices. A great many of the best horses have been shipped out of the country and in consequence they are scarce and high in price.—J. R.

BRANT CO., ONT.

FALKLAND.—Although there was a large quantity of snow on the ground, it went away gradually and consequently did no damage. Most of it has gone into the soil, where it will be stored for the use of crops. Our Farmers' Club held a judging class on March 11, in horses and beef cattle. Mr. Brockbank of Paris took charge of the class in horses and Mr. Jas. Kyle of Ayr, cattle. Over 40 were present and many things were learned about selection and type of horses and cattle. Prices for hogs are still soaring, $9.25 being paid. Good fat cattle are in strong demand, 6c a lb being bid by drovers for good export steers. Butter and eggs continue firm in spite of increased supplies. There is very little demand for potatoes and apples.—L. T.

WATERLOO CO., ONT.

AYR.—On Friday, March 11, the Ayr Farmers' Club and Women's Institute held a concert in the local hall. It was gotten up by local talent and was a great success. Social affairs such as this serve to draw the people from the town and country closer together. The next regular meeting of the club will take the form of a debate between the Roseville and Ayr clubs, the subject being, "Resolved, That agriculture's life offers greater inducement to young men than commercial life." They are also planning to hold a horticultural show in the fall. G. C. S.

BRUCE CO., ONT.

WALKERTON.—Farmers are retiring to the towns on account of the scarcity of labor. This has a tendency to make the products of the farm dearer, and it adds to the cost of living. The young men are going to the Canadian West (who can blame them?) and laborers cannot be got to take their place. Hogs are $9.00 a cwt; fat cattle from 5c to 6c; eggs, 25c a doz; butter, 30c; potatoes, 45c a bag; hay, $12 a ton; oats, 40c a bush. The people of the towns are complaining bitterly of the high prices of foods, but they find time and money to patronize five cent theatres and concert companies that come to town, besides all the other social events, such as social teas, 500 parties, etc., while the farmer and his family are working hard to produce enough food for them to eat.—J. A. L.

MIDDLESEX CO., ONT.

TEMPO.—Many carloads of oats have been shipped into London from the Northwest. These oats are a splendid sample, weighing over 40 lbs. a bush. and they materially tend to keep the price of Ontario oats from soaring as high as they otherwise would. A Westminster farmer's wife took a turkey to market the other day that tipped the beam at 31 lbs. and it sold at 25c a lb; it would swell her purse to $7.75. Now, why don't everybody raise turkeys? Cows are selling high, averaging about $50 each. Several sales are coming on, and the northwest fever is breaking out quite unexpectedly, and is certainly catching.—J. E. O.

LAMBETH.—Mr. John Mill, a retired farmer living near here, told the writer the following. He says: "When the first telegraph line came through here, more than 50 years ago, we sold the company the poles to build about eight miles of the line. These poles were 26 feet long, and we got 50 cents each for them. This contract brought us a snug sum of money, which was a wonderful help to us in those days, when cash was a very scarce article. Some of those poles after serving a good many years were removed and used as fence posts and are yet quite sound. From 1840 to 1844 the road from London to Port Stanley was graded up and planked by the Government, mostly for military purposes. At every mile, a mile-post was put in. These were of cedar and about 10 in. square. And after a lapse of more than 56 years some of those poles are in place yet. More than 50 years ago we sold cedar blocks for building purposes, and many of them are sound and still in place." The writer considers the above a practical demonstration of the durability of cedar, when placed in the ground. Cedar when used as rails will last very much longer, of course.—J. E. O.

WHITE OAK.—I consider the Chester White and Yorkshire crossed make the most profitable hogs to feed. Last year from one mother sow crossed I sold $279.50 worth of hogs to the shippers. Our corn was not very good last year, which makes us a little short of feed, for we aim at a bumper corn crop every year. I am an advocate of shallow plowing, in the general run of our farm operations.—J. M.

HURON CO., ONT.

GODERICH.—The season of auction sales is on. All classes of live stock are selling exceptionally high. Quite a number of farms have been sold, many of the owners leaving for the West, consequently are having auction sales. Several rural telephone lines are now being organized, which will be of inestimable benefit to those at a distance from the towns. With telephone and rural mail delivery the farmers' advantages will be materially improved. Cows are selling at from $60 to $70; steers, $5.50 to $5.85 a cwt.; hogs, $9.30; hay, $13 a ton.—D. G. S.

LAMBTON CO., ONT.

WYOMING.—Wheat has wintered well, in fact the best for years. Farmers are getting their seed corn shipped in large quantities. Ensilage is fast becoming the leading crop. There will be plenty of feed. Hay sells for $14; oats, 37c.; barley, 55c.; sucking pigs, $5.00 each; aged sows, $50 to $60 each at the sales; fresh cows, $60 and over. Public places are full of sale bills. Owners going west. We appreciate those reports in Farmers' Club from the Western Provinces.—D. N. A.

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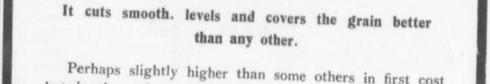

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