

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

### Our Clubbing List.

We are pleased indeed to be able to offer the following low clubbing rates for FARMING, with other publications:

	Regular PRICE.	With FARMING.
Canadian Magazine	\$2.50	\$2.50
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These are all particularly low offers, but we would make special mention of our offer to send FARMING and the *Canadian Magazine* for one year for the low price of two dollars and fifty cents. This is Canada's greatest magazine, and we should like to see it in the home of every farmer. It contains what is best in Canadian literature, and thought, and no young Canadian should be without it. Try it for one year.

We have also made special arrangements with the publishers of the *Canadian Magazine* to offer that splendid production for four new subscribers for FARMING, at \$1 per annum. This offer is made specially for the readers of FARMING. Four new subscribers can be got very easily if you only make the effort.

Our offer to advance subscriptions six months for one new yearly subscriber at \$1, and to advance subscriptions one year for two yearly subscribers at \$1 each is still good. As this is the usual time of the year for renewing subscriptions to FARMING, you cannot do it more easily than by sending in two new yearly subscribers.

**Don't delay.** Now is the time to secure new subscribers. Look up the back numbers of FARMING for our premium list. They are all good yet. We offer splendid inducements to agents to canvass for new subscribers to FARMING. Write for full particulars. Sample copies sent on application.

### Australia to Make Experimental Fruit Shipments.

The Ministers of Agriculture of the colonies of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand recently held a conference and resolved to make an experimental shipment this winter to the

British market of 10,000 cases of fruit under the most improved conditions. The arrangements include a complete system of ventilation for every part of the chamber in which the fruit is conveyed. A standard case has been adopted by the Australian colonies, which is their recognized fruit bushel, and contains 2,438 cubic inches. This case measures 10 by 15 by 20 inches on the outside, and its use will facilitate packing for shipment, as well as supervision of experimental ventures by the Governments. Experiments have been made, and it has been found that for the safe transportation of apples a steady temperature of from 40 to 45 degrees and good ventilation are necessary. In regard to other lines of fruit, there is much to be learned as to the requisites of a sea voyage, and a series of experiments in transportation will be instituted during the coming season.

As the Australian fruit season alternates with our own, the Canadian fruit grower will have an opportunity of watching this interesting series of experiments during the winter. The shipments will be made under Government control, and every case will bear an official brand. If they prove successful, we may look for a large export trade from Australia to Great Britain in fruits. The Australians never seem to do things by halves. They go into a thing on a large scale or not at all. The very fact that several of the colonies have united in this matter is a sufficient guarantee that the contemplated fruit shipments will be on an extensive scale. In seeking to establish a market, a large experimental shipment has this advantage, that a larger number of consumers must necessarily be reached than with a small shipment, and consequently the qualities of the goods can be made known in less time. In fruits, or any kind of goods sent in smaller quantities, the quality may be more select, but the same interest is not created, nor the same enthusiasm aroused as when a large experimental shipment is made. This is something for our Government to consider when making further experimental shipments of Canadian produce. Of course Canada is much nearer the market, and can send over smaller shipments to better advantage than the Australians can. In the past, however, the large experimental shipments of butter to Great Britain from Australia have aroused the keenest interest among those in the trade. When they are sufficiently large to effect the market, the trade is excited, and newspapers give the matter more attention, whereas, if only a comparatively small experimental shipment is made, only a small amount of interest is aroused, and it is more difficult to direct public attention to it.

### Fruit Exchanges.

In British Columbia there are in active operation what are known as fruit exchanges. These exchanges are co-operative in their character, and are somewhat similar in their methods of operation to the local dairy boards of trade in Ontario, their object being to procure a market for the fruit grown by the various members of the exchanges. There are a couple of central exchanges located at Victoria and Vancouver, with a number of local exchanges in the various fruit districts, which are tributary to the central exchanges. A competent officer is in charge of each of the central exchanges, whose duty it is to look after the selling and shipping of the fruit sent in by the members or by the local exchanges.

In addition to supplying the British Columbia market, these exchanges give special attention to

developing a market outside of the province for their fruits. Their chief point just now is Manitoba. Special efforts are made to secure this market for their fruits. Thirteen carloads of fruit have been shipped to the Northwest and Manitoba during the past season. Last year the total shipments made by the exchanges amounted to \$5,000, while this year they will likely total as much as \$17,000. The principal shipments consisted of strawberries, plums, apples, and pears.

These exchanges seem to bring the producer and consumer together, and so far have given pretty fair satisfaction to all concerned. Occasionally the work of the exchanges has been hampered by members sending their best fruit to the commission men direct and forwarding the poorer stuff through the exchanges. This has prevented the exchanges from doing their very best work. Aside from this, however, the general results of the scheme have been satisfactory, and have been successful, not only in improving the home market for British Columbia fruit, but have also been instrumental in developing the outside markets. We do not know whether Ontario fruit growers have ever considered a similar scheme or not. If not, it might be a good topic for discussion at the next annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. It might be possible to establish similar exchanges in the leading Canadian cities, where the grower and consumer could come together and dispose of the product to the best advantage. They might also be useful in looking up markets outside of Ontario for fruit.

### Dealing in Futures.

Speculation in all kinds of commodities seems to be one of the strong characteristics of this modern age. Connected with every branch of trade there are numbers of persons who endeavor to manipulate the product, while *en transit* from the producer to the consumer, so as to turn a large share of the profit their own way. These persons are not the legitimate middlemen who seem to be necessary in many lines of trade, but are individuals who have the gambling propensities very largely developed, and who, by the manipulation of stocks, etc., find opportunity for displaying their peculiar energies to the injury of a large majority of the honest, toiling masses of humanity. They endeavor to "bull" or "bear" the market to suit their own inclinations, and never once dream of being guided in their speculative transactions by the law of supply and demand.

No other line of trade affords greater opportunities for speculation and manipulation of this kind than the products of the farm. All along the route from the producer to the consumer the manipulator finds ample scope for his energies, and hardly ever fails to get a large share of the profits, which by just right should go to the producer or the consumer. The wheat and grain market seems to be the special delight of these manipulators, and just at the present time they seem to be doing just about as they please with it. The person who has sold a large quantity of grain for future delivery, which he has not yet in his possession, puts forth every effort to "bear" the market and get the price down so that he may realize a handsome profit on his sales. On the other hand, the person who wishes to find a market for goods, whether he has them in actual possession or not, endeavors to "bull" the market in order to make a better sale. And thus the "strife" goes on. One day a report is sent broad-