

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVII

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., NOVEMBER 1, 1902

No. 561

EDITORIAL.

A Field for Development.

In a recent issue, the "Farmer's Advocate" set forth, at some length, the advantages accruing to the business and agricultural interests of Canada by the expansion of the milling industry. A most important consideration from the standpoint of the farmer is that nearly all the elements of fertility taken from the soil by the wheat plant are contained in the bran and shorts; consequently, by feeding these on the farm and exporting only the flour, the fertility of the soil may be maintained. One of the most gratifying evidences of the permanent development of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories is the large number of new flour mills that are being erected. The latest announcement in this direction is that the Lake of the Woods Milling Company intend, in the near future, to erect another mammoth mill. Commenting upon our former article on this subject, the Toronto Globe agrees that the milling industry, which has helped to build up some leading commercial centers in the United States, has a splendid field for development in Canada. There is no reason why a larger export of the finished product and a comparatively smaller export of the raw material should not be found more advantageous. The time has gone by when talk of developing an industry was the prelude to obstructive legislation, and there is absolutely no danger of the milling industry being stimulated by an export duty on wheat. The policy of the present day is to remove all obstacles in the way of the natural development of industry, to facilitate the purchase of material and supplies, and to open and retain all available markets. The Globe points out that transportation is one of the influences affecting the development of milling. While there is virtually no control of railway rates, it is possible for the carrying corporations to determine arbitrarily whether the Dominion will export wheat or flour. It is not suggested that there is any discrimination against the Canadian milling interests by the railways, nor that charges are in any way unfair. Nor is there any complaint of unfair treatment with regard to grinding for the home market or for export. The advantage of utilizing the lake route for western grain and the consequent hurry to move the crop before the close of navigation has perhaps thus far hindered the development of western milling for export. The West is the natural seat of a great milling industry corresponding with that of Minnesota. A great deal of Western hard wheat or flour is utilized in conjunction with the softer fall wheat to supply the grades of flour required in Ontario and Eastern Canada, and in the Old Country millers combine it with the soft winter wheats of eastern countries. But Canada-made flour should reach the British consumer as early as if shipped as wheat and ground in Britain. The water powers and other facilities of Canada, with the additional advantages to which we have already alluded, should turn the balance in favor of Canadian milling, which so far has evidently not developed in proportion to the natural opportunities of the Dominion.

Barley as Stock Food.

It has been frequently stated by investigators and intelligent feeders that the true value of barley as a stock food is by no means appreciated as it should be by the farmers of Canada. From our own experience and observation, we are persuaded that a good deal of truth lies in this statement. In certain quarters, an unenlightened prejudice against it has existed, some even asserting that it was prejudicial to stock. Such views are unworthy of intelligent men, and in the past were probably propagated by persons interested in diverting this useful stock food to other purposes detrimental to the country's well-being.

In all European countries where feeding is carried on extensively barley holds a prominent place as a stock food, and in our own land, as well as the United States, experiments have demonstrated the economy of its use under various conditions in the production of beef, pork and mutton. It, hence, becomes a worthy subject for consideration in view of the failure of the pea crop and the improbability of being able to produce this once reliable fattening grain for some time to come. Moreover, the increased interest which is being taken in the feeding of cattle and hogs for the British market makes the necessity of having some easily-grown fat and flesh forming food more apparent.

Previous to the passage of the McKinley Bill by Congress, much of this cereal, as is well known, was grown for the American market, but upon the increase of tariff at that time hundreds of Canadian farmers lessened the area devoted to it, and instead increased the acreage of oats and peas, and in some cases even began growing rye. Others continued to grow considerable of the awn cereal, but devoted more attention to feeding, thereby leaving the fertility upon the farm, and as time has gone on, have increased the productiveness of their soil. Unfortunately, the number who did so was comparatively small and the increase to their ranks has been slow. Had there been more of this class, it might have been said that the change in the tariff laws of our southern neighbors was to us a blessing in disguise, and indeed it is even yet a question if for other reasons such was not the case.

In comparing the different grains which are commonly fed, scientists find by analysis that barley is much higher in digestible protein (a flesh-forming substance) than corn, and almost equal to oats; and in carbohydrates (starchy matter), very much superior to oats and practically equal to corn, having, in chemical terms, a nutritive ratio of 1 to 8, or one part nitrogenous to eight parts non-nitrogenous substances. Theoretically, therefore, it is in a large measure just such a food as stockmen require to replace peas or corn in the preparation of a ration for economical feeding. This has also been borne out practically in various countries in the production of bacon of the highest quality. Long ago, Danish investigators determined that in this respect no single grain was its equal. The lines pursued by these people have been sufficient to place them in the first rank as hog-raisers. They have been and are still our strongest competitors with England's bacon consumers, and what they have demonstrated enlightened Canadians believe to be true. Barley is a grain which enters

largely also into the composition of the famous Irish bacon. Pork packers everywhere in this country are continually advising farmers to feed barley or peas during the main and finishing periods of feeding, knowing that from the use of either foods a firm, sweet side of "Wiltshire" may be obtained.

Now, while it is seldom, or never, economy to feed a whole ration of one grain, we are satisfied that none, except it be peas, can be of greater service than barley in growing and preparing hogs for market. For young pigs it contains rather much starchy matter to be fed extensively, but after they are three months old the quantity may be safely increased until in the final stages in feeding it may safely constitute the bulk of the ration. As cattle food, when mixed with a quantity of bran, it is very satisfactory both in the feeding of young or growing stock and when finishing the mature bullock for market. Progressive dairymen, too, are learning more and more to appreciate its value, realizing, as the best European investigators have done, that in so doing a beneficial influence is imparted to the quality of milk and butter. In the winter feeding of lambs or the fattening of full-grown sheep, barley likewise is unsurpassed, whether fed alone or in conjunction with other concentrates.

In view, therefore, of its general usefulness, it is indeed surprising that any farmer should harbor views which not only scientific but practical investigation has proven to be unsound. The price of the grain this season is comparatively low; beef and pork are, on the other hand, commanding fair prices; hence, the encouragement to feed should be sufficient to prevent any of this cereal finding a resting place in the elevators of the country.

Pointers.

As a result of good management the Toronto Exhibition of this year shows a surplus of almost \$12,000, after paying all liabilities, including last year's deficit.

The patient endurance of the average Canadian ratepayer with bad roads is one of the most discouraging aspects of the dawn of the twentieth century.

To pasteurize or not to pasteurize cream is a question to which Mr. Fred Dean, of the big creamery in Perth County, Ont., gives elsewhere in this issue a very emphatic answer. Read it.

We must again warn farmers generally against becoming infected with the mania for stock gambling. In our last issue we called attention to a luring circular sent us from a St. Louis firm, suggesting how "fortunes" could be made by sending them money to speculate in corn. Now we are sent a letter from a New York commission firm telling how big profits are in sight by "dealing" in cotton. Thousands of people have been lured to their financial and moral ruin by being drawn into the meshes of "bucket shops" and so-called stock brokers or commission men, who in various cities and towns afford the facilities for gambling on the ups and downs of market quotations in New York and Chicago. He that maketh haste to be rich falleth into a snare.