

THE FARMING WORLD

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

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importations should be sold to farmers here and there at a very small figure. Those who advocate the latter plan are mostly politicians, and it does not require much acumen to discern that they see in this a means of pulling votes or making themselves popular with certain individuals who control votes. In our opinion, a most serious mistake would be made if such a plan were adopted. The only fair way is to hold an auction sale and let everyone who wants to and can pay the price buy the animals as they are offered. To place breeding animals in the hands of men who are not willing to pay a fair price for them is like throwing money away. Besides, buyers would not give them the same care and attention as if they paid a fair market price.

The auction sale as now conducted in connection with the Amherst Winter Fair has given the greatest general satisfaction. It has given farmers a chance to sell animals that could not be sold any other way. The local agricultural societies appreciate this. It gives them the opportunity of seeing a large number of animals together

and thus making a better selection. The Nova Scotia government will be well advised if it adopts the policy of having all animals brought into the province by public funds sold by auction to the highest bidder. To practically give them away to parties here and there would most certainly defeat the ends for which the importations were made and do more harm than good to the live stock trade of the country.

Prof. Arkell Goes to Ste Anne's

Mr. H. S. Arkell, B.S.A., who for a couple of years has been lecturer in Animal Husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural College, has been appointed Professor of Animal Husbandry at Macdonald College, Ste Anne de Bellevue, Que., and assumes his new duties on June 1st. His first work will probably be to purchase the stock that will be required in the animal husbandry department, which, for the present at least, will make dairy and swine husbandry the more important features of the courses to be taught. There is already a splendid herd of Ayrshires on the farm.

wheat than usual has been plowed up, and much more would be turned under were it not that the grass has been seeded down with the wheat. A considerable quantity of barley and oats, however, has been drilled into the bare spots for mixed feed. But little injury from insects has been reported, the white grub being most abundant. The rye crop came through in better condition.

Clover—Like fall wheat, clover suffered greatly from the trying weather of April, many fields being badly heaved by frost, or injured by ice forming. On warm, sandy soils, and on well-drained clays, some excellent fields are reported, but on the whole the crop came through the winter and spring in poorer condition than for years, and no section of the Province has been exempt.

Live Stock—When live stock went into winter quarters, it was felt that more than ordinary care would have to be exercised in their feeding and handling, as hay was not so plentiful as usual, and the weather was high in price. The early part of the winter was favorable, and the warm weather of March augured an early season upon the grass; but the keen, raw weather of April, and the backward growth of the first half of May, upset all calculations, and when correspondents wrote, fodder supplies were short with many, and in some cases live stock had to be turned out on pastures that were hardly forward enough to sustain them. Cattle are not in as good spring condition as usual, being on the lean side as a rule, although, with the exception of some losses from scouring and a few local cases of abortion in dairy cows, they are generally free from disease.

The fact that they were put on grass later than usual is also against them. Horses, owing to the high prices now being paid for them, are better cared for than ever. Some distemper has been reported, but generally of a mild form. The cool weather during spring work was in their favor. Sheep are gaining in favor and are doing well, although the usual losses in lambing are reported. The fatalities in spring litters of pigs have been serious, but otherwise this popular class of live stock is favorably spoken of, and shipments are being regularly made to the packing houses.

Farm Supplies—Hay is scarce and dear in most quarters, as a large quantity was pressed and shipped early in the winter, and a good deal had to be fed to live stock during the late spring. Oats also had to be fed in greater quantities than was anticipated, and the surplus on wheat is comparatively small. What has been largely disposed of, and, taken all together, fodder supplies have been more closely drawn upon than for years. Of course, there are individual farmers who have still a good supply of some or all of these commodities on hand. Fat cattle have been pretty well cleared off, and exporters have gone on regularly during the season. Some cattle are plentiful, but are late in getting on the grass. This, with the comparative scarcity of feed, is making the handling of beef cattle a more interesting problem than ever this year. Several correspondents speak of plum trees dying, but some attribute this to the severe winter of 1903-4 having told on the vitality of the trees. Other fruit trees have come through in good condition, and give fair promise of fruiting should spring frost be escaped. Complaints are made of injury from the San Jose scale and the oyster shell bark louse.

Representatives of the other breeds will be added and a complete course in animal husbandry established.

Prof. Arkell is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College. He made a specialty of live stock during his college career and passed his examinations with high honors. He comes of a family of stockmen, the Arkells being known far and wide for their success in the show-ring and as breeders of high-class stock. Therefore, both by education and practical training he is well qualified to ship up the important duties at Ste Anne's for which he has been chosen.

Live Stock and Crop Conditions in Ontario

The report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture regarding agricultural conditions in the Province about the middle of May, is not a very comforting one. Generally speaking, the wintry spring has given things a serious setback, and unless more favorable growing conditions come soon, the outlook for a big harvest is not at all bright. The cool weather has continued till the end of the month, and, as a result, growing conditions are not at all what they should be for this season of the year. The backward state of growth has prevented correspondents from obtaining as accurate an opinion of crop prospects as usual. The following is a summary of the report:

Fall Wheat—While a few correspondents report good fields of fall wheat, the bulk of the returns are more or less unfavorable. More fall

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