FARMING

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An Ideal Farm Paper

During an interview with one of our representatives on November 30th last the Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, Stratford, Ont., made the following complimentary reference to FARMING: "FARMING meets my idea of what a farm paper should be." There is no one better known to the farmers and dairymen of this country than Mr. Ballantyne, and no one, perhaps, has done more to further the interests of the agriculturist than he. His work for the past thirty years in building up and promoting the great cheese industry of Canada has given him a place among Canada's public men of which anyone may well feel proud. Mr. Ballantyne's long experience and association with the farmers' interests puts him in a position to judge clearly what the agriculturist of to-day needs in the way of an agricultural paper, and, therefore, his above complimentary remark is given additional value.

Agricultural News and Comments

Professor Taft, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has discovered that the curl leaf, which has been so destructive among young peaches for a few years, can be cured by spraying with a solution containing one pound of copper sulphate dissolved in twenty-five gallons of water.

To prevent onions from sprouting they should be kept during the winter as near the freezing point as possible without actual freezing. A good method is to tie them in strings three or four feet long and hang these in a dry place, but they should be well dried before being hung up.

In a very few years the export egg and poultry trade of this country will be among Canada's leading industries. Better methods of gathering and preserving the eggs are needed, and better methods of feeding and preparing the poultry for market must be put in force to make the most out of the business.

The Farmers' Binder Twine Co., Brantford, Ont., is reported to have paid a dividend of 60 per cent. to stockholders on last year's business. Though this was due to the purchase of the raw material at a very low rate a year ago, the splendid returns must redound to the skill and business ability of its managing officers.

A badly made horse collar is a very painful thing for the horse to wear. They are responsible for most of the sore shoulders, and are only too common. A well-made collar is made so hard that it yields slightly to pressure, and retains, when used, its rounded form. It is usually the soft, flat collars which make sore shoulders.

A prominent breeder in Eastern Ontario reports the sale of four Shorthorn bull calves at $100 each. This is a good figure and indicates the trend of events in the live stock trade. The best and the cheapest way for the farmer to improve his stock is to use a purebred bull of the right type and $100 is none too much to pay for a really good calf of this class.

A movement is on foot in the Royal Agricultural Society of Great Britain to get the Council to ask the Government to compensate in cases of animals confiscated for tuberculosis. This is nothing but fair. It is too much to ask a man to lose the total value of his stock because they have to be sacrificed to the public weal. A modification of the laws here in this direction would have a good effect.

The old method of packing eggs in lime water and salt is as follows: Dissolve 1 lb. salt in a gallon of water; slack 2 lb. of quicklime in three gallons of water, and stir well, then allow to settle for a time, and pour off the milky fluid, and mix with the salt solution. Put the eggs in casks, tins or jars, and cover with the liquid. Eggs preserved in this way will do for frying for two months, and for pastry purposes after three or four months.

It has been decided by the English Shire Horse Society that at the next London show, to be held in February, 1899, the veterinary inspectors shall, in the first instance, examine all animals sent out to them by the judges. Any of the remaining exhibits may, at a later period of the show, and at the request of the owner, be examined on payment of 10s. for each certificate. Two of the inspectors will be required to pass or reject an animal.

English Sheep-Feeding Experiments

The following graphic account by Professor Dr. Somerville (Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne) of some sheep-feeding experiments he is now conducting gives some very important information as regards the efficacy of an application of phosphate to grazing pasturage. The professor had been asked *why* stock showed such preference for grazing on land that had been treated with a dressing of Thomas-phosphate powder:

In most cases stock undoubtedly prefer the herbage grown on land treated with Thomas-phosphate or other phosphate, and this, it would appeor to me, for the following reasons: (*a*) Because when the plants that form the herbage of grass land obtain a supply of suitable phosphate they are able to carry on their vital functions satisfactorily, and to produce large quantities of starch and sugar, and these appeal strongly to the appetites of stock, with the consequence that such herbage is much sought after by animals. (*b*) Because plants that are properly nourished are more succulent than half starved plants. (*c*) Because plants that stock relish are greatly stimulated in growth, and soon form a large proportion of the herbage. This, as is well known, is markedly the case with white clover.

It is perfectly astonishing what wonderful results succeed the application of Thomas-phosphate under favorable circumstances. In the spring of 1897 I selected two three-acre plots of ground in a heavy clay field of poor pasture, and applied five cwt. of Thomas-phosphate per acre to one of the plots, leaving the other untreated. Each plot was securely fenced off, and provided with water. Eight sheep were put on to each plot, and grazed for four months, being removed in the middle of October. This season the phosphate plot was so much improved that it has carried twelve sheep for four months, whereas the untreated plot is much barer with only six sheep. In 1897 the sheep grazing the untreated ground increased in weight by 112 pounds, whereas those on the phosphated area gained 232 pounds in live weight.

This year the results are still more remarkable, for, whereas the sheep on the phosphated plot have put on 507 pounds of live weight, those on the herbage in its natural state have gained only 183 pounds. This shows a gain in favor of the phosphate of 444 pounds, which is equal to 146 pounds per acre. If we value this at 4d. per pound we get about 49s.—a sum obtained for an original expenditure of 22s., or, with cartage and application of the phosphate,