

### Death of Mr. Thomas Brown.

A cable received on Friday, the 12th February, announced the death, the previous evening, of Mr. Thomas Brown, farmer, Petite Cote, Montreal. He had been ailing for some time, and had gone on a visit to Scotland, thinking the change would be beneficial, and was residing with his aunt, Mrs. Aitken, Acre Cottage, Broughton (his native place), when he died. The late Mr. Brown was one of the leading farmers and stock breeders of the Province of Quebec. His herd of imported and home-bred Ayrshire cattle is not only a large one, but is considered by competent judges to be one of the best in the Dominion, if not in America. He was very successful in the show ring with Clydesdale horses, of which he had a large stud, both imported and home-bred. The late Mr. Brown came to this country about twenty-five years ago, and for the last twelve years rented a farm in Petite Cote, near Montreal, on which he was very successful, and made a specialty of growing potatoes and supplying milk to the city. He was a thorough, all-round farmer, proud of his calling, a prize-winner at the leading ploughing matches, and though a hard-working man still found time every fall to have a few days' hunting, and never missed being in the first flight at the finish. He was a straightforward, unselfish gentleman, and this, combined with a quick intelligence, made him a leader among his fellow farmers. His death leaves a blank, not only in Hochelaga county, but in the Dominion, which will not be readily filled.

### Timely Notes for March.

#### COST OF WHEAT PRODUCTION.

In estimating the cost of producing a bushel of wheat in Manitoba, it may be accepted as an indisputable fact that the cost will be considerably less in the western than the eastern part of the province, among other factors being the greatly reduced cost of "breaking" west of the Portage, with easier cultivation afterwards, the earlier spring, the lessening of cost when large areas are cropped, and the greater competition among buyers ensuring a higher price.

In Eastern Manitoba (that is to say, east of Portage la Prairie), the cost per acre may be put down as follows:—Plowing, \$1; harrowing and drilling, 50c.; seed, two bushels, \$1.50; harvesting and twine, \$1; stacking, 50c.; threshing, feeding men, changing work with neighbors, about 9c. a bushel for 20 bushels, \$1.80; marketing, 3c. per bushel, 60c.; rent of land, \$1.50, and interest on machinery, 50c. Total of \$9.90 per acre, for say 20 bushels, or 49½ cents per bushel.

In Western Manitoba, assuming the same crop of 20 bushels per acre, it may be put down somewhat as follows:—

Plowing, \$1.50; harrowing and drilling, 50c.; seed, 2 bushels, \$1.50; harvesting and twine, \$1; stacking, 50c.; threshing and feeding men, 6 cents per bushel, \$1.20; marketing, 3c., 60c.; rent of land, \$1.50; interest on machinery, 50c. Total for 20 bushels, \$8.80, or per bushel 44c. Wherever the custom prevails of taking round a gang of men with the threshing outfit, the cost per bushel is considerably lessened, as more work is done in a day, no time is lost in "changing work," etc. Of course, every added bushel in the returns would decrease the cost, while every bushel short of the twenty would increase the cost per bushel.

This season, although there has been an enormous crop of grain of all kinds, how much of it is being sold at the cost of production, without mentioning that sold far below a remunerative price?

Would it not be better for us all, even in a "grain district," to pause before committing

ourselves to another season's work of what may only prove a loss? Can we not diversify our crops? or in default of that reduce our acreage one-half, and make that half produce nearly as much as the original breadth? As Mr. Angus McKay, of the Indian Head Farm, truly says:—"How seldom does the later sown portion pay expenses, while it is rare that the first sown grain does not give a handsome return." Moral—Sow less and give that the best attention.

#### FARMERS' INDEBTEDNESS.

Mortgage, chattel mortgage, store bill, summons, judgment, seizure, collapse—exit farmer! The above are the regular steps taken by a farmer on his downward course, and, strange as it may seem, many a man who is known to be heavily mortgaged, and chattel mortgaged to boot, can still get credit at the "general store." Would it not be better, in nearly every case, to put these hopeless debtors (that is, hopeless from the merchant's point of view), on a "black list," thus protecting fellow-merchants from being imposed on? Surely, knowing that Jones is now being taken in by Williamson, the "dead-beat" "exemption" farmer, can be but poor satisfaction to Jackson, his rival storekeeper. It is something like Josh Billings' cure for the toothache—finding out a man with the gout and then pitying him. In this connection it may not be amiss to see what the Patrons of Industry and kindred associations are doing. The following advertisement from a weekly newspaper will show that these farmers' societies are on the right track, and if the storekeepers and mechanics do not see their way to making a discrimination between their "cash" and "credit" customers, the farmers are going to patronize those who will make such a distinction, and will assure them a good *cash trade*:—

"General Store Wanted.—A general store in Treherne village; also four blacksmiths for Rathwell, Treherne, Holland, Cypress, under charters from Patrons of Industry. To reliable parties a large cash trade will be guaranteed in each case."

Nothing will sooner get rid of the load of debt under which so many country merchants and mechanics are going down as a general system of *cash trading* in this new country. It will give the honest man a better chance, while the lazy "dead beat" who falls back on his "exemption" will be relegated to that obscurity which is his native habitat. To still further clear up the mercantile situation, it is only necessary to have the "exemption" clauses repealed altogether, and I venture to predict that the farmers—those who are farmers in deed as well as in name—will not be the first to cry out.

#### GENERAL.

Cows coming in this month should be fed well so as to keep up the full flow of milk till grass comes in May.

Young pigs should have warm, comfortable sheds provided, and should be particularly well guarded during the first week of their existence.

Set those broody hens, and also make up your yards of layers. Five or six hens, with a rooster, are plenty, and only save the eggs from your best layers.

As a rule, it is better not to sow any grain until April, unless the ground is fairly dry.

#### INVICTA.

### The Farmer's Advocate Medals.

Mr. Samuel J. Corbett, Suthwyn, Man., whose herd won the silver medal offered by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for the best herd of Holsteins at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition last fall, writes:—

"Accept our thanks for the beautiful medal. Our stock is wintering nicely. One of our prize winners has a very fine heifer calf. We have several cows coming in."

Mr. Jas. McLenaghan, of Portage la Prairie, Man., whose Jerseys won a similar medal, writes in like terms, referring admiringly to the design, of which also the Portage la Prairie Review speaks in terms of commendation.

#### Errata.

In the February number Campbell's White Chaff wheat is called Velvet Chaff under the cut on page 47.

### Manitoba Jottings.

The C. P. R. Land Department informs the FARMER'S ADVOCATE that the sales during December and January were more than double those made in these two months a year ago—in fact, their December farm sales were the largest since the days of the boom. The enquirers by letter for land have this season been far in excess of anything before known. Many Manitoba farmers are buying more land, but large numbers of enquirers have come from Ontario and other Eastern Provinces, and not a few from British Columbia. Price vary at from \$3 to \$5 per acre.

During the year 1891, 400 families, representing about 2,000 souls, from the United States settled in Manitoba and North-west under the auspices of the Dominion Immigration Department.

The Dominion Government has been holding sales of public school lands throughout the Province, a very large area being disposed of at prices ranging from \$6 to \$9 per acre.

Hamiota, the present terminus of the Great Northwest Central Railway, is in a flourishing condition, over twenty buildings having gone up since January 1st, 1892. It is a great wheat marketing centre.

The directors of the Brandon Agricultural Society purpose putting their exhibition upon a broader and more progressive basis, and to that end are seeking a charter of incorporation as the Western Agricultural and Arts Association. The Brandon Show has been a great success in the past and a credit to the western portion of the Province, and the new move should be conducive to still further improvement.

The Northwest Legislative Assembly has passed a bill for the incorporation of a dairyman's association for the Territories.

Mr. H. A. Mullens, the well-known live stock dealer of Toronto, has just returned from Manitoba. While in the prairie province he secured a lease of the Binscarth farm from the Scottish and Manitoba Land Company. Mr. Mullens proposes stocking the farm with cattle and horses, which he thinks can be profitably raised there on a large scale.

The work being done for the promotion of immigration by agents of the Manitoba Government in Eastern Canada and the Old Country promises highly encouraging results. A large quantity of useful literature, including maps, setting forth the advantages of Manitoba have been distributed.

The Saltcoats Dairy Association's creamery has been leased to C. B. Cory for one or two years at his option, at a yearly rental of \$300. Mr. Cory is also to have the right to use the engine and boiler of the creamery during the winter to supply power for a grain crusher. He has made entry for a homestead.

The farmers of Regina district have erected a splendidly equipped elevator, with a capacity of 70,000 bushels, at a cost of \$14,000. The directors are Messrs. D. F. Jelly, Jno. Moody, H. LeJeune, Jas. Bole, T. J. McNeice, W. Purdy, And. Boyd and I. R. Reilly.

A branch of the Patrons of Industry has been organized at Walseley, N. W. T.

A request has been made to the Northwest Council to make provision for compiling and issuing crop bulletins.

Southern Alberta Turf Association races will be held at Macleod on June 1st and 2nd.

The Maple Creek, N. W. T., Agricultural Society has leased twenty-five acres for a fair ground, and will erect cattle and horse sheds, corrals and a fine exhibition building this year.

Whatever may be thought of Pasteur's treatment of hydrophobia—and some wise ones look upon it with no favor—there must be general acceptance of his saying that "proper police regulations would soon reduce the immense number of new cases; but it is difficult to introduce such a reform while we find that so many people love dogs more than they do their own children."