

# FARMING

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## Earning a Christmas Present

A Christmas present that will fit in appropriately in almost every family is our new edition of the *Life of Christ for the Young*, a beautifully bound book of 400 pages with 74 full-page half-tone illustrations. You need to send us just one subscription for *Farming* to entitle you to this book free of charge.

## Look Out for Next Issue

Though it has not been our habit in the past to make any very special effort in the way of a Christmas number we propose to give our readers something better than the ordinary issue, which in itself is nearly double its former size, this year. Our object is not to turn out an elaborate Christmas issue, but to make a number twice the regular size, containing some special Christmas matter and suitable illustrations. There will be several pages devoted to our Farm Implement department, and a lot of very appropriate matter for the Farm Home. It will also contain a complete report of the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show at London this week. The number will be of real special value, and any of our readers desiring extra copies to send or give to friends can have them by notifying us. All we ask is that applications be made early.

Subscribers receiving an extra copy of *FARMING* from time to time will kindly take this as an indication of our confidence in their willingness to say a good word for the paper. Plant extra copies where they will bring the best results. If any reader has in his mind a probable subscriber we shall be pleased, on receipt of his name and address, to forward same a sample copy.

## Prime Beef Animals

Those who visit the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show this week will, no doubt, see the best that this country can produce in the way of prime beef cattle. That the supply of this quality in the country is small goes almost without saying. The reports of the Toronto cattle market, published each week in *FARMING*, show that while the supply of inferior and medium qualities during the past few months has been large, there has been a scarcity of really fine beeves. The quality of the feeders offered has also been open to the same objection, comparatively few well-bred smooth steers being seen, the bulk of them being of the rough sort, showing both poor breeding and care.

The cattle offered for sale on the Toronto market each week may be taken as a fair sample of the kind produced in the country generally and that there is a great scarcity of really prime beeves fit for the export trade shows that considerable improvement is needed in the breeding and feeding methods followed by the average farmer before we can lay claim to much credit for the quality of our fat cattle. There is certainly room for great improvement in the breeding and feeding of the average beef animal offered on the market to-day. The slovenly and careless breeding habits adopted by many

farmers a few years ago, as a result of the depressed state of the cattle market, are still seen in the bulk of the stuff offered. The revival in the cattle trade during the past year or two, and the demand there is at the present time for prime beef cattle, will no doubt have the effect of improving matters. But still much remains to be done.

The enterprise and enthusiasm shown by our leading breeders in the large importations they have made of pure-bred animals during the past year is deserving of the highest commendation, and will no doubt have the effect of improving the quality of our cattle very shortly. But their efforts must be backed home by thorough educational work and by impressing upon farmers the necessity of breeding and raising only the kind of stock that will command the top price on the market. Then the feeding and fitting of an animal for market is important. Though a beast may have ever so good breeding if it is not properly fed and cared for it cannot make a really prime beef animal.

We believe that one of the reasons why many farmers turn out such a number of inferior beef animals is because they do not know what is wanted in a prime export steer, or, in other words, they do not know what an animal should be like when properly fattened and finished for market. They have not the right ideal and therefore do not aim high enough when breeding and feeding their animals. For this reason we believe it would be one of the best investments that our cattle raisers could make to spend a little money on a visit to the Fat Stock Show, where the types of fat cattle required can be seen. In fact we would go so far as to say that it might be money well spent if the Government would place the Provincial show on such a footing that it could afford to allow the farmers living in the locality where the show is held admission free of charge. At any rate no farmer interested in the rearing of fine stock should neglect this opportunity of obtaining information regarding his own business.

## A New Poultry Disease

### Discovered Through an Inquiry in "Farming"

In *FARMING* for November 14th, in our Questions and Answers department, appeared a letter from "Farmer's Daughter," describing some sick turkeys and asking for a remedy. We submitted her letter to Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Poultry Manager, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, who, in his reply, which was published with the inquiry, advised sending a turkey that had just died to the Bacteriological Laboratory, Ontario Agricultural College. This advice was acted upon, and in last week's *FARMING* appeared the report of Malcolm Ross, in charge of the Bacteriological Laboratory at the college during the absence of Prof. Harrison in Europe. His report showed that the turkey died of a disease known as *entero-hepatitis*, entirely new to Canada, and one for which no effective cure is known. In describing this disease Mr. Ross says: "The organism causing it gains access to the bird in the early summer, and will live in it for months; large numbers of them are excreted in the droppings. The only way in which the disease can be got rid of is by getting