

in the vicinity of the Dundas street bridges, at a point convenient to both lines of railways. The yards will be properly equipped, and capable of meeting all the necessities of the trade. The company propose to pay the city the sum of \$10,000 per annum for thirty years on condition that the city close the western cattle market, and accept as the city market the new yards provided by the company, the city to have the right to take over the new cattle market at the expiration of the contract period at an appraised value.

The proposition seems a fair one, and if the interests of the city and of the shippers of live stock are fully protected in the agreement there is no reason why the offer of the company should not be accepted. The control of the stock in the company would be held by Toronto citizens, but in order to give those connected with the trade outside of Toronto an interest, arrangements will be made to sell a portion of the stock outside of the city.

In every city where a large number of live stock are handled the best possible accommodation should be provided. Toronto, Winnipeg, and Montreal are the chief Canadian points for shipment and transshipment of live stock. At Toronto and Montreal the stockyard accommodation is not what it should be. Especially is there strong ground for complaint in connection with the stockyard accommodation at Montreal, where live stock are transhipped to Great Britain. The yards there are totally inadequate for the needs of the Canadian export live stock trade, and something must be done towards providing better accommodation or we shall see our live stock export trade finding an outlet through other channels.

#### The Manitoba Wheat Combine.

The hand of the manipulator seems to be getting a hold upon the Manitoba wheat trade. There is considerable grumbling on the part of farmers against the grain and elevator combination which seems to control the wheat trade of that province to a large extent. This discontent would be wider spread than it is if it were not for the fact that prices have been good this year. Even as it is, meetings are being called at different points to discuss the situation, and the parties controlling the combine would do well not to go too far in their endeavors to manipulate the wheat output of the Prairie Province.

The elevator regulations now in force are claimed by many to be an advantage to the wheat trade, as they serve to facilitate the handling of the grain throughout the country by establishing storage warehouses at different points. At elevator points, however, the farmer is not allowed to load his grain directly on to the cars. This is something the producer objects to, and which is one of the strong grounds for complaint. The great objection to the combine seems to be that it savors so much of the speculative element now rampant at Chicago, and which is one of the greatest curses of the present century. The Manitoba farmers would do well to "nip it in the bud," and not allow their interests to be jeopardized by the speculative manipulator.

#### Australian Frozen Meat Trade.

A strong combination has been formed in Queensland, Australia, to control the frozen meat trade of that colony. The larger share of the frozen beef exported to England from Australia comes from Queensland. Nearly all the leading exporting companies which have been operating in this trade heretofore have combined, and this combination will control all the frozen meat exported to England from that colony. It is hoped by this plan to overcome many of the disadvantages in the trade due to so many small firms competing with one another. This combination will put in the very best cold storage equipment on board the vessels, and will have at the port of landing in England cold storage warehouses into which the meat will be put as soon as it comes off the vessels. When the trade was in the hands of a number of agents these provisions were not

made, and frequently the cargo, when landed in England, was allowed to remain on the wharves or in some dock warehouse, where it quickly spoiled. With these disadvantages overcome, and with the power to control the supply, a more prosperous era is looked for in connection with the Australian frozen meat trade.

#### Everybody Pleased with "Farming."

Mr. J. H. Scriver, editor and manager of the *Weekly Star*, Hastings, Ont., writes:

"FARMING is, without exception, the best value for the money of any journal published. It is what every farmer should have and study next to his Bible to make a success of his farming."

W. E. Richardson, Hazeldean, Ont., writes:

"Have been receiving FARMING for the past year, and would not be without it for any money."

#### Winter Buttermaking.

The Canadian trade in fresh-made winter creamery butter is beginning to assume considerable proportions. Since the inception of the winter dairying movement in 1892 the business has made a steady growth. At the present time nearly all the larger cheese factories in Ontario have either put in plant for making butter during the winter months or are contemplating doing so. Besides, the majority of the summer creameries that heretofore only made butter during the summer months are now running during the winter as well.

Last winter the export trade in winter creamery butter was better than ever before, and the prospects just now are that reasonable profits can be made by exporting during the present winter. From 18 to 19 cents are being paid for fresh creamery for the export trade at Montreal. At these figures it should pay farmers well to produce milk during the winter. Promoters of this trade should remember that if they wish to build up a profitable winter butter trade with Great Britain a regular supply must be sent over. Spasmodic efforts will not avail anything.

#### NOTES AND IDEAS.

During the Institute meetings farmers should avail themselves of the facilities offered them of acquiring information regarding the latest and most modern methods of carrying on the business of the farm. None of us are too old to learn. The person who thinks he has reached the top of the ladder should take heed lest he fall.

The Australian butter export trade is now in full swing. Butter sent to England from Australia last October realized as high as 100s. per cwt. Some later arrivals have realized as high as 104s. If the Australians can realize these figures after such a long sea voyage, surely Canada, which is so much nearer the market, can send over a quality of butter that should command higher figures.

A striking example of unjust discrimination is to be seen in the exorbitant rates charged by the British railways for carrying home-made products, as compared with the rates for carrying foreign products shipped into England. In the case of timber, the rates for the carriage of home timber are 100 per cent. higher than those on foreign timber. Sugar from Hamburg *via* Hull to Manchester is charged 15s. 3d. per ton; English sugar, from Hull to Manchester, is charged 15s. 10d. per ton. Is it any wonder that the English manufacturer complains of the strong competition from foreign countries?

Hog cholera kills a million dollars worth of hogs in Minnesota alone every year. The loss to Iowa is proportionately greater as there are more swine there, and it is the same in other States. How thankful Canadians should be that our more rational mode of feeding pigs frees us, in a large measure, from this dread disease. Of course, cases do occur in those counties where large quantities of corn are grown and fed, but if farmers would re-

port at once when cases do occur, losses would be very much reduced. Too often they try to hide it with the result that the disease spreads, and the loss to all parties is much greater.

The Chicago horse and fat stock show seems to have got into a disgraceful muddle in regard to its finances. As the case now stands, there is an indebtedness of \$31,000. To offset this there is a guarantee of \$15,000 from the Chicago Citizens' Committee, and it is claimed that the owners of the building where the show was held have retained \$10,000 more than their share. The courts will have to be appealed to to straighten matters out. It would have paid the Chicago people tenfold to have paid the expenses of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Fat Stock and Dairy Show to Chicago and return, in order to get a few pointers on running an exhibition of this kind. There are some things which even the dwellers in the big windy city do not know.

#### CANADA'S FARMERS.

##### Robert Robertson, Nappan, N.S.

Mr. Robert Robertson, who has recently assumed the duties of Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Nappan, N.S., is one of Canada's most progressive young farmers. From what may be called an obscure beginning he has by his own energy and by that characteristic spirit to do what he had to do with all his might, attained to his present important and responsible position.

Mr. Robertson was born at Howick, Que., thirty-nine years ago. At the age of twelve his father died, leaving a family of seven children in comparatively poor circumstances. Mr. Robertson being the eldest, upon him devolved largely at this early age the responsibility of his father's business. He was compelled to give up his studies at the Howick elementary school where his early education had been received, and to devote all his time to the farm. However, being of an observing nature, and studiously inclined, the really practical side of his education was not neglected, and to-day, when scarcely forty years of age, Mr. Robertson is well fitted to become a leader in agricultural matters.

As a farmer, Mr. Robertson's efforts have been particularly successful. His splendid farm of 325 acres at Compton, Que., and which he has now rented, is one of the finest in the Eastern Townships. In 1891 his farm at Howick won the first prize in the county competition, and also the silver medal, given for the best farm in the province. In competition with it at that time was the farm which won the gold medal after Mr. Robertson had removed from Howick to Compton. Mr. Robertson's thoroughly practical training has been demonstrated by his skill as a plowman. He competed in plowing matches when only fifteen years of age, and when twenty-six it was with difficulty that he could get a match open to him. Twenty-six fists, five seconds, and one third prize comprise an almost unparalleled record of his skill in this particular line. During recent years Mr. Robertson has trained a number of the young men in his locality who are now some of the best plowmen in his native province. For several years he managed successfully the Provincial Model Farm at Compton, which position he resigned when he purchased his present farm.

As a breeder of Ayrshires, Mr. Robertson has perhaps won his greatest reputation. His herd of imported Ayrshires was one of the best among the many splendid herds of that breed for which the Province of Quebec is noted. His ability as an Ayrshire judge was fully recognized by the breeders who heartily endorsed his appointment to superintend the selection of "Ayrshires" for the World's Fair. The unqualified success of the exhibit of Ayrshires from Quebec at that time amply justified his appointment. Mr. Robertson has also been an extensive breeder of Devon cattle, Clydesdale horses, Leicester sheep and purebred pigs, and his success in these particular lines is indicative of his versatile knowledge as a breeder of purebred live stock.

Mr. Robertson has made several importations of Ayrshire cattle and Clydesdale horses. He has been successful in winning a large number of prizes at the leading fairs in Canada. His most notable winnings are those won at the World's Fair. His stock has always commanded the highest prices, and the high merit of his herd was shown by the exceedingly good figures obtained when his entire stock was disposed of on October 28th last previous to his removal to Nappan, N.S.

To Mr. Robertson has come a larger share of public honors than usually come to a man of his years. The public positions which he has filled in the past and the one which he now occupies have never been of his own seeking. In every case the position has sought the man, and in every case the man has been equal to the task which lay before him and has performed his work both intelligently and skillfully. Mr. Robertson's wide experience as a thoroughly practical farmer and breeder of purebred live stock eminently fits him for the important position he now holds, and we may expect the very best results from his superintendency of the experimental farm for the Maritime Provinces.