

FARMING

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Before the next issue of FARMING appears, that day of the year more hallowed and revered, perhaps, than any other by true-hearted Canadians, will have been numbered with the past, and we sincerely wish our many patrons and friends "A Merry Merry Christmas." There is no place where Christmas is more enjoyed than on the farm. Well do we remember our boyhood days on the old farm, when for months we would look to this day of all days and wish it were at hand. When Christmas morn arrived it did not require any calls from the parental chamber to make us aware that it was time to get up. It would have been almost an impossibility to make us remain under the warm coverings at this particular time, so anxious were we to know the contents of the stockings hung in the chimney-corner. And then the hustle and bustle of the morning in looking over each other's presents and in preparing to go on a three or four mile sleigh ride for Christmas dinner! All this comes back to us with marked clearness as we think of those early days, and reminds us of the fleeting of time and how short a period the season of childhood really is. The lesson for those who have passed beyond that stage is to use their best endeavor to make the childhood around them merry and happy during this great festive season.

In this issue we have diverged somewhat from our usual practice, and instead of having all our reading columns filled with practical and up-to-date matter bearing upon all lines of farm practice, have provided a special feature suited to the season of the year in the way of an illustrated article, showing the work carried on by one of Canada's most deserving charitable organizations. In addition to this we have provided a good Christmas story which we think our friends will enjoy when they have a few hours to spare from the farm and the care of the stock. It does us good occasionally to get away from the regular routine of our daily avocations, and take a glimpse at scenes separated from our own. There will not be another Christmas for a twelve month, so let us be merry and glad, and by brightening some one else's life at this festive time, bring joy and happiness to our own.

Shorthorn Importations

In Thornton's record of Shorthorn transactions for the quarter ending Sept 30th, 1898, we find that importations from Great Britain to other countries were made as follows: United States, 52; South America, 199; Australia, 2; Canada, 34; France, 2; and Germany, 15. This is in marked contrast to last year. For the quarter ending June 30th, 1898, there were sent to South America 107 animals, to Australia 17, to Finland 1, and to Sweden 1, but none to Canada. For the quarter ending June 30th, 1897, out of two hundred and seven exportations recorded not one came to Canada. The importations to Canada for the quarter ending Sept. 30th were made up as follows: Fifteen animals by Mr. Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont.; ten by the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Que.; two by Mr. J. Cierar; five by H. Cargill & Sons, Cargill, Ont.; one by the Hon. John Dryden, Toronto, and one shipped by Mr. A. Campbell to Canada. Since Sept. 30th other importations of Shorthorns have been made, among them being four animals brought out by Mr. Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, Ont., of which mention was made in last week's issue.

This marked increase in the number of Shorthorn importations is very gratifying indeed, and indicates that the cattle breeders of this country are fully alive to the needs of Canada's export cattle trade. There are some who con-

tend that we have as good a type of Shorthorns in this country as is to be found anywhere, and, therefore, there is no need of making fresh importations. The first half of this statement is no doubt true in a very large measure. But many overlook the fact that the good quality of the stock in this country is due to the large importations of purebred stock during former years. Many also overlook the fact that in order to keep up the quality of the stock it is just as necessary to-day to make importations of pure-bred stock as it ever was. Our export cattle trade has reached a somewhat critical stage, and the next few years will decide whether it is to remain one of our important industries or not. If we can send forward the right kind of stuff, and it does not cost too much to produce it, there is no reason why our export cattle trade cannot attain to much larger proportions than ever before. A visit to any of our leading cattle markets will convince one that there is yet considerable to be done in the way of improving the quality of the beef cattle of this country. This improvement can only be brought about by better breeding and feeding, and hence we say the recent importations noted above are of prime importance, and we hope a much larger number will be made another year.

Canada's Live Stock Interests

Should be represented at the National Live Stock Convention Next Month.

The National Live Stock Association of the United States holds its second annual convention at Denver, Colorado, on January 24th to 27th next. As the great live stock interests of that country will be fully represented at this meeting it might be advisable for Canadian live stock and record associations to send representatives to place before the American stockmen the claims of the Canadian records to recognition in shipping pure-bred stock to the United States. The real reason why the authorities at Washington will not make any move in the matter is because of the opposition of the American Live Stock Associations. These are the interests that will have to be dealt with in seeking a remedy for the grievance; and we are inclined to think that if the exact position of the Canadian records were placed before the stockmen at this meeting some good might be accomplished. We understand that there is a probability of the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, attending for the purpose of laying before the meeting the claims of Canadian stockmen, and it would strengthen his hand very much if a strong deputation from our live stock associations were there also.

A movement is on foot for a gigantic dairy company in Chicago to control the milk supply of that city. The sum of \$6,000,000 is mentioned as the amount of backing for the attempt. Joseph Leiter, of wheat speculation fame, is credited with engineering the scheme.

In the annual report of the Bureau of Annual Industry of the United States it is recommended that the System of Government certification of the wholesomeness of meats be extended to butter, cheese and condensed milk. This recommendation is, doubtless, due to the fact that frauds are practised in the sale of these products.