

the price they were a few years ago, thus reducing the profits to the producer.

"My experience shows that the farmer who studies his work soon finds out what line of operations on his farm is most profitable. There is no use of any farmer going extensively into a branch of farming for which his soil and general conditions are not adapted."

How to Make Our Old Orchards Pay.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Many of our old orchards in the County of Oxford were planted about 60 years ago. There were too many trees of fall fruit planted, such as Jennetings, Colverts, Pumpkin Russet, and such like kinds. I think that these trees are now too old to top-graft, but they ought to be grubbed out, and good trees planted in their places. I do not think that there is a better fruit than the old Northern Spy. If we had orchards of that kind of fruit, and would take proper care of the trees, and keep them well pruned out every year, and have a sprayer and spray the trees a few times at the proper season, I think that the orchards would pay all right. But, under present conditions of fruit-growing, there is very little money in it; in fact, there is nothing in it.

In order to get anything at all for the Colverts and Jennetings, we have to shake them off and haul them to the evaporator, at from 25 to 40 cents per hundred pounds; and when we charge up our time, there is only a small margin left to place to the credit of the apples. It is only occasionally that any apple-buyer will pack these fall fruits at all, as they do not generally pay. So we believe that it would be a paying investment to grub these fall-fruit trees all out, excepting perhaps one for our own use, and plant Northern Spies or Baldwins, or some such good winter fruit, and then take good care of them. And the sooner it is done, the better. It would also be a good plan to plant a double row of Norway spruce trees on the north and west sides of the orchard to break the wind. Of course, the farmer is generally very busy, and it is often not easy to find time to attend to the orchard, but it is here that good management and forethought count, and often, by looking well ahead and planning well, a great deal can be accomplished.

We have no co-operative fruit association in this county, and there is a good deal said and written about the apple-shippers gobbling up all the profits. There may be some truth in these statements, but we know that, occasionally, through a glut in the British market, or through a shipment spoiling in transit, the shippers lose money, and, of course, it is only natural that they should try to make a little to recoup themselves for these losses. Now, if we had a co-operative association, with a thoroughly honest, capable man to manage it, we could share all our profits and bear all our losses. We believe that if our apples could be put in cold storage as soon as they are packed, and sent through to the British market in cold storage, and only the best grade sent, the business ought to pay all right, if managed by an honest, competent, co-operative association. I know that it is not easy to get the right man to manage such a business. I think that, when found, he would be worth pretty fair wages, in a district where there was plenty of good fruit.

Well, then, let us grub out our old, useless trees and plant good kinds, and take good care of the trees, and get ready for a co-operative association; and, perhaps, by the time we get ready, the capable manager will arrive on the scene.

Oxford Co., Ont.

D. L.

Bushel Boxes for British Market.

According to reports to Trade and Commerce Department, Ottawa, apple-shippers in most importing centers are interested in the growing popularity of the bushel box for the distribution of apples in the British markets. Last year Canadian exporters despatched large parcels of fruit in 40-pound boxes. The opposition to the handy box is giving way, for the fruiterers especially have shown a distinct preference for it against the cumbersome 3-bushel barrel. Thousands of boxes of Canadian Greenings and Baldwins are disposed of. Next season the apple-box business will be increased five-fold at least. One of the Canadian exporters interested in the new packing, states that the time is not far distant when 50 per cent. of the Canadian apples shipped to the United Kingdom will arrive in 40-pound boxes. Hull buyers speak highly of the apple box, and the increasing demand and prices prove that it will be used on a more extensive scale in coming seasons. The Tasmanian, Australian and Canadian apple exporters highly favor the bushel box.

I have been a subscriber to your paper for the past year, and must say that our family are much pleased with the paper. If people knew the value of this agricultural advocate, you would have a much larger circulation than you have.

Dundas Co., Ont.

ERNEST MARSELIS.

THE FARM BULLETIN

To Our Club-raisers.

There are thousands of farmers who do not know what they are losing every year through not being subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Therefore, we want all readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" to act as club-raisers this year, and send us large lists of NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

If you send us two new names and \$3.00 to cover same (each new subscriber paying \$1.50), we will mark date on your paper forward one year as remuneration to you; or, for each single NEW NAME, accompanied by \$1.50, we will advance the date of your address label six months. Cash commissions or premiums, as preferred, for larger lists of new names.

In clubs of FOUR RENEWALS OR OVER, we will accept \$1.25 each.

Premiums not included in club offers.

Start raising your club immediately. Get "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" into every household in your locality.

P. E. I. Notes.

Our merchants have done an excellent year's trade, and collections have been good. Our farmers are fast becoming a cash-trading people. Selling for cash and buying for cash is more satisfactory to all. This has been a banner year in the dairy business. Our factories have all had a good flow of milk the whole season, while many of them have almost doubled their output. Co-operation in the dairy business has been a great success. It has enriched our farmers and our farms; land has increased in value 30%, and the man who has a good P. E. I. farm should be happy and satisfied, and I think the most of us are. There is another step in the dairy business which is almost in sight, and which is bound to come—the separating of the milk at home and sending only the cream to the factory. It costs too much to haul so much milk to and from our factories. Separating should be done at home, and then it would be easy for the patrons to raise calves and pigs, but under the present system it is about impossible to make a success of raising young stock, especially in summer. Skim milk fed to calves direct from the separator, with the animal heat still in it, will make calves grow fast enough and keep them sufficiently fleshy to make good dairy cows later on. It is not at all necessary to feed young calves whole milk after they are a week old, especially the milking breeds, besides it is too expensive. The cost of a hand separator is not large, and there are many good ones to select from.

The high price of grain the past few years has induced farmers to sell more in the raw state. Oats have been worth 38c. to 42c. per bushel all fall and winter so far. The crops of potatoes of 1908 are, in many instances, going badly with dry rot. In some cases fully half are now diseased, and by spring many more will be gone. A number of young farmers are taking the short course at the Agricultural College, Truro, Nova Scotia, which opened January 5th, 1909. We young farmers have many advantages over our fathers, but we need it all. It takes brains, it takes education to farm at the present day.

Feed of all kinds is plentiful, and stock are wintering in first-class condition. The milk flow is keeping up well at our factories, and many of the creameries will do a good profitable business all winter.

The elections are all over, but still every member is fighting for a seat.

C. C. CRAIG.

East Prince, P. E. I.

A Sylvan Charm.

I confess to a more than common interest in this Christmas number. The front cover, the picture of a "wood-lot protected," with other woodland scenes; Dr. Fernow's interesting and instructive article, "The Farmers' Interest in Forestry," all give a sylvan charm, which appeals to one whose recollections go back to the old days—as so pleasingly portrayed in "An Old Boy's Recollections." This number appeals to us, who have been for over a quarter of a century far removed from the maple, beech and other hardwoods of the farm wood-lots. JOHN R. CRAIG. Meadow Creek, Alberta.

Increased Wheat Export.

According to a recent issue of Crop Reporter, published by the United States Bureau of Statistics, exports of wheat from the Republic increased 26,000,000 bushels in 1908, over 1907. Two Pacific ports gained 15,000,000 bushels in this time; four Atlantic ports gained 13,000,000 bushels, while exports of wheat from two leading Gulf ports were nearly 7,000,000 bushels less in 1908 than in 1907. In order of importance as exporters of wheat, New York was first among United States cities, in both 1907 and 1908; Puget Sound district, which includes Seattle and Tacoma, was fifth in 1907, and second in 1908; while Galveston, which held second place in 1907, was sixth in the following year.

The decrease of 1,700,000 barrels of wheat-flour exports in 1908 under 1907 was felt chiefly by the Pacific-coast ports. The total exports of flour from the three leading ports on this coast in 1907 were 4,800,000 barrels, and in the following year 3,000,000 barrels. In the same years, the exports from New York and Philadelphia were, respectively, 5,200,000 and 5,700,000 barrels.

Likes Acetylene for Lighting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice that your correspondent, W. G. F., makes some inquiries as to the value of acetylene gas for lighting and cooking purposes. I have been using it in my house as an illuminant for the past three years, and like it well. It is installed in the basement cellar, which is large and well ventilated. The generator cost \$50, with the burners. The house had been previously piped, as we used gasoline for 10 years. The cost of the whole plant would probably be from \$150 to \$250, according to the style of brackets and chandeliers installed. The cost of running with us is \$15 a year for carbide. One pound of carbide will yield between four and five feet of gas. One 4-foot burner is enough for a medium-sized room, and 4-foot for bedrooms. Taking into consideration the amount of light obtained, and the freedom from labor in cleaning lamp chimneys, trimming wicks, etc., I do not think that the difference in cost between it and coal oil is very great. The gas would be too expensive for cooking purposes, if any other fuel was at hand. If there are any other questions your correspondent would like to ask, I shall be happy to answer them.

J. B. T.

Huron Co., Ont.

One-sided Free Trade.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In discussing this question, I observe, first, "trade" means an exchange of commodities, and may be either foreign or domestic. "Free trade" implies that the Government of a country shall place no obstructions, in the shape of taxes (generally called tariffs), in the way of a free exchange between its citizens and those of foreign countries. But free trade implies more than this. It implies that the foreign Governments shall reciprocate; otherwise you would have a very one-sided arrangement. Further, when a Government adopts free trade as regards foreigners, it must, to be consistent, follow suit as regards its own citizens. As for instance, when we allow United States tobacco to enter Canada duty free, it would be most unjust to tax the Canadian-grown article, and when you allow French wines and liquors to enter duty free, it would be very unjust to tax Canadian breweries and distilleries. Free trade, therefore, means not only the loss of revenue from the duties on imports, but those taxes derived from our internal revenue laws. This brings our Government face to face with direct taxation. How many Canadians are prepared for that?

When your free-trade doctrine is driven to earth, and shown that his scheme is impracticable and his position untenable, he skedaddles and takes up a stand behind what he calls a "revenue" tariff. Well, what are his objections to a "protective" tariff? One of his statements is that it will produce no revenue! It will shut the foreigner out of our markets altogether. How absurd. I believe the most highly protective tariff in the world to-day is that of the United States, and none can be found equal to it as a revenue producer. I may give the figures in another letter, and deal with some other phases of the subject.

WILLIAM BOYLE.

York Co., N. B.

Fair Dates Fixed.

January 13th to 15th.—Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition, West Toronto Stock-yard.
January 18th to 22nd.—Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show, at Ottawa.