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FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

Important Announcements.

The end of this month closes the first year's publication of our weekly edition. It is needless to say that the year about to close has been a very satisfactory one to us, and, we have good reason for believing, to our numerous readers as well. We will begin another year by issuing a special Fair number. This special number will be something unique in the line of agricultural journalism. It will contain, at least, forty-eight pages of good, solid reading matter, profusely illustrated, and will be distributed in large numbers at the leading Canadian exhibitions. All our advertisers should have a special advertisement in this number, and we would call their attention to the special announcement on page (441) of this issue.

FARMING will again have a tent at the Industrial Fair this year, which opens on August 29th. This tent will have the same location as last year, that is, opposite the Farmers' Institute tent, and in close proximity to the cattle rings and horse stables in the north-eastern portion of the grounds. If you visit the Fair be sure to give us a call. We shall be glad to see you, and to give you any information at our disposal in the way of helping you to enjoy the Exhibition. Pens, ink, and paper will be at the disposal of stockmen and others who may care to use them, and we shall take it as a favor if all our friends will avail themselves of the privileges of the tent at any time during the Exhibition.

Agricultural News and Comments.

Germany offers a remarkable object-lesson to the world in the way she manages her forests. In that country about 11,000,000 acres of forest lands are owned by the State, and the yearly revenue is not less than \$20,000,000. About 20,000,000 acres of forest lands are owned by private individuals, and their profits are almost as large. During the last fifty years these revenues have been constantly on the increase.

The number of co-operative associations in existence in Germany at the end of May, 1897, was 14,842, as compared with 13,005 on May 31st, 1896. Of these 3,315 were agricultural societies. The advance of co-operation in that country during recent years has been striking. The membership of these co-operative associations runs up in the millions.

An exchange says that hens can be produced that will lay two hundred eggs per annum, and out-

lines the plan to follow thus: Take a hen that lays one hundred and twenty eggs per annum. Some of her chicks will lay, say, one hundred and fifty eggs in a year. From these pick out layers and so on till two hundred eggs per year or better is the result. It is pointed out that the males should be bred from as prolific layers as the females.

There is found to be an unpleasantly large deficit in connection with holding the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Birmingham last June. The deficit amounts to about £5,000 and the society has had to sell that much Consols in order to pay off the debt, which will leave England's great National Agricultural Society in a somewhat hampered condition.

The prosecution of parties in Great Britain for adding "preservatives" to dairy products still continues. Recently a shop-keeper of Chester, England, was charged with selling pure, fresh cream from a certain creamery, which, on analysis, was found to contain twenty-three grains of boracic acid to every pint of cream. The case was dismissed on the ground that it was not proven to the court's satisfaction that the cream contained anything injurious to the health. It is probable that an investigation will follow to ascertain definitely if boracic acid is injurious to the health.

A writer in *The Country Gentleman* gives the following formula for feeding ducklings: The first meal after being placed in the brooder is corn-meal and bran equal parts, with a handful of coarse sand introduced; all thoroughly mixed with cold water and fed in a moist condition. After they are two days old a small quantity of soaked beef scraps is added. This mixture should be fed five times daily, but only just as much as they will eat up clean. They should always come up to the feed board lively and hungry.

According to returns compiled by Mr. Geo. Johnson, Dominion statistician, there are 559 creameries, 2,556 cheese factories, and 203 combined cheese and butter factories in Canada. In 1871 there were only 353 cheese factories; in 1881, 709; and in 1891, 1,565. The average output of each factory in 1871 was \$4,570; in 1891, \$6,250, and in 1897-98 it is estimated to be \$5,570. The value of the total output in 1871 was \$1,602,000; in 1881, \$5,460,000; in 1891, \$9,780,000; and in 1897, about \$15,800,000. In 1871 there were no creameries in Canada; in 1881 there were 46; in 1891, 170; and in 1898, 559. In 1891 the output per creamery was \$5,400, and at this rate the total output for 1897-98 would be valued at \$3,018,600, an increase of over \$2,000,000 since 1891.

Sharp grit is a necessity when fowls are fed on grain and solid food. Gravel is the best grit if the gravels are sharp and not too round. The hen needs grit to grind grain in her gizzard. If she is fed on soft food too long or too much she is not liable to require grit. A great deal of the so-called cholera is nothing more than indigestion, occasioned by too little grit of the right sort. If the right kind is available the hens will find it and take just what they want.

It is estimated that the total exports of agricultural products from the United States for the year ending June 30th last will reach upwards of \$825,000,000. In 1892 the total exports of these products amounted to \$799,323,212. The ex-

ports of breadstuffs take the most prominent place, as they reach the large sum of nearly \$1,000,000 for each business day, and the total this year will be \$100,000,000 in excess of last year.

Correct management is everything. Two men living next to each other may have the same breed of cows and the same conditions for conducting the dairy business, but one may make a success of it and the other a failure. Why? Because one puts more skill and intelligence into the management of his herd than the other. He sees that they are properly fed, have the best of care, and that every little detail in connection with the care of the milk, etc., is looked after.

Canada's Dairy Products Pure and Unadulterated.

The following extract from an address, delivered by ex-Governor Hoard at the last session of the Wisconsin Cheese-makers Association, is a good recommendation for Canada and Canadian dairy products:

"Canada has been a very sharp competitor with us. Do you know why? Because Canada is smart enough to make a pure article; not to make one pound of skim cheese; not to make anything like a filled cheese. And they put into force and operation through the whole of the Dominion a condition of education, and the public tone and sentiment which prevail are as strong as law against the production of any inferior goods."

There can be no doubt that a large share of the success which has attended the sale of Canadian dairy products in Great Britain has been due to the fact that our butter and cheese are pure and unadulterated. The Americans fully recognize this fact, and are now making strenuous efforts to regain the place which they lost some years ago, when skim-milk cheese, and "bogus" butter became factors in their export trade in dairy products. So far a fair measure of success has been met with, and several of the states have now on their statute books laws for controlling and regulating the manufacture and sale of spurious dairy goods, which, if properly enforced, will do much to curtail the make of oleomargarine and "filled" cheese. But there is a lot of ground to cover yet before the dairy products of the United States have obtained the reputation for purity which Canadian dairy products now have.

Canadian dairymen, however, have no cause to tear the efforts now being put forth by the Americans to regain their lost reputation. It would be better for dairymen the world over if no "filled" cheese or "bogus" butter were allowed to be made in any country. It cannot be denied that there is quite a large market for these spurious products in Great Britain, and especially for "bogus" butter. Wherever there is a pound of oleomargarine sold it displaces a pound of good butter, and to that extent curtails the market for the pure article. If there were no oleomargarine made in the United States or anywhere else, there could be none sold, and consequently, in every land, there would be a greater demand for the real article. Consequently, it will be to the interest of the Canadian dairyman if the American dairyman succeeds in prohibiting the make and sale of all spurious dairy products in the United States, and for this reason, if for no other, the former should give the latter all the assistance he possibly can.

Ex-Gov. Hoard touches the real keynote of the situation here when he points out that public tone