

# FARMS

will not be above the  
rge, of course, is in-  
an space runs from  
l. Then add to the  
of Westbourne, Mun-  
of feed, attendance,  
difference between  
prices will be fairly

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s those farmers who  
feeding have been  
n spite of the handi-  
money. One such  
f Westbourne, Mun-  
14 head last fall at a  
er cwt. These were  
two years to three  
n the Sheho district.  
to winter feed, being  
dealers were taking  
no chance. At first  
y and afterwards on  
They were fed on  
hey were taking from  
per day, then they  
cents off cars, Win-  
ear Mr. Rhynd has  
grain per steer in  
\$11.83.

ed nook on the Little  
River near West-  
ne. A shed is pro-  
l but the cattle sel-  
use it. The hay is  
d on the ground and  
opped barley, which  
bought at market  
s, is fed in flat troughs  
hynd charges every  
against his cattle,  
ing interest on in-  
ent and labor, and  
as the actual cash  
of \$11.83 per head  
three years' opera-  
and this average  
ulled down by the  
of cattle he got this  
and the high price of

other feeder who  
s a system of winter  
immer feeding is Mr.  
hin, near Moosomin.  
This past winter Mr.  
r on straw, hay, and  
owing condition so as  
e fast gains for the  
ere bought up last  
weeks, then put on  
They will be mostly  
nd are of good feed-  
of country from the  
orkton, where some  
is Mr. Phin scours  
ie trade. Mr. Phin  
verpool, sending his  
nan and consigned  
there. The long,  
ontreal is the great  
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y be made to pick  
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much risk and loss  
market that there  
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doors and out and  
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p are run outside  
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1 we have boosting  
e enquiry into the

industry he will be surprised to learn that the man who feeds outside invariably finds sufficient inducement in it to keep on from year to year.

A splendid example of how cattle ought not to be winter fed was to be found last winter on a farm a few miles south of Winnipeg. Here a bunch of about 70 head were being fed boiled grain in a sloppy condition along with hay. Anyone who ever tried feeding slop in low temperature can easily imagine the condition of that bunch. "Hard" feed in "hard" weather should be the rule.

At the risk of tiring our readers we have devoted considerable space this spring to the cattle feeding problem, but we are convinced that it is necessary to feed cattle to make all that is possible out of our land, and also to secure those improvements in transportation and market facilities that are necessary to make cattle feeding more general. From this and a previous article on "Cattle feeding on Alberta farms" it will be seen that practically the same methods which succeed in one province will hold good in another. It is now possible to make a profit and this is a good deal learned. For the man whose tastes run to cattle there is an exceptional opportunity now to stock up. It is probable that the high prices ranging for all kinds of food stuffs will continue for some time and meats are likely to be carried still higher in prices.

## FARM

Letters Upon Farming Operations Welcomed.

Does anyone remember the spring of 1908? Well, this will remind him.

### Topics for Discussion

To afford an opportunity for the interchange of ideas, and to provide a place where information may be given and received, we will publish each week at the head of this department a list of topics, which our readers are invited to discuss. Opposite each topic is the date of publication of contributions on it and readers are reminded that articles contributed on any of the subjects given, must be in our hands at least ten days earlier than the subject is scheduled for discussion in our columns.

Readers will understand that this department of the paper is entirely and altogether their own. They are invited at all times to write the editor fully and freely expressing their opinion of the manner in which it is conducted. They are invited to suggest topics to be discussed. If any reader has in mind any question which he or she may think could be profitably discussed, it will be given a place in the order of subjects, if brought to the notice of the editor, and is of sufficient general interest. Because this notice runs weekly at the head of the Farm Department does not mean that farm questions, only, may be discussed. The discussions will be spread over every department of the paper.

For the best article received on each topic, we will award a first prize of Three Dollars and for the second best Two Dollars, paying the latter sum for other contributions on the subject received and published in the same issue.

Article should not exceed 500 words in length.

#### ORDER OF SUBJECTS.

June 2.—What do you consider is the best method of using the time of the men and horses in the fields, on summer fallows, at haying and harvest? Is it better to quit at 6 at all times or to work later?

June 9.—What is the best way to clean up a poultry house to rid it of vermin and make the surroundings healthful. How do you make and apply the wash.

June 16.—Should cream be sent to a creamery either local or distant, or kept on the farm and be made into butter to be marketed wherever the price is best? Tell of a plan that is working satisfactorily.

June 23. Would you advise a man under all circumstances to insure his grain crop against hail? If not, what would be the exceptions?

### Agricultural Conditions in England

The most speculated upon problem of the year—the National Budget—has been at last unfolded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. For months discussion will wax and wane before the new proposals assume their final aspect, and doubtless some changes will be made, though these will probably be few as the government has a large majority in the House of Commons.

From an agricultural standpoint the new imposts have many points of interest. A new tax is instituted upon land, a half-penny on the capital value of undeveloped property. This is aimed at land near large centres of population held out of use till it shall become valuable for building purposes. Hitherto such land has been taxed on a rental basis which returned a very small amount when compared with the price asked for such land from possible buyers.

Future "unearned" increment is to be taxed at the rate of 20% of the increment in future, taking present value as a basis.

All land under £50 per acre in value is to be exempt from the new land tax, so the tax will not affect purely agricultural land.

The parsimony of the government in its grants to agriculture have long been a grievance. The Chancellor in his Budget speech said: "I doubt whether there is a great industrial country in the world which spends less money in work directly connected with the development of its resources than we do. Take the case of agriculture. We are not getting out of the land anything like what it is capable of endowing us with."

Certain spasmodic sums have been previously voted for light, railways, etc., and a very meagre amount for agricultural instruction. All these are now to be gathered into one National Development grant, and a sum of £200,000 is to be added this year. Better than that is the proposal that all future surpluses in the revenue are to go to this new fund, and not to the sinking fund for the national debt as in the past. These surpluses sometimes amount to large sums so the new fund will have large resources.

The Chancellor suggests that the grant will be utilized for forestry instruction, afforestation, experimental farms, scientific research, rural transportation, and any other well conceived schemes for making the land more fertile or profitable.

Another proposed tax is a heavier impost on motor cars, and a duty of three pence per gallon on petrol, and the amount received is to go to bettering the roads of the country.

Some £16,000,000 of new revenue is needed for the current year—almost entirely for the new old age pensions, and the increased navy grant, and it is proposed to raise this sum from land licenses, and large incomes. No new taxes are placed on food products of any kind, though a small additional tax has been placed on such luxuries as whisky and tobacco.

Upon the whole the Budget seems to have been well received and opinion seems to be that the new burdens are placed where the tax can best be borne.

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The butchers' boycott on unwarranted cattle has come into force throughout the country with varying results in different sections, though in the majority of markets the boycott has proved a failure.

In London a compromise has been effected, and the vendors have agreed to pay one shilling to an insurance fund for every bullock or heifer purchased for slaughter within ten days. Bulls and cows are excluded from the agreement.

At Liverpool the dealers refused any warranty, and in no case was one given. At Worcester the auctioneers sold without any warranty. At Cockermouth a new insurance scheme agreed to by farmers and butchers came into force.

At the Salford (Manchester) market—one of the largest in the Kingdom—no warranties were given, and business proceeded as usual.

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It is not often that one of the dignified judges of the King's Bench makes use of poetical comparisons in a decision, but Mr. Justice Darling did so very appropriately in a "sheep v. grouse" appeal.

Certain mountain sheep climbed over a wall, and did damage to a grouse moor in Yorkshire. Claims to the extent of twenty shillings for damages were allowed, but an injunction, which was asked for, was refused.

This refusal was carried to the King's Bench and in giving judgment his Lordship, commenting on a suggestion that less active sheep should be kept, quoted:

"The mountain sheep are sweeter,  
But the valley sheep are fatter,  
We therefore thought it meet  
To cultivate the latter."

Was it better for the community that there should be an industrious pastoral people tending sheep, or was it more important to the people of England to have grouse to shoot, and if they could shoot them—which very few of them could, that they should have grouse to eat? Evidently the King's Bench preferred mutton to grouse as they dismissed the appeal.

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The Lancashire County Council has been conducting a series of experiments in potato growing. As a result of numerous trials the following dressing is recommended per statute acre: Farmyard manure 10 tons, sulphate of ammonia 1 cwt., superphosphate 4 cwt., muriate of potash 1 cwt.

Some recent Scottish trials have resulted in a like recommendation, except that sulphate of potash is substituted for the muriate.

Good crops of potatoes were grown with artificials alone, double the above quantities being used, but the method is not a satisfactory one. When farmyard manure is not available guano is advised as a substitute.

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The Harper-Adams College has been experimenting with salt as a manure. In olden times salt was held in high esteem, and its virtues were exaggerated, but it has a beneficial effect on certain crops.

Salt strengthens the straw of cereals, improves pastures and is of considerable value to mangolds, cabbages, etc.

In 1908, on mangolds, the results were per acre: No salt, 46 tons, 1 cwt.; 2½ cwt., salt per acre, 53 tons, 5 cwt.; 5 cwt., salt, 58 tons 5 cwt., 10 cwt. salt, 63 tons, 4 cwt. To achieve results the salt must be thoroughly worked into the soil.

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As was anticipated the high prices for wheat brought out unreckoned supplies, and the stocks of grain in the United Kingdom showed an appreciable rise for March.

Although prices have fallen from 4s. to 6s. per quarter there is still a considerable shortage in the prospective supplies for the next four months. Supply and demand will doubtless keep the prices at a high level for the balance of the crop year, and no great relief can come till the new crop is harvested.

The crisis in prices has brought about further discussion on the possibility of raising more wheat at home. One suggestion is that wheat lands should be free from local taxation, the local authority to be recouped from the Treasury. Such a rebate, it is said, would bring the area under wheat back to about 4,000,000 acres. The cost is estimated at £1,200,000 a year.

Another suggestion is the provision of free seed wheat by the government, and as such seed wheat would be grown from best pedigree stock an annual average of 36 bushels instead of 32 bushels ought to follow. Increased acreage would be laid down to wheat and as seed costs about 7s. 6d. an acre the cost on say 3,000,000 acres would be £1,125,000 yearly.

One proposal is to advance money on wheat at the rate of 30s. per quarter, so as to do away with forced sales early in the season. This would lead to steady marketing, and less fluctuation in values. If £5,000,000 were so advanced for say six months the cost to the government at 3% would be about £75,000.

A fourth suggestion is that State servants, and employees generally who are fed by the State, should use British-grown wheat bought direct from the farmers by tender.

Each plan has its advocates and advantages, and also certain inherent disadvantages—especially the first proposal, which is practically a bounty to a certain industry in a Free Trade country, and the remitted taxation would fall on some other section of the community.

The second proposal has the same disadvantage though to supply the best seed wheat at cost prices might be a scheme into which the government could justly enter.

The steadying of prices by advances seems feasible enough, and would tend to prevent gambling in wheat "futures." Such a scheme is actually in force in autocratic Russia, and in