

# FARMING

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## FARMING

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## TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

### How Others See Us.

The following extract from one of our weekly exchanges, though exceedingly flattering, contains some excellent advice for everyone engaged in the business of farming. It is undoubtedly true that no one can be a successful tiller of the soil unless he combines active brain work with muscle power. It well says that the days of haphazard farming are past. To farm properly to-day the farmer must read and think. To be able to think intelligently every farmer should subscribe for and read at least one first-class farm paper. How can he otherwise keep abreast of the times and keep posted regarding new and improved farming methods? The agricultural journal is the only regular means at his disposal for receiving this knowledge and no farmer can afford to be without one, and the oftener it reaches his home the better. A weekly farm paper such as FARMING is, containing information on all lines of farm practice and reliable data regarding the markets for live stock and farm products, cannot help but be of inestimable value to every farmer, and as our contemporary states we shall be pleased indeed to forward sample copies to those desiring them:

"To be successful nowadays tillers of the soil must read, learn and think. The days of haphazard farming are past for those who wish to be in the race and abreast of the times. Every progressive farmer should subscribe for at least one first-class agricultural journal such as *Farming*, published by the Bryant Press, of Toronto. It is the only weekly agricultural journal in the Dominion, and has the best staff of writers of any agricultural paper we know of. Particular attention is paid to the markets, and this feature alone is worth the subscription price, one dollar per year. Send for a sample copy."—*Lindsay Watchman*.

### Agricultural News and Comments.

The manager of a large hotel at Hong Kong, China, imported from San Francisco last year 1200 pounds of pickled and creamery butter. It was imported in barrels of one hundred rolls, each roll weighing one and three-quarter pounds, and it was laid down in Hong Kong for from 26 to 32 cents (gold) per pound. The results of this importation are that the residents of that city have a liking for this butter and have fallen into the habit of sending over to the hotel for rolls for their private use.

The cavalry horse for the United States army must be sound and well-bred, gentle under the saddle, free from vicious habits, with free and prompt action at the walk, trot and gallop, without blemish or defect, of a kind disposition, with easy mouth and gait, and otherwise conform to the following description: A gelding of uniform and hard color; in good condition; from 15¼ to 16 hands high; weight not less than 950, nor more than 1,150 lbs., from four to eight years old; head and ears small; forehead broad; eyes large and prominent; vision perfect in every respect; shoulders long and sloping well back; chest full, broad and deep; forelegs straight, and standing well under; barrel large and increasing from girth toward flank; withers elevated; back short and straight; loins and haunches broad and muscular; hocks well-bent and under the horse; pasterns slanting and feet small and sound. A horse under five years old will not be accepted unless a specially fine and well-developed animal.

In 1897, 33,884 pounds of butter were imported into the port of Nagasaki, Japan, mostly from the United States and France. Small quantities were received from Australia, Denmark, Canada, and Holland. The butter imported from the United States is packed in tubs, each containing sixty rolls of two pounds in brine. The tub butter is mostly used for cooking purposes, and retails for about 32½ cents gold per pound. The table butter is imported in tins holding half a pound, one pound, and two pounds; the one-pound tin being the favorite. Most of the butter in tins is brought from France, and is in demand for table use. The one-pound tins sell for from 37½ cents to 40 cents each, and cost the importer laid in his store 32½ cents gold per pound. The French butter in tins has the preference for table use, because its quality can be depended upon, and because each package is as neat as can be made.

The Chinese use almost no butter, and what is imported by China is used nearly altogether by foreigners living there, who usually prefer the brand to which they were accustomed before leaving their own country. In 1896 butter to the value of \$74,758 was imported into Shanghai, China. Most of this was brought from France; while a considerable quantity was brought from the United States, Denmark, and Germany. The American Consul at this port states that in February last good United States butter brought 45 cents per pound. There is no use sending poor butter, and what is sent must be put up in hermetically sealed tins or jars. In order that the retailer may be induced to push the sale of the butter it should be laid down in China at about 25 cents per pound.

Last year the losses of cattle shipped from Canada to Great Britain amounted to eight for every one thousand shipped, as against five per one thousand in 1896. Nearly one half of the losses last year, however, occurred on two voyages under exceptional circumstances, and therefore the losses are not at all large. In shipping from South America there were losses last year of eighty-one for every thousand cattle shipped and thirty-six per thousand of the sheep, as compared with fifty-five cattle and twenty-six sheep per one thousand for 1896. The losses on shipments from the United States last year were only three cattle and eight sheep for every thousand of each class shipped as compared with four per thousand of

cattle and nine per thousand of sheep in 1896. The losses from the United States, therefore, show a marked improvement over the losses on Canadian shipments. The low percentages of losses from the United States is said to be largely due to the practice of dehorning as carried out by feeders and shippers.

It is a matter of wonder to people living outside of Canada, and especially to those living in the United States, why Canada sends abroad each year such large quantities of wood ashes. These people think that it would be better economy for us to keep the wood ashes at home and use them as a fertilizer, and we think so too. Wood ashes in the rural districts are very cheap. Pedlars have been accustomed to go through the country gathering up ashes, giving one pound of hard soap for one bushel of ashes. This is a foolish practice on the part of our farmers. They would make ten times as much by utilizing their wood ashes as fertilizers. Wood ashes are valuable in many ways. Where large quantities are used ashes will prevent potato scab, though enough should be used to make the soil alkali enough to kill the scab germ. Ashes, however, will do better on clover or grass than on potatoes.

At the Iowa State Fair a novel and at the same time a practical method is adopted for testing farm machinery. The managers during the summer grow crops of corn and potatoes on the fair grounds, which are ready for harvesting when the exhibition is held. The farmers who visit the show see just how the farm machinery on exhibition works in actual practice and do not have to depend upon an explanation of its mechanism only. A plowing match is also another strong drawing card.

In some sections, since the advance in the price of wheat flour, corn bread is being considered as a substitute. Experts recommend that where such a course is necessary the change from wheat flour to corn meal should be a gradual one, and that wheat bread should not be entirely excluded from the dietary. Wheat flour contains more protein and less fat than corn meal, so, if the latter is used, the amount of cheaper protein foods such as beans, peas, oatmeal, milk and cheese should be increased. There is no material difference between the yellow and white corn meal.

On a 3,000 acre farm in New Jersey, 2,000 tons of ensilage were grown last year at a cost of eighty-two cents per ton when harvested and put in the silo. The yield on some parts of the land was thirty-three tons per acre, actual weight. A large dairy herd is kept and fed largely on ensilage during the winter. The milk yield per cow averaged last year 6,250 pounds. The owner sells all the milk he can produce at ten cents per quart, and guarantees twenty per cent of cream on each bottle.

At the Birmingham, England, Police Court, recently, a dealer was fined £1 and £5 costs, or nearly \$30 in all for selling butter containing boracic acid. The Inspector prosecuting the case purchased half a pound of butter from the offender, which, when analyzed, was found to contain seventy grains of boracic acid. This is one instance of the many which have induced exporters of Canadian butter to insist upon butter-makers here not using preservatives of any kind.