

FARMING

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A Great Help

MARYSVILLE, March 18th, 1899.

SIR,—Find enclosed \$1 to continue my subscription for 1899 I find FARMING a great help to me in working my farm.

Yours truly,

J. G. CAMPBELL.

Very Much Appreciated

MONCTON, N.B., March 18th, 1899.

Your paper comes regularly to hand, and is very much appreciated.

MRS. A. CLARKE,

Box 438, Moncton, N.B.

Agricultural News and Comments

During 1898 Canada sent to Great Britain \$1,258,500 worth of eggs, being an increase of \$288,500 over the previous year.

An Irishman has found out a new use for castor oil. He claims that by rubbing the castor oil into the udder after every milking and by feeding liberally he can convert an indifferent milker into a large producer of milk.

A very useful animal on any farm is the barn cat. The quantity of mice a cat with kittens will kill in a day is remarkable. Cats will kill most of the young rats, and also old ones occasionally. They appear to know just when to go and where to spring on them without waiting long.

Co-operative pork-packing seems to be moving along. Two such factories are talked of for Brantford and Listowel. At the latter place it is proposed to have a capital stock of \$37,500, divided into 1,500 shares of \$25 each, the stock to be allotted to farmers only, and no person to hold more than ten shares.

A good way to select seed is to spread it on a sheet of white paper and by the aid of an ordinary magnifying glass closely inspect it. Seed should be of the same uniform size and color and should be plump. Old seed is usually darker in tint, often insect eaten and consequently has lost some of its form and vigor.

In July, 1896, No. 2 wheat sold in Chicago market at 54c. a bushel. Until a couple of weeks ago it sold for 72c., a rise of 18c., or 33 1/3 per cent. in two and a-half years. From a table of the average prices of 107 staple articles, published by Bradstreet, it will be found that the whole list has advanced in price 39 9/10 per cent.

In all probability a very few years will see the end of the large cattle range in the Western States. The rapid influx of settlers, and the advance in agriculture seem to be responsible for the change that is gradually coming over the West. It is likely that cattle rearing on a large scale will be carried on, but the cattle will be confined in a smaller area and fed.

For nearly two years the Ohio Experiment Station has been conducting an investigation on tuberculosis in cattle. The station now has on hand a number of cattle which have reacted to the tuberculin test, several of which have been under inspection for two years, and are still apparently in perfect health. These animals will be slaughtered in a few weeks for the purpose of determining what their actual condition is.

The director of an experiment station in France has obtained good results from fattening calves on potato "fecule," or what is practically the refuse of potatoes used for manufacturing purposes. The test was conducted with seven calves. The first one was born on June 25th and the feeding began on July 3rd and was continued till November 7th. At the end of the test the calf realized 14s. 6d. more than the total cost.

Market Fees

The question whether towns and cities should collect a fee from farmers who utilize their market privileges has been a subject of agitation for a number of years. There was a time when it was the general rule to charge farmers who sold or offered for sale produce of any kind in the markets of our towns and cities a fee. But, partly by competition between rival towns, and partly by legislation, the practice has been partially or wholly discontinued in a great many places. Whether the levying of such a tax is just and right there is no doubt a great difference of opinion. But, looking at it as a matter of mutual interest and fair dealing between one body of people and another, the farmer would seem to have right on his side. If the farmer, when he goes on to the market square or into the market house of any city or town and offers his produce for sale were seriously interfering with the trade of the local grocer or butcher, there might be some reason for imposing this tax. But, instead of interfering, his coming to the town or the city is really a blessing, as it enables the tradesman to dispose of more of his goods and to get produce to supply his customers in the city. For this reason, among many others, we do not think it to be in the best interests of any town or city to place a tax upon the farmer who occasionally visits its markets in order to sell his produce. In fact, it would be much more in the interest of every town not only to remit all fees, but to throw out special inducements in the way of good market accommodation for the farmers when they come to market. A great many people in the smaller places complain of the farmer going to the larger places to buy their goods when, if the farmer visits their market to sell his produce, he has to pay a tax for so doing.

Some interesting facts in regard to this question have been compiled by Mr. E. Morden, secretary of the Welland Farmers' Institute. We find from these that twenty years ago the farmers of Ontario asked for free markets. In 1882 the Legislature passed an act which limited the powers of towns and cities in taxing farm produce. Grains, seeds, wool, lumber, lath, shingles, cordwood, dressed hogs, cheese, hay, straw and other fodders, were exempted from market fees. Butter, eggs and poultry can only be taxed when a convenient and a fit sheltered place for their sale is provided. In 1890 the Central Farmers' Institute recommended that beef and mutton by the quarter, vegetables, roots and fruits be added to butter, eggs and poultry, but nothing further has been done. At the present session of the Legislature we understand that Mr. German, M.P.P., of Welland, will introduce an amendment to the law to make the exemptions include all farm produce, and so it is quite in order to discuss the matter just now.

Among the many good reasons Mr. Morden gives why farmers should not be taxed in this way are the following:

Cannot towns and cities provide free standing room for those who bring food supplies, and who in turn purchase their own supplies in the town?