

common wild oat in China, which is very hardy and prolific, growing in any soil, and producing a large quantity of grains, has this peculiarity, it has no husk or hull. By crossing several varieties of British oats with this Chinese variety an oat has been produced which has no hull at all, and it can be used at once for preparation as human food. It has a beautiful bright yellow grain, which looks very much like an elongated corn of the finest white wheat." But we have not to depend entirely upon the newspaper reports regarding the importance of this work. Dr. Goodfellow, Professor of Physiology at the Bow and Bromley Institute, and Prof. Jago, another scientist, both report favorably upon the new grasses and cereals produced by these investigators, and other experts are now taking up the same line of work.

However valuable the work carried on by these investigators may prove to the agricultural world, there is one lesson from their labors that investigators in other countries should take home to themselves, and that is, that it takes time to get complete and satisfactory results in carrying on nearly every kind of experimental work. The tendency to hurry forward experiments and to obtain quick results is more marked among American experimentalists than any other class of investigators. From the number of bulletins which some of the agricultural experimental stations of the United States turn out annually, one would think their professors did nothing else but prepare copy for the printer.

The Live Stock Outlook in Great Britain

The Mark Lane Express, in a recent issue, points out that, while early in the season, or last spring, the outlook for live stock was good, now the prospect is rather a gloomy one. The reason for this marked change is the exceedingly dry weather of August and September. So severe has been the drouth in nearly all parts of Great Britain that pastures have dried up, causing a scarcity of feed for live stock. The sheep breeders are mentioned as suffering more than any other of the live-stock men. In the spring they were quite jubilant regarding the outlook, but they are not so now. In one month the price of sheep at some of the fairs dropped 7s. to 8s. per head. This in the face of the fact that a month or two ago extremely high prices were paid for rams, a case in point being that of the Lincoln ram which sold for 1,000 guineas. But these were sold for breeding purposes, and would bring much higher prices than feeders.

A somewhat similar condition of things exists in connection with lean or cattle for feeding purposes, though not to so great an extent. These have declined in value because of the scarcity of fall feed. The drouth has also affected many dairy herds, and a short supply of milk is the result. Though this condition of things is bad for dairy farmers, it is looked upon as even worse for cattle grazers, as most of them bought in their lean steers and dry cows far too high some months previous, when, owing to the rich pastures and abundant grasses, there was an extra demand, which caused values to go very high, though the meat itself was selling badly. Beef since then has fallen in value, and it is now feared that many farmers will be compelled to dispose of their fat cattle for about the same money, if not less, than they gave for them when lean.

The same journal points out that graziers have had bitter experiences of a similar nature in recent years and that they may find their occupation entirely gone if they continue to follow the old lines of buying in lean cattle to feed for beef. The imports of dead meat are getting larger every year and there does not seem to be any prospect of beef rates getting permanently higher than they are at present. As a solution of the difficulty it is stated that consumers demand small joints not too much overlaid with fat, and that they will pay a higher price for such than for the heavier beef, which is usually brought to market. To meet this demand graziers are advised to take all calves bred by purebred bulls from the dairy farmers when a week or ten days old and

rear them on milk substitutes and fatten while in a state of growth so as to make "baby beef" at from eighteen months to twenty-four months old. This is one of the ways which the cattle feeders of Great Britain have of meeting the competition from Canada, the United States, and Argentina in beef production. Whether it will do so satisfactorily or not only time can tell.

Good Horses Scarce in British Columbia

In the United States Consular Report from Vancouver, B.C., the following appears: "From observations in this province I am led to believe that there is a field here for the importation of well-bred horses, cattle and sheep from the United States. The horses in this vicinity are nearly all undersized and very poorly bred. Good driving horses are very scarce, and good draught horses seem to be almost unknown. It seems to me there is a chance for the importation into British Columbia of a considerable number of stallions of good blood, to be used to improve the native stock. It is also probable that a market could be found here for a limited number of well bred brood mares if the prices were reasonable. I understand that animals imported for breeding purposes can be brought in duty free under proper customs supervision."

The *Vancouver World*, in discussing the horse market in that province, also says: "But the price of first-class ones in the coach and draft classes was always good, and dealers report a great scarcity of those in Eastern Canada. It is with difficulty that a decent shipment can be collected, simply because the country has been drained of its best material, and the great majority of farmers have stopped breeding them, thinking that because there has been almost no market for second-grade horses for a few years it was not profitable to raise any at all. Those who follow the rule which should be the guiding one as regards all kinds of stock, namely to raise nothing but an A1 article, are now reaping the benefit. . . . What the province wants in this line is the introduction of more pure-bred sires to improve the stock." That the Americans are considering the advisability of sending horses into our country when we have the means of producing all the horses we require does seem strange. But there is evidently a scarcity of good horses in British Columbia, and if Eastern Canada cannot supply them they will have to come from elsewhere.

The Endless Chain of the Farmer

The following paragraph taken from the *Farmer's Voice* contains a point in farm practice that every farmer should weigh well:

"Asked why he bought so much land, one farmer, so tradition has it, replied: 'To grow more corn to feed more hogs.' 'Yes, and what then?' 'Why, to sell the hogs and buy more land.' This is too often the endless chain of the farmer, but never was the practice more absurd than in the light of modern education and tendencies. To-day it is the intensive farmer who is the successful farmer. One man who had grown well-to-do on a ten-acre plot just out of Chicago recently told a friend that the addition of ten acres more had all but ruined him. 'I made money on ten, but when I came to make twenty acres pay that was a different proposition—I spread myself out too thin,' he said. The personal care, that attention to every detail, which had won such handsome returns from ten acres, could not be given to twenty—it was physically impossible—and the result was the deterioration of the whole farm."

Is it not a fact that many farmers are to-day working too much land and are spreading themselves out over too large an area? It is not the acres which a farmer possesses which makes him a successful farmer, but what he gets out of each acre. The "land poor" farmer is the poorest kind of a farmer and if he goes into debt for land when he has already enough for all practical purposes he runs a great risk of making a failure of the whole thing. Success or