

for export advance considerably, or the carrying charges are made less, a large percentage of this year's surplus crop will never be marketed, and the railways will not get as much to do as if they had lowered the rates to a reasonable basis.

Good Horses Becoming Scarce in the United States.

Good driving horses, according to reliable reports, are getting scarce in the United States. Even in some of the principal horse-breeding counties of the Eastern States is this the case. Many persons in the Eastern States requiring good drivers are getting them from Kentucky and further west. But good horses are getting scarce in the West also. As in Canada, many farmers went out of horse-breeding a few years ago when prices took a drop, and it will take time to recover this lost ground and to provide themselves with suitable mares for breeding purposes.

The general outlook for horses in the United States as well as in Canada is likely to be good for some time to come. It must be borne in mind, however, that this favorable outlook is only good so far as really first-class horses are concerned, whether they be in the roadster or heavy draught classes. The outlook for scrub horses is no brighter in the United States than it is here. There is no active demand for this kind of animal of any class, and they are likely to continue to be a drug on the market for some time to come. As we have stated frequently in these columns the only kind of horses that it will pay the farmer to raise is a good heavy draught, roadster or coach horse. These are in demand both in the United States and in Great Britain, and are likely to continue so for some time. Quality counts in horse-breeding as well as in anything else, and the better the quality the greater the profit. It costs little, if any, more, to produce a good horse that will be a credit to the farmer and that will bring a high price when put upon the market, than to produce a scrub horse that will sell for a low price and be an eyesore to its owner all its days.

Keep More Sheep.

There are two strong reasons, among many others, which make it profitable for the farmer to keep sheep. Of all the live stock kept on the farm, sheep stand out above all others as renovators of the soil. Sheep will eat a greater variety of plants than cattle or horses, and consequently many kinds of noxious weeds are eaten off and made to produce wool and mutton instead of ripened seed which falls to the ground to come up the following year and displace the grasses and growing crops. For this reason alone, if for no other, every farmer on a hundred-acre farm should keep at least a dozen sheep.

In addition to the good qualities of sheep as renovators of the soil they help to maintain and increase the fertility of the farm. They are especially beneficial in this regard on hilly farms. If the pasture land is hilly sheep at night usually get on the hilly parts of the field, the portions most in need of the manure, and their droppings help to increase the fertility very much. In other respects sheep are valuable on every farm as a means of increasing the fertility of the land.

There is one point that every farmer who keeps sheep should bear in mind, and that is, that a really first-class sheep will make as good a renovator of the soil as a poor, miserable animal that is neither a good wool producer nor a breeder of the kind of lambs that will command the highest prices on the market. As much care should be exercised in selecting sheep for the farm as any other animal. Quality counts in this as well as in any other line. The farmer who intends to keep sheep should select the breed that will give the greatest return in wool and lamb production.

In regard to the wool produced in this country, it may be well to point out just here that Canadian

wool has the reputation of being of that coarse variety which seems to be a drug upon the markets of the world at the present time. A reaction may take place sooner or later, and this class of wools may be in greater demand, but it is somewhat doubtful, if the present tendency of the market be taken as a guide. The demand for the finer wools is increasing the world over. The market for these is not subject to the variations in price that obtain in the market for the coarser wools, for the reason that the finer wools go to form materials that are bought by the rich, who do not quibble so much about the price. It may be well, therefore, for the farmer, when procuring a flock of sheep, to select those breeds which are producers of the finer wools.

Canadian Dairymen Warned and Commended.

The following extract from the London, England, *Rural World* is of value to Canadian dairymen for two reasons. It is both a warning and a commendation. It tells us that the Americans are making strenuous efforts to capture a large share of the British butter trade, and, at the same time, pats us on the back and tells us that our dairy products are superior to the American dairy products. They are both valuable if our cheese and butter-makers look upon them in the right way. The warning should stir them up to greater things lest Uncle Sam should get more than his share, and the commendation should encourage them to keep right on in the good way they have marked out for themselves, that of aiming to send only to the Mother Country the finest quality of dairy products:

"Secretary Wilson, of the United States Dept. of Agriculture, is, we learn, trying to develop the butter trade with England. It is his intention to capture the market for the Americans if it can be done. Recently he placed an order with a creamery in Iowa for an experimental shipment of butter to England. In 1897 the United States sent a little more butter to England than Canada did; they are apparently determined to keep this lead and to increase it. So far the amount of butter sent by either country is a very small proportion, about 2 per cent. of the total amount of butter imported by England. Canadians will have, no doubt, to look out for their laurels, for the Americans want to become the provisioners of the Old World. But the Canadians are now quite as smart as Uncle Sam, and their commodity—whether cheese or butter—is superior to his."

High Prices for Sheep and South American Importations.

In our stock notes this week will be found a report of Mr. Henry Dudding's recent sale of Lincoln Longwool sheep, held at Riby, England. This report gives a complete list of the sales made and the prices received. It is interesting from several points of view. It shows that really first-class sheep still command enormous prices. As will be seen, one yearling ram brought the exceptionally large price of 1,050 guineas or about \$5,000. Why, in this country a good 100-acre farm could be purchased for that money, and what owner of such a farm would think of exchanging it for a yearling ram? And yet the value of such a farm was paid at the above sale for a Lincoln ram to go to South America. There is something in this fact for every breeder in the country to think about. It is an indication of what can be accomplished by putting skill, intelligence and forethought into the breeding of sheep, and for that matter, of any other animal.

But the important point for Canadians in this report and it is what we wish to draw particular attention to is the fact that, out of the fifty-two animals sold, twenty were purchased to go to South America. Not only is Argentina forging ahead in the production of high-class beef cattle, but according to this report she is making rapid strides in the development of her sheep trade. What will be the outcome of all this and how is it going to affect the Canadian live stock trade is the problem which our breeders will have to solve? Argentina is now one of our most formidable rivals in the export cattle trade and she has attained to that position by making frequent and valuable importations of purebred live stock from the best

beef producing herds in Great Britain. She is also bound to be at the top so far as the sheep and wool trade is concerned.

In the face of all this we may well ask what Canadian breeders are doing in the way of making importations towards keeping up the standard of their herds. True, there has been a revival in this regard during the past year or two; but the importations made of late years are only as a flea in a bucket in comparison with what is being done by our great competitor on the other side of the equator. Our breeders who have made importations of late deserve the highest praise; but there is room for still more to be done, especially in the way of importations of cattle of the beef-producing strains. Our export cattle and dressed beef trades cannot be maintained and developed unless we have good breeding stock to keep up the efficiency of our beef-producing herds.

Hog Cholera.

This disease is quite a common one in some parts of the United States. Two or three years ago the Department of Agriculture at Washington made an exhaustive investigation extending over two years endeavoring to find out a remedy for this disease and to locate more definitely its symptoms. Though no absolute cure was recommended the following recipe was suggested for hog cholera medicine: "Bicarbonate of soda, two pounds; hypo-sulphate of soda, two pounds; sodium sulphate, one pound; sodium chloride, two pounds; sulphur, one pound; charcoal, two pounds; black antimony, one pound." The best way to give this is in the slop twice a day, estimating one teaspoonful for every 200 pound of hog.

It is not pretended that this remedy is a cure, but simply a medicine that is good for the hog when in any way out of sorts. When used as a remedy for cholera after the disease has taken root it has failed. It is, however, a splendid tonic to have around, and it will pay farmers to have this prescription filled, and to keep a quantity of this on hand for their hogs when they get a little bit "off." When a large number of hogs are kept, some of them occasionally will get out of sorts, and a ready remedy should be applied. Though the medicine recommended will not cure cholera, it may be a preventive if given in time.

Profitable Farming.

In this issue appears a letter from Mr. Jno. I. Hobson, President of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, in which he asks for further light on the methods advocated by Messrs. Wallace and MacPherson in our issue of August 2nd. As Mr. Hobson says, the claims of these gentlemen in regard to producing clover and increasing the fertility of the land are simply astounding. If their theories are correct, and if what they claim can be accomplished, why, the sooner every farmer in this country puts their methods into practice the better.

We would therefore like to have a full and free discussion of these matters, as we believe that such a discussion will be beneficial to everyone concerned. Both Mr. Wallace and Mr. MacPherson are not asking anyone to take their word as proof that their contentions are correct, but claim to have strong grounds for their faith. There is then a splendid opportunity for our readers to get at the very bottom of this question which we hope they will take advantage of.

Those who have followed this discussion in these columns closely will have noticed that these gentlemen do not at all agree in their methods of maintaining the fertility of the land. Another point brought out in the discussion so far that is worth further development is, whether it is more profitable for the farmer to raise his steers for feeding or to purchase them from his neighbors when grown up. Both these subjects open up a wide field for discussion and for obtaining a fund of valuable information if they are only taken advantage of in the same way that Mr. Hobson has done.