

FARMING

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For One New Subscriber

A copy of that handsome book "A Life of Christ for the Young"—400 pages, 75 full-page half-tone illustrations, cloth binding—will be sent post-paid to any subscriber of FARMING sending one new yearly subscription. Balance of this year free to new subscribers.

Farm Implement News

We wish again to impress upon our readers the importance of the announcement made in last week's issue in regard to the starting of a Farm Machinery Department in FARMING. This new department will appear in next week's issue for the first time, and the third issue of each month thereafter. Though we are starting out on this new line in a modest way we hope to make it exceedingly valuable and beneficial to our readers. It is a new departure in the agricultural newspaper line in Canada, and we desire the active co-operation of farmers and manufacturers alike in making it a success. In the first number will appear several practical articles with illustrations showing the working of some of the newer machinery that is coming into use on the farm. We believe every farmer who has to buy one or more machines every season or farm utensils of any kind will appreciate our efforts along the lines we have indicated. Of late years the farm machinery department has become one of the most important in connection with the farmer's calling. With the improvement and advancement that is constantly being made in farm machinery of all kinds, this branch tends to become of vastly greater importance to the farmer than is the case at the present time. For this reason we believe this new department will in a short while become one of the most important features of our paper.

British Apple Market Demoralized

Last week was a bad one for the export apple trade, and the bottom seems to have gone out of that market. Mr. R. H. Ashton, representing the Manchester Fruit Brokers, Ltd., received per cable of Nov. 9th the following report of the Manchester apple market:

"Fruit mixed in size and quality. Baldwins, 10s.; Greenings, 9s. 8d.; Spys, 9s., and Kings 14s. per barrel average." This report, as compared with that mentioned in last week's market review, shows a decline of from 4s. to 7s. 6d. per barrel. The week previous Spys were quoted at 16s. 6d., as compared with 9s. last week. Everyone knows what a shrinkage like this means to apple shippers, and what effect it will have upon the market here. But the Manchester market is not the only one demoralized. The Liverpool market is reported to be in even a worse condition. From another source we learn that the following cable has been received regarding that market: "Rotten condition. Nothing sound. Quotations impossible."

As far as we can learn, this demoralized condition of the British apple market is not so much due to an over-supply

as to the bad condition of the fruit when it arrives. One of the cables mentioned above speaks of the fruit as being mixed in size and quality. Now, such a condition is entirely due to the packing, and no one is to blame but the person who packed and picked the fruit. The other cable refers to the "rotten" and unsound condition of the fruit. This may be largely due to the packing and long ocean voyage; but, in addition to this, there appears to be something wrong with the fruit itself in that it has not the keeping quality of other years. This is something that our experiment stations and scientific fruit men should look into. We have heard it reported that a great many of the apples this year have too much water in their composition, and, therefore, are harder to keep. Whatever is the cause there is something radically wrong in the trade somewhere. What with poor quality, mixed varieties, long ocean voyages, and bad packing, the apple shipper has a hard time of it.

The Manchester firm referred to, in a letter to their representative here of date Oct. 28th, has the following to say in regard to the quality of the fruit arriving at that port and the prospects for better prices:

"Some of the parcels received by the last steamers had been on the way three weeks or more, and the condition had, in consequence, suffered. This tends to confirm what we said last week about the want of keeping quality in this year's apples, and we repeat that shippers will do well not to hold their stocks back but to ship now. We repeat that we do not see any likelihood of higher prices than those now ruling being obtainable between now and Christmas."

While the general condition of the apple market is a bad one, really fine, sound apples command fair prices in the English markets, and should net here \$2.50 per bbl. Yet the general run of the fruit that has arrived lately will not net \$1.50 per barrel. As far as we can learn from enquiries made here, there is not any likelihood of very much improvement in the market till near Christmas.

Prepare for Winter

To many such admonition as the above will be considered unnecessary. Nevertheless, though there are many farmers who always have everything in ship-shape for winter, or for any other season, before it arrives, there are numbers who put everything off till the last moment, and when the snows come are totally unprepared for them. To such, a little timely warning may do good. As much can be done now when the weather is fine in preparing for winter as during a whole week after the cold, stormy weather sets in.

We will begin at the house. All the windows, both cellar and otherwise, and doors, should be carefully examined and if any glass needs replacing or requires more putty it should be attended to. Many a draught will be kept out of the rooms later on if all the window casing is gone over and the windows tightened. This task will not take up much time, and will make the winter days and evenings more comfortable for the family. In addition, all the stables and outbuildings where the live stock are housed should be gone over in the same way. If this is done a great deal will be saved in the way of feed, and animals will thrive better if their quarters are comfortable.