

Talks with Farmers.

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He says the demand for them is so great that he could readily sell 500 Hereford bulls at the present time, and the first cross from these bulls is now wanted in Colorado. Hereford bulls from the first cross bring \$70. This is highly encouraging to Hereford breeders; there are too few of this valuable class of stock in Canada.

Mr. Stone considers that there are far too many directors on the Provincial Board of Agriculture, particularly as so few are really farmers, and that the preponderance of power outweighs their influence. A change is wanted.

Mr. Crowell Wilson, of Wingham, Ont., says he noticed that sowing wheat late was commended in the *Advocate*. He sowed a field on the 15th of October. It was not looking as well as some he put in earlier; he felt rather doubtful of the results. He had noticed some fields that were sown very early, and the grain was showing signs of injury. The 15th of October is very late to sow as far north as Brussels; still we should not be surprised if it yielded better than much that was sown in August. We await results.

In an article headed "A Plate of Pork," in this issue, you see what Americans say of their own pork, and that kind of pork is even far superior in quality to much of their mast-fed or their still-fed pork. If our Government were more strict in compelling the proper branding of our Canadian pork, and not allow still or mast-fed pork to be exported without a brand of inferiority stamped on it, we should be able to command a much better price for the pork fed by farmers.

Obituary.

We deem it our duty to say that Canada mourns, or ought to. One of our most prosperous branches of agricultural industry is dairying, and the best man that Canada has ever had to introduce and foster this important interest is now gathered to his fathers. We allude to Mr. H. Farrington, of Norwich, in Oxford. This gentleman was a native of New York State; he came to Canada and embarked in the dairy business.

To him may be attributed the establishment of the Canadian Dairymen's Association more than to any other individual. His example and counsel induced others to enter into cheese-making; he made dairying his study and delight. He was most courteous and gentlemanly in his manners, and always conciliatory in his remarks, yet firm. In imparting his knowledge, which he was always ready and willing to do—we may add, anxious to do—he never insulted or trampled on a speaker who differed with him, and although an American, he never expressed a word derogatory of our country, and was as much at home with us as any gentleman could be. He brought the knowledge of American dairymen to Canada, and implanted it in our midst. We are sure every dairyman that ever attended the Dairymen's Conventions at Ingersoll must feel that Canada has met with a severe loss.

CANADIAN SHEEP AT THE CHICAGO STOCK SHOW.—We cannot be said to have done in Canada all that we may yet do in raising and feeding sheep of the highest excellency. American agriculturists attribute the superior quality of Canadian sheep in part to our dry, bracing climate, and in part to our feeding them in winter on turnips and peas. An American journal says: "Chief among the sheep exhibits at Chicago was a flock from Willow Lodge Farm, Canada. There are 18 Cotswolds, nine ewes of which average 315 pounds apiece. The largest, a two-year-old, weighs 346 pounds, and took the three prizes at the Royal shows of 1877. There are two ewes weighing 241 pounds apiece, and seven last March lambs with wool a foot long, averaging 151 pounds.

Rinderpest—Danger Ahead.

Since issuing our December number we noticed in the *New York Tribune* that this fatal disease is now spreading near Washington. Our Government should take immediate steps to ascertain the fact, and if as stated, action should at once be taken to prevent the possibility of its being transmitted to Canada. Other diseases have long since been known to exist in the States for many years. Pleuro-pneumonia is one that is spreading; the Texan cattle fever is another, hog cholera a third, trichina in pork a fourth; now they have the rinderpest.

These fearful and dangerous diseases are not yet known in Canada. Some of them are now so deeply seated that generations cannot entirely eradicate the disease from the blood. Pleuro-pneumonia remains in the blood, and may sometimes breed out in the third or fourth generation. Stock is never safe from it, although no symptoms of it may have been seen for three generations. Trichina may now be working its way in tens of thousands of individuals who have never heard of the name. Partly through Canadian influence British ports are open to us for our live stock. It is our duty to see that our mother country is not injured by any act of her child, Canada. England will immediately protect her people from harm if she really believes there is danger. Our Government should immediately protect us if danger threatens. It is of no use locking the stable door after the horse is stolen. Now is the time that action should be taken, before any of these diseases are in our country. By taking immediate steps we may enjoy the advantages of the British and foreign markets, and establish a reputation. We feel satisfied that England will close her ports against dangerous importations.

Fattening Cattle.

There is in the present price of beef much to discourage farmers. They may well ask, as they ask daily, what profit is there in fattening animals. Beef is very low-priced—so low that feeders may doubt if there be anything left after first cost to pay for the labor; but, is not every article the farmer has for sale equally low in price. The dairy products, as well as beef and mutton, bring lower prices than they brought for some years, and breadstuffs are as cheap in proportion. The English markets rule our prices, and the prices of English markets are low, and there is little prospect of their being higher, for this season at least.

There is, however, a profit in fattening cattle—not the runts that put on flesh slowly, and even when fattened sell at the lowest figures—but well-bred animals, grades such as pay for their food by putting on flesh in a short time, and, when fed, sell at the highest prices that buyers can afford. To insure profit the farmer ought to turn his attention to the production of manure in connection with the production of beef. The making of manure ought to be one of the chief objects of the farmer in fattening cattle.

The most economical food in fattening cattle is roots. When we can raise of turnips, mangolds and beets, 600 to twice 600 bushels to the acre, and by the labor given to them prepare the land for a succeeding grain crop, we must admit that the cost of roots for feeding is not a great deal. Roots and hay will of themselves fatten animals, but a richer food given in addition to these will improve the quality of the beef and add fully as much to the value of the manure. It should be borne in mind that the most fertilizing manure is produced by rich food. The manure from excretions of animals that are fed on hay or straw, with roots only, is never so strong and fertilizing as that

from animals fed from oil cake, beans, peas or grain. Of these the pea is especially adapted for Canadian stock-feeders. While it is one of the most valuable articles for giving a superior quality to beef, and to manure as well, it is more than others a Canadian product. And it is (not like some other crops) a fertilizer instead of an impoverisher of the soil.

Though beef, as well as other farm produce, brings very low prices in the English markets, there is still a good price for a good article. It is always more or less so. The farmer should always endeavor to attain the highest price. It alone is sure to leave a profit. Let us then feed good stock, and feed well.

Every year and every season brings its quota of experience. The present year with its low prices should, instead of discouraging us, teach us to persevere in improvement of agriculture in all its branches, and to be prepared for the reverses of low prices and failure of crops, which are sometimes inevitable.

Our Long-Wooled Stock.

The price of mutton, as well as of beef, rules very low in the market, and some sheep-owners are asking, Should we not discontinue sheep-feeding as a part of our farming? Our reply is decidedly in the negative. Though mutton is low-priced, it pays better on the whole than beef or pork, and better even than grain, if we take all the expenses into consideration. There is no meat which costs the farmer so little, and he receives three payments, the wool, the lamb, and the fatted sheep. To these we may add the increased fertility of the sheep-pasture. When we view the ease and certainty of returns from sheep-feeding, we cannot see why farmers do not make it one of the leading industries of the farm. The soil and climate of Canada, especially of the Ontario province, are well adapted to it—better, looking at it as a whole, than almost any other part of America. The expense of sheep-feeding is light and the trouble is not great. There is no commodity on the farm more easily converted into money. There is always a ready market for wool and mutton. The demand is not confined to the home market. For good Canadian mutton there is a brisk demand in the States, and still more so in England. Sheep are not only fertilizers of the soil—they confer another great benefit by keeping down, if not in all cases destroying weeds. Weeds that an ox and a horse will not as much as nibble the sheep will eat down to the ground. There are in sheep-pastures no weeds ripening their seeds and scattering them over the farm.

Sheep are easier fed and cared for than any other live stock, but careful feeding is required to make sheep-feeding very profitable. In this case too is the saying true—"Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well." Sheep will pay well for liberal treatment, for careful tending and a liberal supply of food. We have seen flocks of sheep turned out to pick up food and get their living as best they could on roadsides and commons. Even then they brought money to their owner—more than he deserved. But to make sheep-feeding really profitable they should have, in summer, a good pasture of suitable grasses, and in winter shelter, hay in racks and roots, and if more be needed, some sheaf oats.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AS AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY.—This Island has been well called the garden of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is with no little pleasure we in Ontario note every sign of agricultural prosperity in that distant part of the great Dominion. In the week commencing Nov. 21 there was shipped from the ports of the island 73,748 bushels of potatoes, and 15,157 bushels of oats.