

### Peel County, Ontario.

Business is quiet on the farm at this season. Such need not be the case, however, as there are various things that can be done in the winter months that will save time in spring and summer, such as getting a good supply of wood ready for summer use, seeing that the implements are in good repair for the spring work, and the harness oiled and mended.

Horses are selling at good prices at present. There is no trouble in getting \$200 for a sound general-purpose horse, and they will probably be higher in the spring. Milch cows are away up, good fresh ones fetching \$50 and \$60, according to quality.

The ice harvest is well advanced. Consumers are getting in a larger quantity than usual, a greater number of farmers going more extensively into the milk business. Ice is much thicker than in former years, being eighteen to twenty inches in thickness. The price hasn't raised, being two cents a block.

There is plenty of feed on the farm, and, as yet, there is no cry of hard times. Auction sales are not numerous this winter, but in the course of a few weeks they will be more plentiful, as things sell well towards spring. Some farmers complain of a shortage in the water supply. It is not uncommon to see them driving their stock a mile or two to the river or a pond.

We have had a fair share of snow this winter, but no blockades as yet to interfere with traffic. Good sleighing has continued ever since November 25th—a month earlier than usual. Some farmers who were not successful in getting their clover and alsike threshed in the fall are now busy threshing. They say it threshes much cleaner and faster in frosty weather, and is yielding well. According to reports there will be an increased number of basement barns built next summer, as many are busy getting out stone, sand and other materials for that purpose. Few farmers finished plowing last fall, as the frost came sooner than expected, and this will tend to leave more work when spring opens.

Jan. 19th, 1904.

### Oxford County.

Last fall we had a cold, chilling rain one night, and we had a sow that had a litter of pigs in the fence corner, and when I found them the next day there was only one alive. I did not expect the sow to come in for a few days, but should have had her shut in a week before. This was neglect. Two or three weeks ago, on a bitterly cold night, we had another sow farrow. We had her in a good place, and I attended to her, dried the pigs off, and kept them together, and kept the lantern beside them with a blanket held over it to keep in the heat. The pigs were saved, and are doing splendidly. This is what can be accomplished by care and attention under adverse circumstances.

Last fall we pitted about twelve or thirteen loads of turnips, gave them a good coating of straw and four or five inches of earth. We left it mostly free from earth along the top, except a short distance from each end, where I thought the turnips would be more apt to freeze. After the cold weather came, we put on a coating of horse manure. Latterly, there were indications that the turnips were too warm, and we commenced to draw them in, and found them considerably spoiled near the ends of the pit, where we thought the turnips would be most apt to freeze, and very good in the center of the pit, where we left it more open. Turnips in the pit should be left with plenty of ventilation, even in cold weather.

We have had a very peculiar winter so far. A good deal of cold weather, the thermometer going down to eighteen degrees below zero on one or two occasions, and we have had very little wind, and great scarcity of water. Many farmers have had to drive their cattle to water. The drilled wells seem to be the best and most reliable, for many of the dug wells that were never known to fail have been dry or have only yielded a very limited supply of water. A good supply of pure water is a very great necessity to a farm. In some parts of our county it is necessary to go down three hundred feet to the rock, where an abundant supply of good water has been obtained. In other localities water is obtained at a much less depth and a much smaller expenditure of money.

Very many of the farmers here have commenced to burn coal, even some of those whose supply of wood is not quite exhausted. Now that help is scarce and hard to get, and wages high, the burning of coal is a great relief, as there is no labor connected with it, and then we have a very steady heat with very little attention, and a warm house in the morning. Of course, those who have plenty of wood, and help to cut it, should burn wood, but otherwise I believe that coal is the best.

The prices of live hogs and cheese have been very fluctuating. Our November and December makes have been very low. Some have got more and some less. Some factories have some Septembers, and all Septembers in November in the curing-room. This is certainly a mistake, when good prices could have been obtained for the hogs. When we consider the fact that the price of hogs is so low, it is unwise to try to get a high price for them.

J. L.

### Bacon-Hog Problem.

I took out a load of ten hogs to the pork factory this week. They weighed 2,150, were from York boar and Tamworth sow, and were just about what the pork-packers want. At the scales, there was a load of short, chunky, woolly hogs. I said, "My hogs are surely worth a cent per pound more than these?" He said, "Yes; yours are easily worth two cents a pound more than these short ones—in fact, we don't want them at any price; while your hogs are just what we want." If the pork-packers really don't want these short, chunky pigs, why do they continue to pay as high a price for them as they do for the sort of pigs they do want? Why do they not give us who raise the sort of pigs they find most profitable, a premium to encourage us in our good work? I wish the Farmers' Institutes would take up this subject and thresh it out, until some redress has been obtained. Hon. Mr. Dryden, the Minister of Agriculture, at Woodstock, said that the Agricultural Department had demonstrated to the farmers at the winter fairs and other places on the points of the bacon hog, until now the hogs delivered at the factories were so uniform that they looked as if they had all been raised by one farmer. We believe the Agricultural Department has done its duty; but what about the pork-packers? Are they afraid to offend the few men who raise the unsuitable class of hog? We miss the peas very much. I think I can finish off a bunch of pigs much better and quicker when I have plenty of good peas, but peas are out of the question since the bug came. We have been feeding chop composed of barley, oats, corn and spelt, which makes good chop.

We have just about enough work for the team this winter for exercise, and we feed mostly wheat straw and roots, and two feeds of oat chop and a little bran twice a day, and they are keeping very healthy. I believe that clean wheat straw is a healthier fodder for idle horses than hay. But horses, to be healthy, must have exercise. We are wintering a span of Clydesdale colts in a box stall, and feeding clover hay with oat chop and a little bran and roots three times a day. They get out in the yard for exercise in moderate weather.

Oxford Co.

### Peterboro Co., Ont.

This section of the country seems to have escaped the heavy falls of snow we hear of in the western part of the Province. We have a good quantity of snow, but it has come gradually, and very little went away at any time, the thermometer staying often for days on the cold side of zero, and once in our city recording thirty below. The market for all kinds of live stock is brisk, but, with the exception of horses, not high. Good heavy horses sell for \$140 to \$180; milch cows, \$25 to \$40; beef cattle, butchers', 8½c. to 4c. Hogs, owing to local competition, have been about same as the Toronto market, and in some cases better. The potato crop of 1903 was, we believe, as good in this and adjoining counties as ever we had. The acreage, however, owing to the scarcity of help last spring, was not as large as usual. A few shipments have been lately made from Peterboro, the buyers paying fifty cents per bag. The ice harvest is now in full swing, and is No. 1, hard and thick.

Springville, Ont.

### Farm Laborers.

Mr. Thos. Southworth, Director of Colonization, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, announces, elsewhere in this issue, that farm laborers are now arriving at Toronto weekly from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands, and anyone requiring help should send him, at once, a post card, asking for an application form. Immigrants are coming earlier in this season than usual, and Mr. Southworth distributes them as expeditiously as possible. Mention the "Farmer's Advocate" in writing him.

### To Break the Beef Trust.

There is a powerful movement on foot among stockmen of the United States to establish a gigantic meat-packing plant, sufficient to loosen the grasp of the great beef trust. At the National Convention, held at Portland, Oregon, recently, it was strongly endorsed, and energetic projectors now have the proposition in hand.

An Irishman was filling barrels with water from a small river to supply a village which was not provided with waterworks. As he halted to give his horse a rest, a gentleman rode up and asked:

"How long have you been hauling water, my good man?"

"Tin years or more, sor."

"Ah! And how many loads do you make in a day?"

"From tin to fifteen, accordin' to the weather, sor."

"Well, Pat," said the gentleman, laughing, "how much water have you hauled all together?"

The Irishman jerked his thumb in the direction of the river, at the same time giving his horse the hint to start, and replied: "All the wather yez don't see there now, sor."

## MARKETS.

### Toronto Markets.

The storms and consequent blockade of the railroads during the past week have interfered seriously with the movement of all kinds of produce. As a result, some quotations are a little abnormal. Butchers' cattle, for instance, were in good demand, which kept the price up to \$4.50. Cattle of all kinds depreciated a great deal en route to market, owing to the length of time on cars, and, in some instances, to the distances driven before reaching an open railway line. Grain trade continues slow. Offerings are light, and the demand quiet. Bids for Manitoba flour from Britain have been desultory, but prices are unchanged. Deliveries of hogs have been light with no improvement in values. Packers say the British market is weak, and are lowering prices. With improvement in transportation, it is expected deliveries will be much heavier, and unless something intervenes, the market will go still lower. A sharp demand from Old Country points would mend matters.

Quotations on this market are:

Cattle.—Exporters, \$4.50 to \$4.80 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25 to \$4.50.

Export Bulls—Choice quality bulls are worth \$3.75 to \$4; medium to good, \$3.25 to \$3.50.

Export cows, \$3.50 to \$3.75.

Butchers' Cattle—Choice picked lots of butchers', 1,100 to 1,175 lbs. each, equal in quality to best exporters, \$4.30 to \$4.50; good, \$4 to \$4.25; fair to good, \$3.60 to \$3.85; common, \$3.15 to \$3.30; canners, at \$2.20 to \$2.50.

Feeders—Steers of good quality, 1,050 to 1,150 lbs. each, \$3.50 to \$3.80 per cwt.

Stockers—One-year to two-year-old steers, 400 to 700 lbs. each, \$3 to \$3.50; off-colors and of poor breeding quality, of same weights, \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt.

Milch Cows—Milch cows and springers are worth \$30 to \$40.

Sheep—Prices, \$3.75 to \$4 per cwt. for ewes, and bucks at \$3 to \$3.25.

Lambs—Prices ranged from \$4.60 to \$5 per cwt., and \$5.25 to \$5.65 for choice ewes and wethers for export.

Hogs—Best select bacon hogs, not less than 160 lbs., nor more than 200 lbs. each, fed and watered, \$5 per cwt.; lights and fats, \$4.87½; sows, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt.; and stags, at \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt.

### PRODUCE.

#### Wholesale Prices.

Wheat.—Ontario—No. 2 red, white and mixed are steadier, 81c. to 82c. for milling. Spring is steady at 76c. for No. 1, east. Goose is quiet, but firm, at 72c. for No. 2, east.

Wheat.—Manitoba—No. 1 hard, 93c.; No. 1 northern, 91c.; No. 2 northern, 88c., and No. 3 northern at 85c., on track, lake ports. Milling-in-transit price for each grade is 6c. extra.

Corn—Canadian is dull; 38c. for yellow, and 37½c. for mixed, cars west. Old American, No. 2 yellow, 56c.; No. 3 yellow, 55½c., and No. 3 mixed, 54½c., in car lots, on the track at Toronto. New is unchanged; 51c. for No. 3 yellow, and 50c. for No. 3 mixed, in cars, on track here.

Oats—No. 1 white, 31c., low freights, 30½c. middle freights, and 29½c. high freights. No. 2 white are quoted at 1c. less.

Barley—No. 2, 43c., middle freights; No. 3 extra, 41c., middle freights, and No. 3 at 38c., east or middle.

Rye—No. 2 is quoted at 53c. low, middle or high freights.

Peas are unchanged; No. 2, 62c., any freights.

Buckwheat—No. 2 at 48c. low freights, 47c. middle, and 46c. high freights.

Mill Feed—Ontario shorts are unchanged at \$16.50 to \$17, and bran is steady at \$14.50 to \$15, in bulk, cars west. Manitoba mill feed is unchanged at \$20 for shorts and \$18 for bran, in car lots, bags included, on the track Toronto.

Oatmeal—Steady, with prices unchanged. Bags are selling at \$4.10, and barrels at \$4.35, in car lots, on the track, Toronto. Broken lots are quoted at 30c. more.

Flour—Dealers say that there are no offerings of 90-per-cent. patents. Exporters quote \$3.15, buyers' bags, f. o. b., main lines west. Manitoba Flour.—First patents, \$4.65 to \$4.90; second patents, \$4.35 to \$4.60; and strong bakers', \$4.25 to \$4.50, bags included, on the track Toronto.

Seeds—The market is somewhat quiet, and prices are unchanged at \$4 to \$5.50 for alsike, \$5.50 to \$6 for red clover per bushel, and \$2 to \$3 for timothy per 100 lbs., at outside points, and a little more would be paid for extra choice lots.

Hay ..... \$10.00 to \$11.00

Hay, mixed or clover ..... 7.00 to 8.50

Straw, sheaf ..... 9.00 to 10.00

Straw, loose ..... 6.00

Dressed hogs, light, cwt. .... 7.25

Dressed hogs, heavy ..... 6.50

Butter ..... 20 to 22

Eggs, new-laid ..... 35 to 40

Fowls, per pound ..... 06 to 08

Spring chickens, per pair ..... 75 to 1.25

Spring chickens, per pound ..... 11 to 12

Geese, per lb. .... 10 to 12

Turkeys, per lb. .... 14 to 16

Apples, per barrel ..... 1.00 to 2.00

Potatoes, per bag ..... 90 to 1.00