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VETCHES FOR HOGS.

SIDNEY LESLIE, Essex Co., Ont.:—"Can you give your readers any information regarding growing vetches for hog pasture, as to time to sow, quantity of seed per acre, time to turn on the hogs, etc. Also, would vetches make good early feed for cows?"

[Vetches or tares for hog pasture should be sown about six pecks per acre, in drills as peas are sown, or broadcast, as early as the land is fit for other spring grain-sowing. The hogs should be turned on when the vetches are about eight or ten inches high. If a little clover seed is mixed with the vetch seed it will help the pasture late in the season. If the vetches are kept pastured off and not allowed to mature, the plants will keep growing fairly fresh all through the season. As a soiling crop for cows, vetches serve an excellent purpose. It is well to sow a few oats with the vetches for this purpose.]

AILING FOWL.

POULTRYMAN, N. S.:—"I have a thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rock cockerel, bred from stock imported at a great cost from a noted New York breeder. He has been sick about three weeks. When first noticed he seemed to have no appetite, and acted dumpy, as if sick, and had diarrhoea of late. I have been dosing him with alum, copperas, pepper, resin, etc., as advised by poultry doctors, but he does not improve. He does not eat anything except occasionally a little whole corn or bread. My hens have had decently clean quarters, and had a variation of food: bone, scraps, shorts, bran, green food occasionally and scraps from house, oats, corn, etc. On account of quarrelling with other fowls, I had him confined within the henhouse in a lath coop about three feet square for two or three weeks, but he was kept clean and fed regularly. That was some time before I noticed him ailing. Please give your opinion of the matter."

[It would appear from the symptoms given that the sick fowl is suffering from a bowel derangement. In all probability it was aggravated by the close confinement, as it is altogether unnatural for birds to be housed so closely. One seldom sees a young fowl go wrong in this way when allowed the liberty of a barnyard and has a comfortable roosting place and enough to eat. We would recommend giving a physic by adding a small quantity of salts (what will lie on a ten-cent piece) to soft food, after a fast. Give him his liberty in a sunny house and feed easily-digested food, seasoned with Dr. Hess' Poultry Panacea, advertised in another column of this paper. Be sure that the bird is not a victim of lice.]

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Perth Co., Ont.

I have just subscribed for your valuable journal about two months ago, and am very sorry that I didn't read it long ago. As long as I find as much interesting reading of useful and practical information on agriculture in its different branches I don't intend to be without it. I notice quite a number of reports in your last issue which give me much pleasure to read, and I came to the conclusion to give you a few notes of our locality. The farmers throughout this country follow chiefly mixed farming and in many cases a rotation of crops. I have noticed that in some districts they cannot successfully grow all kinds of grain, but not so here. I am glad to say we can grow most anything in the grain and root line with good success, with the exception of corn, which is not raised at all for the ripened grain, but to a great extent for fodder and silage purposes. Dairying is followed to a great extent. There are a large number of cheese factories throughout the country, of which the greater part are also provided with the creamery plant, the latter being used mainly in the winter months, and enabling us to make quite a business of hog raising in connection therewith. In this section we support the Black Creek C. and B. Co.'s factory, owned and managed by T. Ballantyne & Sons. It is one of the finest constructed and most perfect cheese and butter factories in Ontario. In regard to the different breeds of dairy cattle, I think the Holstein-Friesian and the Ayrshire are amongst the most profitable. The former when first introduced received but slight attention, but as a result of testimony that speaks for itself, everybody is going in for Holsteins now. In some parts the farmers still adhere to breeding the different beef cattle, such as the Polled Angus, Herefords, Shorthorns, etc., and will no doubt realize a snug sum for their export cattle, as beef is at present a reasonable price.

Around here farmers are beginning to enrich their farms by sowing a considerable amount of clover and plowing it down the following fall or spring for manure, and have derived good results. We have also experienced that by constantly cultivating and hoeing roots, and especially corn, we greatly force their growth and maturity and also keep down the weeds. At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Institute in our village we had a prolonged and interesting discussion on how to plant and harvest corn. I, along with many more, did not think it of much importance whether the corn was sowed in a way to allow the sun to strike on the ground between the rows of corn or not, but at the above meeting we heard that the quality of corn (to be used as fodder) depends largely on how it is cared for from the time it comes out of the ground until it is in the barn. It is also to be remembered the longer the corn stands out after being cut the more the feeding qualities decrease. We experienced with our last year's corn that it was lacking greatly in feeding value as compared with previous years, owing to it being sown too thick to allow it to be cultivated and the sun to penetrate to the ground.

The principal spring grains grown here are: Oats—Banner, Siberian, Peas—Golden Vine, Crown, Potter, Bayley—Some two-rowed, mainly six-rowed. Potatoes—American Wonder, Rural New Yorker, Empire State; among them the American Wonders are the best cookers. Corn—Leaming and White Cap Dent. Mangolds—Yellow Intermediate, Yellow Globe, Gate Post. The leading fall wheats are Dawson's Golden Chaff and Early Red Clawson. W. J. B.

New York Cheese Market.

"Only scattering lots of new cheese have arrived the past week, but the few coming have rarely shown desirable quality and selling slowly at generally 11 to 11c, though one small lot of exceptionally fine quality from a favorite western New York factory brought 12c. The weather continues cold and unfavorable in the cheese-producing sections, and the supply of milk light as yet, and many factories that had expected to start up by April 1 have not as yet commenced operations, and it will be several weeks before any quantity of new cheese can be expected."—New York Produce Review, April 12th.

Lincoln County.

The winter of 1895-96 can be marked up as one of the longest and coldest experienced in the Niagara District for a long time. Even now (April 5th) there is a good deal of snow lying about, and the winds during the last week have had more than a suspicion of iciness about them. The sooner spring shakes winter out of her lap the better. What was said in my February letter of the fall wheat will apply pretty well now. The wheat generally got an excellent top on by late autumn, and notwithstanding the hard conditions since, looks fairly well. What was sown late is, of course, in a much worse condition. Hay has stiffened in price somewhat lately, ranging from \$6 to \$8. This has been partly owing to the abominable state of the roads the last months, and partly, no doubt, to the supply in the country being a little smaller than was thought. Cattle have advanced, but though buyers are offering \$4.75 for first-class stuff, not much is procurable. Good butchers' cattle are changing hands at 4c. per lb. The pork market is a disappointment, and from the pork-raisers' point of view there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark." Buyers are only giving \$4.10, live weight, for good stuff, and buyers and sellers alike urge that there is no money in it. Let us hope next month will see a change. Good milch cows are being readily picked up, at \$40, and there are not too many good ones about. Butter is getting a little easier, at 15c. and 16c. Eggs stiffened up a little during the cold snap last week and realized 15c per doz. A week or two of this weather and every hen in the country will be doing her level best to crowd the price down to 10c. Potatoes are firm, at 75c. per bag. A good many got touched by the frost and there are many complaints of the poor keeping quality. The most divergent opinions are being vented as to the chances of the peach crop this season. A vows they are all gone, B thinks a fair crop is probable. I have just finished an examination of a large number of buds, and the results are not widely dissimilar to those given in the February report. Early Crawford, from 10% to 20% good; Foster, 20% to 30%; Longhurst, 75%; Early River, 50% to 60%; Hynes' Surprise, 50%; Stevens' Rare Ripe, 10% to 20%. Orchards close to the lake will possibly be a little better than this; our own are about a mile from the lake shore. Farther away it is probable that a smaller percentage of good buds will be found. M. B.

Export Notes.

Never in the most prosperous times has there been such a steady increase in the value of exports to foreign countries from Toronto, and never has the value of the exports in any one month been so great.

The exports for the first three months of 1897 were \$931,373. The exports for the first three months of 1896 were \$1,556,434. The exports for the first three months of 1895 (this year) were \$2,710,662. In order to indicate the nature of the increase in the past three years, the following table is given, showing the increase in exports for the month of March in five years, beginning with 1895:

Table with 2 columns: Year (March 1895-1899) and Total Exports (\$394,937 to \$779,780).

Last year there was practically no cattle trade in March, only forty-two head being exported. During the past month 4,487 cattle, valued at \$283,617, were passed through the customs. Manufacturers have made just as good a showing. The value of the exported manufactured articles in March, 1897, was \$167,967, but last month articles were exported to the value of \$272,982, being an increase of \$105,015.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following were the prices lately current, with comparisons two weeks and one and two years ago:

Table with columns: Commodity (Beef cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.), prices now, and prices two weeks ago, 1896, and 1897.

The cattle are not selling at boom prices, but if the feeding cattle hadn't cost so much when put in they would be selling at prices that would leave fair margins of profit. There are very few strictly choice cattle, and exporters are having considerable trouble in getting enough good ones. Prices for feeding cattle are still high, and farmers are having trouble to get what they want. Cattle exporters bought 4,608 cattle here as follows: the past week: Shamberg, 375; Lehman, 211; Morris, 1,119; Brauer, 1,021; Alerton, 63; Swift, 453; Schwarzschild, 567; Gilchrist & Munro, 60; Conghlin, 101; Epstein, 100; Doud & Keefer, 200; Gordon & Ironsides, 30; Armour, 36; Lunness, 93. The total the previous week was 3,373, and a year ago 6,278.

A director of a big dressed meat concern speaks of the growth of the poultry trade in the East, and its influence upon the beef business. Not only do all the farmers raise more or less poultry, but it is sent there in refrigerators at all seasons from Illinois and adjoining States in large quantities. The increased consumption of mutton and poultry and of fresh pork has certainly made a marked difference in the demand for beef.

Indications point to comparatively small receipts of grass Texas cattle at all Western markets, especially during May, June and July.

The 2,172,399 hogs received at the Chicago yards the first quarter of 1899 averaged 230 pounds. The 2,076,632 received the same period of 1898 averaged 239 pounds. The range of hog prices is not only very narrow, but the fluctuations are very small. The general demand is good, but packers insist that they are losing money.

A Chicago sheep and lamb buyer, who handles them by the thousands, says: "The best time to market spring lambs is when they are eight or ten weeks old. Male lambs should be castrated as soon as possible after birth. If they are allowed to run a month it is better not to castrate them at all, as the operation will set them back seriously. They should be marketed, however, under three months old, as after that time their market value depreciates perceptibly. All sheep shipped out for feeding purposes even to points in this State, must be dipped in accordance with a recent Federal regulation."

Horses are selling higher than since the early nineties. A consignment of twenty-three head of prime draft horses, \$5,070, making an average of \$220 per head. Fourteen of the animals sold at a range of \$200 to \$325, making an average of \$235 per head. The consignment had been on feed since last November, and was grandly finished for the market. They were grade Percheron and Shire horses, weighing 1,600 to 2,110 pounds, and every animal was fit for the showing. One five-year-old black gelding, weighing 2,070 pounds, was knocked down to Al Ramp, Buffalo, N. Y., for \$325, and a bay four-year-old Shire gelding, weighing 2,110 pounds was purchased by the same party for \$300. Other offerings sold for \$240, \$233, \$237.50 and \$225 for exportation to Germany.

Toronto Markets.

We have a fair amount of business. A large number of farmers in the city purchasing supplies for spring; many report that the frost is disappearing from the ground rapidly the last few days. It certainly seems to point to a time when Thursday will also be a market day, for we had 50 loads of cattle on offer, of which only ten loads were held over for Friday's market. Both days totalled 115 loads. There was a fair trade, and a large number of cattle changed hands at noon.

There is a good deal of dissatisfaction at the new regulation of charging buyers weighing fees for cattle resold. One or two of the buyers insist on having two and three head of cattle weighed separately after the load is weighed and object to the payment of the regular fee.

Export Cattle.—Choice loads of export cattle sold at from \$4.85 to \$5 per cwt.; light export at \$4.70 to \$4.85. There was from 10c. to 15c. per cwt. decline on all classes of cattle.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice butchers' cattle in good demand; sold at \$4.40 to \$4.65 per cwt. Loads of good butchers' cattle sold at \$4.35 to \$4.50 per cwt. Should supply continue there must be a heavy decline in prices next week.

Bulls suitable for the buyers sold at \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt., while stock bulls sold at \$2.80 per cwt.

Stock Heifers.—A few stock heifers sold at from \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Stockers.—Stockers for the Buffalo market were in great demand, as there was a fear expressed that this trade would be shut down shortly, owing to Senator Willis' bill, at Albany, providing for veterinary inspection of all cattle imported into the State, but we notice the measure has been killed.

Feeders.—Heavy feeders in demand, weighing from 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. They are scarce, and worth from \$4.15 to \$4.30 per cwt.

It is reported that this is to be the last year of feeding cattle at Messrs. Gooderham's byres, as all the distillery slop is to be dried and sold as caked food. The plant is being installed, and operations are now in process of experiment.

Heifers.—A few sold to-day at \$3 per cwt.

Sheep.—The run of sheep and yearling lambs still continues light. Ewes sold at \$3 to \$3.50, bucks at \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt. Mr. West Dunn continues to hold this portion of the trade together.

Lambs.—Prices for grain-fed lambs were higher, selling at \$5 to \$5.50 per cwt. Common barnyard lambs sold at \$3.50 to \$3.75. Spring lambs selling from \$3 to \$5 per head.

Calfes.—About fifty on offer; prices unchanged at from \$2 to \$5 per head; medium to extra good veals from \$7 to \$10 per head.

Milk Cows.—The demand for extra good dairy cows and springers continues; only 12 on offer; very inferior quality; sold at from \$30 to \$45 per head.

Hogs.—About 1,000 on offer; prices for singers unchanged at \$4.37 1/2. The quality of those offering has been better for the last two weeks—more nearly approaching the desired weights of 160 lbs. to 200 lbs. each; long, lean, bacon types. We have seen lately good bacon type in different breeds of hogs, and are of opinion that there is more profit in marketing hogs at 160 lbs. than at 200 lbs. We never hear complaint of soft bacon from hogs fed at cheese factories. This is a question for our experimental farms to further investigate. It is freely spoken of in the trade that there will be a keen demand for bacon hogs all this season. Drovers continue to report a shortage in their own districts. The prices are likely to be steady for some considerable time, and we do not look for any immediate advance: Light fat, \$4; thick fat, \$3.75; sows, \$3; stags, \$2.

Dressed Hogs.—The deliveries in farmers' loads very quiet; bad roads prevent travel. Light, \$5.25 to \$5.50 per cwt.; heavy, \$5 to \$5.25 for clean, bright stock.

Dressed Beef.—The demand from all outside points continues. Beef—fore quarters, \$4.50 per cwt.; hind quarters, \$7.50 to \$8.50.

Lambs.—8c. to 9c. per lb.; lambs, spring, each, \$4 to \$5. Two carloads billed for Montreal, and St. John, N. B.

Grain Markets.—The receipts of grain on the street market small; bad roads prevent delivery. White wheat steady; 300 bushels selling at 70c. per bushel; goose, 65c. per bushel. No demand for export.

Flour.—Millfed scarce; ton lots quoted at local mills, \$14; shorts, in ton lots, at \$16 per carload.

Seeds.—There has been daily improvement in our enquiries; business is moving more briskly. Red clover weaker, at from \$5 to \$6 per 100 lbs.; alsike, \$4.50 to \$7; timothy, \$2.75 to \$2.85.

Cheese.—Market very firm; dealers holding all choice stock for an advance; they quote to-day 11c. to 11 1/2c. per lb.

Eggs.—Even the prolific Canadian hen is on strike; eggs scarce and dear; the market to-day was irregular, deliveries light, and dealers were asking all the way from 16c. to 20c. per dozen for strictly fresh. Following the scarcity of last week, the opening of the market showed the opposite condition. Free deliveries; prices dropped to 16c. per doz., and the market not cleared up at the close; indications are for even a lower price on Saturday.

Butter.—Deliveries of choice butter free; prices are easier. Small dairy prints at from 15c. to 16c. per lb.; creamery, in tubs and boxes, from 12c. to 21c. per lb.

Hay.—Only ten loads of hay on offer, and sold at \$9 to \$10 for timothy, and at \$6 to \$7.50 for clover.

Straw.—None on offer; quoted at \$6 per ton.

Montreal Markets.

Cattle.—Up till yesterday's market, prices in Montreal have been fairly well maintained, but a heavy run of stock on Monday, April 10, caused quite a break in prices, nominally a quarter cent per pound, but, I believe, actually more on the general run of sales, with, of course, best to prime grades making the best of the market and doing more towards holding their own than did the medium to inferior grades. The best cattle on the market sold for 5c. per lb., and they had to be select. Good to choice heaves ranged from 4 1/2c. to 4 3/4c., while common sold down lower accordingly than either of the above classes, making in some cases not more than 2c. per lb. Quite a number of cattle were left over at the close of the market to be carried over for Thursday's trade.

Sheep and Lambs.—Very few old sheep or yearling lambs are to be had on the market now, and those offered are quickly picked up by butchers at fair prices—4c. to 5c. per lb. for lambs, and 3c. to 4c. per lb. for sheep. Spring lambs sold from \$3 to \$5 each.

Calfes.—The offerings of calves on Monday's market were lighter than usual, but were plentiful enough to meet the requirements of the trade, and sold all the way from \$1.50 to \$10 each, according to size and quality.

Live Hogs were in fair supply, and sold at 4c. to 4 1/2c. per lb., weighed off the cars.

Hides and Skins.—Nothing of importance has taken place in the situation of this market since last writing. The feeling is decidedly weaker, owing to the grubby nature of hides coming forward, for one thing, and to the easier feeling in other large communities, but as yet no change in price has been put into effect. Prices are as follows for green salted: No. 1, 8 1/2c. per lb.; No. 2, 7 1/2c. per lb.; No. 3, 6 1/2c. per lb. Calf skins steady, at 10c. for No. 1, 8c. for No. 2. Lamb clips, 10c. each; yearling lambs, 70c. to 80c. each.

British Markets.

Following the recent steady upwardness of the British markets, a turn has at last come, and prices during the past two weeks have declined fully one cent per pound from former prices. Best States cattle in London selling at 12c. and best Canadians at 11c., with Argentines 1c. per lb. lower. Cables on sheep were also lower by fully 1 1/2c. per lb. best selling at 11c. per lb.