

## HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

### A GOOD TIME TO BEGIN.

Appearances seem to indicate that for a few years at least farmers may reasonably expect better times than they have had for several years past. How long times will be easier no one can tell and it is a good time to begin doing as though they were to be of short duration.

The young farmer who this spring engages in agricultural pursuits on his own account whether his past relation to farming has been that of hired man or that son at home, will do well to consider the possibility that a few months or at the most a few years ahead there will be the old-time hard times for farmers and lay plans accordingly. Far better to go without expensive machinery than to buy on time giving interest-bearing notes in payment, for the notes may come due just when the crop, the sale of which was expected to meet them, fails. The notes will not fail to mature if the crop does. Or should the crop be good the price may fall; the face of the note will not be less. The use of a machine may be obtained of a neighbor and paid for by exchange of work or a small amount of cash. Better be a little inconvenienced and work a little harder with head and hand to gather the crops than to be worried with maturing notes.

It is a good time to begin the practice of paying as you go whether just beginning farming or having been at it for years and in the habit of buying machinery on credit and running accounts at the stores. Begin making cash purchases and having the satisfaction of owing no man.

If in the dairy business it is a good time to begin to stop buying bad and indifferent cows, in fact any cows on time, better by far make a few less pounds of milk and have it from cows that are yours than to increase the amount, because times are picking up, at the expense of giving your note, for when the note comes due the cow may be depreciated in value and your pocket book depleted. A man can work hard for himself and his with much more pleasure than he can to pay a note for an animal that has proved worthless for the purpose bought or an implement that has proved unsatisfactory or little needed. Begin now to hedge for times that will not look as bright.

It is a good time to begin making the farm provide you a better daily living by putting in a good garden and giving an occasional hour to it after it is in. The same care in time and effort that is given an acre of potatoes put on half an acre devoted to miscellaneous vegetables will give by far better returns for the table and very likely for the pocket book.

It is a good time to take an interest in having better roads from your market town to your farm. Make a start over against your own house and continue the good work from year to year till the road to town is good all the way.

It is a good time to help beautify the surroundings of the school house and make the house and all about it more attractive and uplifting to the children.

It is a good time to begin taking an interest in something besides the drudgery of farm work—in fact taking an interest in these things will take the drudgery out of farming.

Taken all in all the outlook for farmers has not been as good for a number of years and it is a good time to begin looking on the bright side and make the dark side brighter by so doing.

### THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

Cultivate often, cultivate thoroughly, cultivate as soon as it dries up after a rain. The garden is not hard to keep in good shape if it is managed right, and but a few hours at a time, taken often, will keep the weeds down and the vegetables growing. Plant your garden according to the size of your family. Unless a very small garden, do not buy seeds by the packet but buy by the ounce, pound, pint and quart, and buy the best, and of a reliable seed firm, as it is a great disappointment to have the ground all prepared and the season properly developed to plant seeds that were several years old and would not germinate properly, or fail to grow at all.

There are three things very essential for a good garden: A proper seed bed, good seed and thorough cultivation. Fertilize the ground well and plow deep late in the fall. Your ground will be in good shape with running over it with a disk or shallow cultivator in the spring. Put your seeds in with a drill in straight rows 2 to 3 ft. apart and keep cultivating with horse power. Raise plenty of small fruit, which may be tended in the same manner as vegetables. Have a large potato patch. Raise enough to use and some to sell. Very often you can sell enough to pay for all the time and expense of raising the entire garden. If it is not convenient to have the garden large enough to plant the main crop of potatoes and sweet corn close to the house, have a good place somewhere in the field, as there should not be less than an acre devoted

to these essential main crops of vegetables.

Potato culture is an art easily learned if one takes sufficient interest in it. These are the essential elements of potato raising: Deep plowing, thoroughly pulverizing seed bed, thorough cultivation. Keep the cultivator going from the time they come up, or before they come up, until they stop growing. Use the common corn cultivator just before they come up, and then when the plants are well through the ground, harrow crosswise with common harrow. Do not be afraid of tearing up a few sprouts, as they will come up again all right.

### AGRICULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Agricultural meetings were conducted the past winter under the auspices of the New Brunswick Farmers' and Dairymen's Associations and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the object of the series of meetings being to arouse the farmers of the country to a greater interest in their business, and if possible to induce them to undertake improvements in their various lines of work generally.

The conditions in New Brunswick are rapidly changing. For many years the majority of the people in the rural districts depended largely upon lumbering and fishing for their revenue. With the disappearance of the great forests of the province and the partial exhaustion of the fisheries, the people are forced to look to other sources for the means of livelihood and naturally turn to their long neglected farms. In 1892 the provincial government made an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purpose of developing the dairy industry. In that year the total make of cheese in the province was only sixty-three tons; in 1898 it had reached 825 tons.

Last year the commissioner undertook to furnish seed wheat to the farmers in order to induce them to produce enough to supply local demands. On an average there has been sent out of the province about two millions of dollars for foreign wheat and flour imported from the Western provinces. The excessive humidity of the atmosphere militates against the production of wheat grading "No. 1 hard," but very fair results were obtained last year. Three thousand bushels of the seed were distributed at cost. In the northern section of the province especially gratifying results were obtained. In Kent and Restigouche counties the past year not one barrel of flour was sold where there were five sold formerly. To encourage the building of flour mills the government pays a bonus of 20 per cent. of the cost of the plant required.

### BLACK KNOT IN PLUM TREES.

Before the warm weather comes all the plum trees should be looked over, and any that show marks of black knots that indicate black knot should be removed with a sharp knife and the wound washed with carbolic acid solution or some other antiseptic. In fact, it is a good plan to spray plum trees with a carbolic acid solution, made one part of carbolic acid to 2,000 parts of water. This will remain on the spores which are dormant during the winter until they burst their bounds and begin to spread the disease over the tree. The solution named is much stronger than can be applied after the foliage is in its tender growth.

### QUICK GROWTH.

Wonderful Increase in Weight of Germinating Seeds.

The seed of the globe turnip, according to recent investigations, increases its own weight 15 times in a minute when growing. The seed of a globe turnip is exceedingly minute, being not larger than the twentieth part of an inch in diameter, and yet, in the course of a few months, the seed will be elaborated by the soil and the atmosphere into 27,000,000 times the bulk of the seed, and this in addition to a considerable bunch of leaves. On extremely favorable ground turnips have been found to increase by growth 15,990 times the weight of their seed each day they stood. The fungus is another instance of remarkably rapid growth. The great puff ball will attain the size of a pumpkin in a single night and Lindley, the botanist, calculated that the cells of which it is made up, will multiply at the rate of 60,000,000 a minute. Some seeds germinate in a very short period; the cress in two days; spinach, turnips, and kidney beans in three days; lettuce in four; melons and gourds in five; most of the grain seed in a week; hyssop at the end of a month, others remaining for a very long period without showing signs of germination.

### ALL ABOUT TORTOISE SHELLS.

The finest tortoise shell comes from the Indian Archipelago, and is shipped from Singapore, and much of it is obtained on the Florida coast of America. There are three rows of plants on the back, called "blades" by the fishermen. In the central row are five plates, and in each of the others four plates, the latter containing the best material. Besides these there are 25 small plates around the edges of the shell, known as "feet" or "noses." The biggest turtles do not furnish more than 16 pounds of tortoise shell. Formerly the under shell was thrown away, being considered worthless, but at present it is very highly valued for its delicacy of coloring. Nowadays a very beautiful imitation of tortoise shell is made of cows' horns.

## THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

### THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

#### CANADA.

Lord Strathcona has given \$100 to the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition. Thirty-five per cent. of the gas sold in Montreal is for cooking purposes.

At Peachland, B.C., an attempt is to be made to hatch ostriches and start an ostrich farm.

Major-General Hutton has asked the Mayor of Montreal to assist in a big celebration of the 24th.

The Hamilton Harbor Committee will ask the Government for \$150,000 for harbor improvements.

The Aldermen of Toronto by a large majority refused to vote for the abolition of the annual salary of \$300.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, denies that he is to succeed Lord Strathcona as High Commissioner to England.

The Montreal City Hospital is said to be in danger of collapsing. The inspector has recommended the removal of all the patients.

Dr. Good, writing from Dawson to a Winnipeg paper says there will be as much gold taken out of the Klondike this year as last.

In the Winnipeg police court a Galician who had purchased a neighbor's wife and had not got her, wanted to enter an action for obtaining money under false pretences.

Zoltan Van Rajes, a Hungarian, now at Ottawa, says he has concluded arrangements with the Interior Department by which 500 or 600 families of Huns will be brought out this year.

Winnipeg butchers have advanced prices of nearly all staple lines of meats. The advance will vary from 1c to 11-2c per pound on beef, veal and mutton, and is caused by the high price prevailing for cattle.

Mr. William Mackenzie, of Toronto, now in Winnipeg, stated that the Dauphin line would be extended this season, to Saskatchewan. As to the Rainy River extension, the contracts are being let from Marchand westward.

During the past year the Department of the Secretary of State issued 93 passports to Canadians journeying to foreign lands where such documents are required. Of this number 13 were for Chinese, who were naturalized British subjects.

For the past few seasons the activity of the smugglers doing business from the French Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon has been redoubled, and the officers of the preventive branch of the Customs Department anticipate a heavy season's work on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Montreal, the old board and officers were re-elected, and it was decided to spend in improvements of permanent way \$1,150,979, for additional station yard and terminal facilities at Montreal, Vancouver and other points, \$788,187 for the completion of air brake and automatic coupler equipment, \$305,010 for branch lines to mines in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass line, \$300,000, and rolling stock, \$1,000,000, as the traffic of the company may require.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. T. E. Ellis, M.P., chief whip of the British Liberal party, is dead.

Emperor William and family intend passing a lengthy holiday in England and Scotland.

The estate of the late John M. Cook, the head of Cook's tourist agency, is valued at £300,000.

It is said that the engagement of Princess Victoria of Wales to Prince George of Greece will shortly be announced.

The Queen has sent a message of sorrow and sympathy to the relatives of the passengers and crew who lost their lives by the sinking of the Channel steamboat Stella.

The British Government is interested in Dr. Felix Borton's airship, which it is claimed, will have a speed of 120 miles an hour. A finished ship will be constructed after supervision by the British military authorities.

The Governments of Great Britain and Russia have chosen Prof. Henning Matzen, professor of law at the University of Copenhagen, to arbitrate on Canada's claim for damages for the seizure of eight vessels by Russia in Behring Sea in 1892.

In a widespread and vehement public discussion of the iniquity of Sunday newspapers now proceeding in England, one prominent English ecclesiastic, the Dean of Norwich, stands alone in commending the movement. The Archbishop of Canterbury leads the clerical chorus of disapproval in a curt note. "In my opinion," says he, "the fewer Sunday newspapers there are the better."

#### UNITED STATES.

Rear Admiral C. C. Carpenter, retired, committed suicide in a sanatorium in Boston.

The American Government has appointed delegates to the Czar's disarmament congress.

The American casualties in the Philippines to date amount to: killed, 184; wounded, 976; total, 1,160.

Mr. Warren Leland, proprietor of the Windsor Hotel in New York, recently destroyed by fire, is dead.

Heavy chartering for the iron ore trade will result in a shortage of

vessels for the grain trade of the lakes.

The Standard Oil Company is said to have bought the copper interests in Montana of F. A. Heinze, formerly of Roseland.

The death of Dr. Wallace McMillan, of Dorchester, Mass., at the operating table was due to blood-poisoning from a scratch on the mouth by a finger nail.

A despatch from Juneau, Alaska, reports the murder of 16 prospectors from Kentucky, while asleep, by Indians, who wanted their kits and supplies.

The bodies of the 25 unidentified dead, taken from the ruins of the Windsor Hotel fire, have been placed in a vault at Kensico cemetery, at Yonkers, N.Y.

Lord Revelstoke, head of the banking house of Baring Bros. of London, is in New York on a visit to Cecil Baring, his brother, the New York agent of the firm.

At Chicago, on Saturday, Frank Linderman, a milkman, was standing in the office of the Illinois Savings Bank, with \$500 in his hand, when a stranger seized the roll and escaped with it.

A bill, which has passed the preliminary stages in the New York Senate, and stands for final passage, provides for the examination before sale, of all cattle entering New York State, from Canada or elsewhere.

Three thousand bricklayers are on strike at Philadelphia; 2,000 iron ore miners are out in Alabama; and the conductors and motormen of the trolley line, at Wheeling, Va., refuse to work until their grievances are attended to.

The Committee on Civic Parade for the Peace Jubilee to be held in Washington in May, has taken action looking to a formal recognition of Queen Victoria's birthday. The big parade is to be held on May 24, and a committee was appointed to wait on Ambassador Poncef and arrange for some appropriate ceremony.

## DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

What the Legislators of the Country are Doing at Ottawa.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

To confirm the agreement between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Hull Electric Company—Mr. Poupore

To amend the charter of the Huron and Erie Savings and Loan Society—Mr. Beattie.

Respecting the Columbia and Western Railway Company, of London, Ont.—Mr. Sproule.

Respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company—Mr. Prefontaine

Respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company.—Mr. Prior.

To incorporate the Northern Colonization Railway—Mr. Fortin.

Respecting the Atlas Company—Mr. Ingram.

To amend the Winding-up Act, R. S. C., chap. 129—Mr. Fortin.

To amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets—Mr. Beattie. Mr. Beattie explained that the bill introduced by him was intended to stop the practice of scalping tickets on the ferry between Windsor and Detroit.

The following private bills were read the second time:—

Respecting the Canada Accident Assurance Company—Mr. Monk.

To incorporate the Canada Plate Glass Co.—Mr. Monk.

To incorporate the Alaska-Yukon Railway Co.—Mr. Logan.

Respecting La Banque du Peuple—Mr. Prefontaine.

To incorporate the Northern Telegraph Co.—Mr. Bostock.

Respecting the Atlantic and North-West Railway Co.—Mr. Macpherson.

Respecting the Calvin Co., Limited.—Mr. Britton.

Respecting the Nesbit Academy, of Prince Albert.—Mr. Davis.

To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of Thomas Robertson.—Mr. Robertson.

To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of George L. Williams.—Mr. McCarthy.

Respecting the Home Life Association of Canada.—Mr. Cowan.

Respecting the Quebec Steamship Co.—Mr. Malouin.

Respecting the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway Co.—Mr. Champagne.

Respecting the Ottawa Electric Railway Co.—Mr. Belcourt.

### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Before proceeding with the orders of the day Mr. N.C. Wallace directed the attention of the Prime Minister to a fact to which Sir Charles Tupper had previously called attention, viz., the fact that the Auditor-General's report had not been presented to the House within one week of the commencement of the session, as required by the act. Parliament had now been in session nineteen or twenty days, and the House was not in possession of the report.

The Premier repeated the explanation which he gave the House a few days ago, when the leader of the Opposition called attention to the same matter, from which it appeared that the Auditor-General had reported that he had forwarded copy to the Queen's Printer on the 23rd of February, and that all the copy was now in the hands of the printer, and that the report, with the exception of the Mounted Police and Trade and Commerce branches, would be brought down on Thursday. The Queen's Printer, however, challenges the accuracy of the statement by the Auditor-General, and there is a conflict as to who is at fault in the case.

Hon. Mr. Wallace read the clause of the act requiring the presentation of the report within a specified time, and complained that the law had not been observed.

The Premier—The keeping of the act of Parliament is in the hands of the Auditor-General.

### SPECULATION IN DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Last session Mr. Parmelee, of Sheffield, introduced a bill "to prevent speculation in butter and cheese." It was referred to the Standing Committee of the House on Agriculture, with the result that it was decided to send copies of the bill to all persons interested in the sale and manufacture of those products, with a request that replies be returned stating whether the persons addressed were in favour of such a measure or not. During the recess Mr. Macleod, the secretary to the committee, sent out 2,591 of these circulars to cheese and butter dealers and manufacturers throughout Ontario and Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces.

Replies were received from 409, or about 16 per cent. From Ontario 213 replies were received, 158 being for the bill and 55 against. Of 175 replies received from Quebec, 150 were in favour of and 25 against the bill. Of 21 replies from the Maritime Provinces, 11 were for and 3 against the bill. Twenty cheese and butter boards or associations were heard from, 13 of them favouring and 7 opposing the proposed measure.

Several of the replies advocate the appointment of Government inspectors of cheese, and others urge the establishment of an official Board of Arbitration to decide disputes between cheese makers and buyers. It is complained by cheese-makers that the buyers frequently refuse to accept cheese at the price contracted for, alleging defective quality as an excuse, when, as the manufacturers claim, no such defects exist.

### NOTES.

Col. Gibson, of Hamilton says, that he had heard there is every likelihood of the Government proposing to increase the militia appropriations for the coming year by half a million dollars, making it \$2,000,000.

Prof. Prince and the members of the Lobster Commission, who have been holding sessions in the Maritime Provinces for several weeks, have reached Ottawa, and will immediately proceed to draw up their recommendations.

Mr. Taylor will move for several returns in connection with the St. Lawrence canals contracts.

Mr. McInnes gives notice of a resolution favouring the establishment of a mint in Canada.

### GENERAL NEWS.

Vessels with enormous catches of seals are arriving at St. John's, Nfld. Serious labor troubles and strikes are spreading in the manufacturing districts of Russia.

The village of Nabonne, near Yokohama, Japan, was burned and over 70 lives were lost.

The dowager Empress of China has issued a proclamation forbidding attacks on missionaries.

The Egyptian Government is reported to be contemplating the building of a railway from Khartoum to Suakim, via Kassala, so as to tap the Abyssinian trade.

German medical students in Berlin are showing their opposition to the admission of women to the medical profession by acting with brutality towards girl students.

Emin Pasha, senior surgeon to Sultan Abdul Hamid, has been banished for life. The pasha was betrayed by his wife as being implicated in a conspiracy against the Sultan's life.

The first street car in Europe to be propelled by liquid air was tested in Zurich Monday. If the reports of the experts are satisfactory the city will remodel the entire municipal traction system so as to employ the new motive force.

The 140 delegates present at the Stockholm Trades Congress, representing 20,000 workmen in various trades, decided that if the employers refused to better the condition of the men, a general strike would be ordered.

A tax of 25 francs has been levied by France upon unmarried natives of Madagascar, since January last. Women of 21 years of age who are not mothers of children are taxed 15 francs. Each legitimate child is subject to a tax of seven francs, and for every illegitimate child a tax of 50 francs is required.

The King of Siam has issued a decree that no children who are entirely naked will be henceforth allowed to play in the streets of Bangkok, and that every person over the age of ten must be clothed from the knee to the neck. It is also made a rule that all persons entering the palace must wear socks. Non-compliance with this order is to be punished by fine. The decree insists especially in girls and women wearing jackets, but as this is not the mode there it is anticipated that there will be considerable trouble with the fair ones.

### AN UNFORGIVING SON-IN-LAW.

Kinder funny circumstances connected with the elopement here last week, remarked the loquacious landlord of the tavern at South Squam, addressing the drummer for whom he had formed something of a liking. A feller who hadn't known her so very long ran away with Judge Tophill's oldest daughter, and a day or two later the old Judge sent this message to his new son-in-law:

All is forgiven. Come home.

To this the young feller telegraphed the reply:

All won't be forgiven till I have licked you for letting me elope with your daughter. You'd better not be at home when I come.