

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS FOR WHIG READERS

The department of agriculture states that the cost of producing a bushel of wheat in Saskatchewan is 55 cents, or 62 cents to put that wheat on board the cars at country points. This cost has increased, while the selling price of wheat has fallen from 81.2 cents to 66.125 cents per bushel. This leaves a wheat farmer a margin of 4.125 cents a bushel. How much of the consumer's dollar does this Canadian wheat grower receive, and how much of the product made by that consumer can he buy with his 4.125 cents? asks Rural New Yorker.

Keep Eggs Two Years.

One foreign firm in Shanghai use for their export egg trade a liquid preservative, which they state keeps the eggs perfectly fresh in the shell for a period of two years, and during that time are no different from new-laid eggs, says Gordon B. Johnson, Canadian Trade-commissioner at Yokohama. They pack them in casks in a manner that renders breakage liability practically nil, and are carried in the head of any steamer as ordinary cargo, and by rail in freight cars. In other cases, on reaching Vancouver or other coast ports the eggs are forwarded to their destination by express. The freight rate from Shanghai to Vancouver is \$5 (gold) per ton of 40 cubic feet, equivalent to 17 1/2 cents, as that the rate per case is 45 cents.

"As Chita is the largest egg-producing country in the world," he continues, "and the business of exporting this product is only in its infancy, it is probably safe to assert that the next few years will see a great development in this business with North America."

Live Stock in the West.

Two years ago the west had a great grain harvest, but because of the unfavorable weather during the early fall much of the grain was found to be in a damaged condition, said J. T. Gordon, of the Winnipeg firm of Gordon, Ironside & Fares, pork packers and cattle dealers. The result was that a great deal of it had to be disposed of at prices much under those estimated. The farmers saw that it would have been more profitable to feed the grain to animals, and there was a distinct movement toward acquiring stock.

This season that movement begins to show results. Already from thirty to thirty-five thousand hogs are being marketed weekly in the three Prairie provinces. These hogs for the portion of 1914 already expired have been worth to the farmers almost nine million dollars, and there is still room for much expansion. While the acquisition of cattle has been slower, Mr. Gordon is convinced that within a year or two there will be a very considerable export of cattle, and that the great barley crops of the west, as well,

such portions of the wheat crop as may be under grade, will come out not in the form of grain but in the form of cattle and hogs. Even in the matter of poultry and dairy products, which the west formerly imported quite freely, Mr. Gordon is convinced that there will be in a very few years a considerable export movement. Already poultry and eggs are being shipped out, and the expansion in the direction of cheese and butter is most marked. The chief advantage that Mr. Gordon sees to the farmers of the plains is that they will have money in their pockets all the year round, instead of waiting long periods for the proceeds of the grain crop. This will make them much more independent of credit and greatly alter the normal business situation in the west.

The Fly in the Dairy.

As an instance of the numbers of bacteria the common fly can carry, the following figures given by Professor Easton may be cited:—He caught 100 flies in a kitchen, put them in a pint of sterilized water and swabbed them about, and then examined the water, and found that he had raised such a number of bacteria of them that each fly averaged over 300,000. He next caught a similar number in the cow barn, and they averaged over 800,000 each, another 100 in the pig pen, and they averaged 1,000,000 each.

It may be said that when one goes into a factory or house and finds many flies, one is immediately justified in condemning the sanitary surroundings of such premises. One can appreciate the fact that in factories where flies abound it is next to impossible to keep them out of the milk and the seeding of the milk by the bacteria which they carry must be very appreciable. The evil deeds of the fly need emphasizing, as too many of us seem to think the fly necessary, if annoying, nuisance; but truth is, the fly serves no good purpose or serves a purpose which can be better performed in other ways.

Milk For Dairy Calf.

A series of tests was conducted by the Illinois Experiment Station to demonstrate the value of milk in calf raising and to ascertain the minimum amount of milk necessary to insure to the calves a satisfactory start in life. The first test was preliminary and indicated that during the first two weeks the calves must be fed a reasonable amount of milk containing about three per cent butterfat (this to be gradually changed to skim-milk), the calves receiving practically all of their nourishment up to eight weeks from the milk. Following this, a grain supplement may be fed. In the second test, in which the average amount of milk used was 153 pounds of whole milk and 435 pounds of skim-milk, the calves made an average gain of 65 pounds

during the first 70 days of their lives. During the third test more whole milk was fed, but it was found to be unnecessary. The cost of the milk fed each calf varied from \$1.61 to \$4.62, which is considered comparatively low.

Housing in Hot Weather.

The selection of the quarters that fowls are to occupy during the summer months requires the greatest care, since with the coming of the hot weather many matters call for immediate attention.

Chief among these is the question of overcrowding. This must be avoided at all times, but particularly in summer. There are many poultry yards in which large numbers of chickens have up to the present slept in croops and brooders, and they are now gathered together and crowded into a house that probably is only capable of comfortably holding half that number. No amount of ventilation can overcome this difficulty.

Open-fronted houses are now extensively used, and they certainly have many advantages, especially for summer use. When they are properly constructed they will hold many more inmates than will a house of the same dimensions which is built on the old lines.

There is nothing that hampers the growth of chickens and retards the progress of older birds to the same extent as that of breathing the impure air of an overcrowded house. If, therefore, health is to be maintained the sleeping quarters must be adequate in size for the number to be kept therein. Ventilation should be at the highest part of the house, so that the current of air is right above the heads of the inmates.

Points in Calf-Rearing.

Mr. Sandeman, a well-known English Aberdeen-Angus breeder, has recently (says the "Newcastle Journal") given some valuable points on calf-rearing. Though an advocate of suckling or whole milk breeding for a time, he attaches considerable importance to oats as soon as the calf is able to eat. Contrary to the usual practice of crushing, these are fed whole, with bran, for the first three or four months. They are then replaced by crushed oats. Mr. Sandeman's experience indicates that young calves digest oats more easily whole than crushed. Whole oats he also finds useful in preventing scour.

His calves have constant access to rock salts and lumps of soft chalk, both of which they lick freely. To the latter is attached the virtue of correcting excessive acidity of the stomach. Briefly, Mr. Sandeman's method is to leave the calf in a box with the cow for the first ten days. The cow is then taken away, and is brought to the calf, or the calf taken to her; three times a day for a further ten days. At the end of this period the calf is suckled twice a day till the two go out to pasture together, when the cow is in calf again.

When the calves are separated from the cows several are put together in a box with an ordinary dog collar and chain for an hour or so. The tying up prevents sucking each other and breaks the calves in to the halter at a later period. Mr. Sandeman emphasizes the importance of a good supply of whole milk during the first month. A large number of well-started calves, he finds, can subsequently be reared by one good milking cow.

Produce and Prices.

Kingston, June 20.—Market clerk reports the following:
Meat, beef, local, carcass, 12c.; carcass, cuts, 10c. to 22c.; mutton, 11c. to 14c.; live hogs, 8c.; dressed hogs, 12c.; veal, 8c. to 12c.; lamb by carcass, 8c.; western beef, 14c. to 15c., by carcass.
Dairy—Butter, creamery, 30c.; prints 27c.; eggs, 22c. to 25c.
Onions, 5c. bunch; parsley, 10c. a bunch.

J. A. McFarlane, Brook street, reports grain, flour and feed selling as follows:
Oats, 50c. per bushel; wheat, \$1 to \$1.10 per bushel; yellow feed corn, 30c. per bushel; bakers' flour, \$2.75 to \$2.90; farmers' flour, \$2.75 to \$2.90; Hungarian patent, \$3; oatmeal and rolled oats, \$3.50 bbl.; cornmeal, \$2 per cwt.; bran, \$25 per ton; shorts, \$25.50 ton; baled straw, \$9 per ton; potatoes, \$1.40 a bag; pressed straw, \$9 a ton; pressed hay, \$15.

The Dominion Fish company reports the following prices: Whitefish, 15c. lb.; pike, 12c. lb.; blue fish, 15c.; Chinook salmon, 30c. per pound; fresh haddock, 12c. per pound; steak cod, 12c.; salmon trout, 15c. per lb.; Saginaw salmon, 35c. per lb.; mackerel, 15c. per lb.

Just an Incident.

London Advertiser.
A well-known London police court character stood in front of one of London's leading hotels.

Addressing the crowd that gathered as he started speaking he called out: "No wonder you want to abolish the bars! Look at me!"

An Advertiser reporter accepted the invitation and looked at the man. What did he reveal? A great, powerful body, poorly clothed, with a button off his coat, and patches in his sleeves; a pair of dirty overalls and no socks on his feet.

"I'd be a good citizen to-day, men, if it wasn't for liquor," he shouted. "It's made my life useless. I'm just a scavenger now, and that's all I'm good for."

A man on the curb smiled and called aloud:
"Come and have a drink," he cried to the man. And the erstwhile temperance lecturer went in.

It was not the fact that the man had spoken for temperance that was the vital thing in the incident. It was the man's weakness for liquor when the test came. If there had been no bar there the man would not have fallen its victim again.

You may own acres and acres of land, but be kind enough to remember that your final portion will be just enough to cover you up.
Men dislike details, but women want the full particulars.

BAR BACKBONE OF CURSE

Rev. Father Minehan, of Toronto On The Open Bar--It Is The Drunkard's School.

Some people say that if you close the bars you will drive the liquor traffic into the homes. Well, we have heard Protestant ministers by the hundred condemn and denounce the bar, many of them life-long conservatives. Let us hear what the Rev. Father Minehan, of Toronto, has to say of the bar-rooms. He is a priest who is in as close touch with the lives of the toilers in Toronto as is possible for any one interested in social and moral reform work to be. Father Minehan says of the bar:

For my part I do not believe that it will be necessary to go to this extreme (speaking of prohibition). I believe that the spinal column of the liquor curse is the bar-room. Practically every drunkard with whom I have been brought in contact received his initiation in the bar-room and graduated from that seminary to drunkenness.

It may be said that if you close the bar-room a man may bring liquor home and enter upon a debauch in his own house. Yes, he can, but the number of men who will still at home is, according to my observation, very small, and their number will grow smaller as their nursery, the bar-room, is cut off, for they are mainly bar-room products. Rarely have I seen the police van drive up to the door of a home; whenever I have seen it on its gloomy errand it is generally going towards or coming from some bar-room. When I meet any member of my flock who has been on a spree, I almost invariably hear his confession: "Father, I did not intend to get drunk; but they pressed me to have a drink with them. I had to order my treat like the rest, and the moment we had two or three rounds of drink we were all ready to sing, 'We Won't Go Home Until Morning.' And sure enough some of us did not go home until morning, or until well on to noon; for we found ourselves figuring in the daily parade of drunks that interview the police magistrate."

Dr. Ross is in favor of keeping these bars open. He has never lifted his little finger to help the carrying of a license reduction by-law. Yet he claims credit for the government because of the number of times measures have been carried. They were carried, however, by the temperance people, not by the government. And the local option law is a liberal measure. All Whitney did was to add the three-fifths clause to it, resulting in keeping many bars open that would otherwise have been closed.

BIBLE READING IN SCHOOLS.

Protestant, Catholic and Jew Co-operate in United States.

Chicago, June 26.—"Co-operation by Protestant, Catholic and Jew in the matter of Bible reading in the public schools is an indication of the growing spirit of brotherly regard and tolerance," said Marion Lawrence, secretary of the International Sunday School Association at the session of the fourteenth triennial convention here yesterday. "This is a great step forward in the study and recognition of the Bible agreed upon by all in the aim of such co-operation."

A crucial problem before the present conference is the method to be adopted in advancing the Sunday school work, he said. The association has had under consideration for more than

two years a plan for a nation wide campaign but, while the Sunday school leaders are eager to push the work, there is a fear that the time is not opportune for a campaign with a body of speakers and organizers touring the country.

One million new Sunday school members a year, one million total abstinence pledge signers, one million pledged to definite community service, one million new church members a year recruited from the Sunday schools, and one hundred thousand new members of teacher training classes; these annual accretions are the principal goals before the association it was declared.

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AN' HE SAYS I CAN'T PROVE IT, AN' I'M PROVIN' IT."

Most of us think we don't like to have our children too militant, but when Jack puts it over Billy or Tom next door, Father usually swells up with pride, and Mother—while pretending to feel very badly,—gets Jack over in a corner and kisses him!

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