

THE FARM AND THE TURF

TO THE FARMERS.

Farmers and others interested in Agriculture are invited to contribute to The Farm and The Turf Section of The Guardian either by question, correspondence or otherwise on topics of general agricultural interest. Answers will be given by experts to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any articles that will in any way help to advance the welfare of Island Agriculture.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week, as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one P. M. Thursday. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

Over 250 applications have been received at the Department of Agriculture for Scholarships for the Short Course to be held at Charlottetown, January 27th, to February 8th. This course is a sufficient number of students for special classes in almost every subject. Arrangements are now being made for a sufficient staff. It is expected that this new move on the part of the Department of Agriculture will be fraught with far reaching results.

SHORT COURSE IN AGRICULTURE

I look upon the holding of a short course in agriculture as the best thing yet, that a paternal government has attempted in the interest of agricultural education. With such a school as this, where all the teachers are experts in their particular line and where object lessons are given the farmers as to the kind of animals that are wanted to produce cheaply, in quantity, and of the best quality, all the food products raised on the farm would expect as a result a distinct advance, in the matter of selecting, and handling our live stock more intelligently, and profitably in future. It is up to our farmers, and farmers as a whole, as many as possible, to take advantage of the opportunity to acquire all the information possible, as to the breeding, selection, and feeding of their farm stock, so that the quality may be improved each year.

As live stock is the principal branch of our husbandry, we must, in order to succeed with it, know how to get rid of the non-producers and get the best average production of our herds, to the point where we are assured that each, and every animal is giving us a good profit over the cost of their keep. This is where knowledge, and skill, count in dollars to the stockman. Without the knowledge and skill he had better sell his products in a raw state. It requires much skill this matter of turning the raw products of the farm into choice butter, cheese, meats, and eggs, at a profit, but it is the only scientific and proper course to follow in agriculture, in order to keep up the fertility of our farms. Any other practice would class us as "soil robbers" rather than farmers.

Those who attend the short course will have opportunity to get started along this line. We take education along these lines most readily by object lessons, and here will be a great opportunity. With high class stockmen to point out the good qualities and also the failings of the specimens, the farmer will get a pretty good idea of the ideal animal required for the profitable production of milk as well as the animal that will produce best most cheaply and also of the type of horse that the market demands.

Profitable, well balanced ration the stockman will get hints as to the best crops to grow and how to balance up a ration from them that will keep the animal up to its full capacity in turning the raw material into human food at a good profit. This is an exceedingly important lesson to learn and failure to learn it means unprofitable stock and disaster to the farmer.

Another exceedingly important matter that will be on the program will be the keeping of poultry

for profit. This business with us is assuming large proportions and would be perhaps the most profitable part of our business if it were conducted properly. Caring for our eggs and getting them to market in good condition, is a matter we want education on. Our present system is had and wasteful, and prevents getting the profit from our poultry we should get. Our eggs are too old before they reach the consumer—so old indeed that a large number of them are unfit for food. We want to find out how to get them to market while they can still be classed as fresh. Then the extra price we would receive would give us a good profit. We trust that our poultry expert will be able to help us in this matter and that the teaching in the poultry class will result in some scheme to better our poultry trade.

These are some of the important matters that will be discussed with the farmers at the agricultural classes this winter. The program is so varied that no matter what line of farming one is following he will be well repaid for his time in attending the course.

What we, as farmers, want to learn is the science of production from the seed we plant in the soil to the finished product, which goes on the table and sustains the life of the human family. To help to teach us this the short course has become established; and it is up to the farmers to attend—and in the case of the older ones to send their boys—to take advantage of the course, and by so doing get enthused in their business by getting visions of a scientific and more profitable system of agriculture.

If the boys attend these courses I believe it will wake them up to the dignity, as well as the possibilities, of agriculture as a life business, and will tend to keep many of our boys home, who otherwise might wander away to seek employment and be lost to our province.

WALTER SIMPSON.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The following table gives the 1912 wheat production of all the countries which have so far made their official reports to the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, including the information in a cablegram received on Dec. 21—

	1912	1911
	Tbs. of bushels	Tbs. of bushels
Belgium	15,278	14,617
Bulgaria	68,750	72,008
Denmark	2,744	2,469
Spain	112,416	148,497
France	335,039	322,242
England, Wales & Ireland	55,070	61,612
Hungary	184,367	190,770
Italy	165,721	192,397
Luxembourg	664	626
Roumania	89,413	95,657
Russian Empire	727,043	509,503
Switzerland	3,278	2,524
Canada	295,685	215,851
United States	730,267	621,338
India	366,230	374,845
Japan	24,551	24,551
Egypt	28,948	28,948
Tunis	8,226	8,226
Norway	270	270
Netherlands	5,566	5,566
Algeria	27,172	36,596
Sweden	6,748	8,234
Australia	79,079	71,867
Germany	160,227	149,412
Austria	52,973	58,881
Total	3,447,373	3,230,411

In the above table the estimates for Australia, Germany and Austria are given for the first time. The production of oats in Germany is 552,470, 000 bushels against 499,548,000 last year; in Austria 157,574,000 against 147,187,000. Barley in Germany 159,926,000 against 145,133,000 last year; Austria 78,384,000 against 74,415,000. The production of sugar beet in the countries so far reported to the Institute is 135.9 per cent. of that of the same countries last year; of cotton 96.2 per cent.

G. K. DOHERTY, Canadian Commissioner.

PRIZE WINNING FARMS.

It is to be regretted that there were no few entries this year in the Agriculture Merit Competitions. The gram will be the keeping of poultry

Prize County; White Russian, 5 17.7 pounds of pork, or a difference of 5.8 pounds in favor of the lot with sweet skim milk, sour skim milk. Incidentally, the experiment indicated that pigs which were given corn meal for a self feeder made larger gains than those which were fed shelled corn, but required more corn to make a pound of gain, and when the cost of grinding was taken into consideration, it was not found profitable under present prices.

WINTER CATTLE RATIONS.

The Department of Agriculture is frequently asked for a good winter ration for dairy cattle. The following rations are fed by some of our best breeders.

- W. C., North Wiltshire, 5 lbs oats, 1 lb bran, 1 lb oilcake, 5 lbs straw, 45 lbs turnips.
- J. R., East Royalty, 4 lbs oats, 4 lbs bran, 2 lbs oilcake, 50 lbs turnips, 10 lbs hay, 5 lbs straw.
- J. W. L., North Bedouque, R. R. No. 4, Summerside, 60 lbs turnips, 12 lbs green feet (oats and peas cut green and dried for hay) 5 lbs hay, 1 lb oilcake, 1 lb bran, 1 lb middlings.
- R. P. B., Lower Freetown, 1 lb bran, 3 lbs oats, 8 lbs hay, 10 lbs straw, 30 lbs turnips.
- G. A., Lower Montague, 10 lbs oats, 3 lbs cottonseed, 40 lbs turnips, 12 lbs hay, 5 lbs straw.
- R. W. B., Cardigan, 4 lbs oats, 2 lbs bran, 2 lbs shorts, 2 lbs oilcake, 1 lb cottonseed, 60 lbs turnips, 11 lbs clover hay.
- W. L. Victoria, 24 lbs oats, 24 lbs bran, 5 lbs middlings, 5 lbs oilcake, 60 lbs turnips, 8 lbs timothy hay.
- A. McR., East Royalty, 2 lbs oats, 6 lbs bran, 1 lb oilcake, 3 lbs cottonseed, 30 lbs ensilage, 30 lbs turnips, 8 lbs hay, 5 lbs straw.
- S. R. C., Freetown, 3 lbs oats, 1 lb bran, 3 lbs oilmeal, 30 lbs turnips, 8 lbs oats and peas hay, 5 lbs hay and 5 lbs straw.
- H. C., Victoria, 2 lbs oil cake, 2 lbs middlings, 4 lbs oats, 80 lbs turnips, all the straw the cow will eat.
- F. C., Victoria, 3 lbs oil cake, 2 lbs bran, and middlings, 5 lbs oats, 30 lbs turnips, 30 lbs ensilage, 8 lbs hay, 8 lbs straw.

LIVE STOCK AND FERTILITY.

That fertility can be not only maintained, but enhanced, by the wise use of live stock is a fact beyond dispute. It has been the experience of centuries of farmers. Moreover, soil fertility is more easily maintained by the use of live stock than by any other method. Live stock farming is, therefore, generally regarded, as the most fundamental and permanent of all the systems of agriculture.

But a different question is in the minds of many farmers. Can fertility be maintained without the use of live stock, and if so, under what conditions, and by what means? The question has been forced on so many farmers by the high price of both grain and roughage and the correspondingly low price of many animal products, that it has been an actual loss.

The effect of a cash crop system of farming is commonly thought to be to exhaust soil fertility, but this is not so. It has been shown again and again that soil fertility can be maintained in a cash crop system by the use of green manure crops and fertilizers and by a proper rotation of crops. Unfortunately for the argument, however, it is a fact that fertility has not usually been maintained in cash crop systems, because of poor tillage and a neglect of these essential factors. Cotton and tobacco farming are the most notorious examples of the running down of soil fertility in a cash crop system. These afford good base for the popular idea that the keeping of live stock is the only way in which soil fertility can be maintained. While it is undoubtedly true that live stock afford the best means for maintaining soil fertility under average conditions, yet it is also true that, with proper rotations and a wise use of cover and green manure crops and of commercial fertilizers, fertility can not only be maintained, but increased, where conditions are such as to make this plan most economic and advisable.

The question is, in our opinion, largely an economic one, tempered by one's available capital, his skill and his liking for the business. If a cash crop system offers the largest net returns from one's land, after fertility has been provided for, we believe that a cash crop system rather than a live stock system should be adopted. The best farming should accomplish something besides the maintenance of fertility. It should be financially profitable as well.

CORN AND MILK FOR PIGS.

The South Dakota experiment station, has recently issued a bulletin which contains the report of two years' experiments in feeding corn with sweet skim milk, sour skim milk and buttermilk to pigs weighing from 80 to 100 pounds. The result of the experiment indicates that there is no practical difference between sweet skim milk, sour skim milk and buttermilk when fed to pigs in connection with corn, and the proportion found to be most profitable was two and one-half to three pounds of milk to one pound of shelled corn. On a ration of this kind, pigs weighing from 80 to 1000 pounds made an average gain of 0.55 pounds daily during the feeding period of sixty two days, and the pigs which received milk gained 32.42 more than did those receiving shelled corn and water. On the ration of shelled corn and water it is found that the pigs gained at the rate of 11.9 pounds for each bushel of shelled corn, but when an average of 158 pounds of milk was fed with each bushel of shelled corn, the gain was

17.7 pounds of pork, or a difference of 5.8 pounds in favor of the lot with sweet skim milk, sour skim milk. Incidentally, the experiment indicated that pigs which were given corn meal for a self feeder made larger gains than those which were fed shelled corn, but required more corn to make a pound of gain, and when the cost of grinding was taken into consideration, it was not found profitable under present prices.

HOGS!

Buffalo hog receipts, last week, 4, 260 head; market active; 1 1/2 cts. and Yorkshire, 87 to 97.50; rough, 67 to 68.50.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.

Montreal market was quoted last week as steady with quotations at \$4.60 to \$5.00 for sheep and \$7.90 to \$7.50 for lambs. Toronto sheep and lambs fairly active; lambs, \$6.40 to \$6.85.

Chicago sheep market has gained some of its former strength, and the market is steady with native sheep from \$3.90 to \$5.25; lambs, native, \$5.35 to \$8.10; western, \$6.10 to \$8.15. Buffalo, lambs, ewes, and mixed sheep, 2c lower, others steady; lambs, \$4.50 to \$8.35; a few at \$8.40; ewes, \$2.50 to \$4.25; sheep mixed, \$3 to \$3.50.

BUTCHERS' CATTLE.

Chicago had steady markets last week with beefs ranging from \$3.45 to \$3.75. Western steers, \$4.40 to \$5.65; Texas steers, \$5.25 to \$7.50; demand for prime cattle very strong, but receipts of real good stuff curtailed. Values in the states are good, and have been for some time past, and the future prospects are good.

Buffalo cattle receipts, 550 head; market slow; prime steers, 23.75 to 33.75; butchers' grade, 15 to 17.25.

Winnipeg prices still remain the same, best steers and butchers being quoted at \$7. Calgary is more active at an average price on the best stuff of \$6.25 per cwt.

EGGS AND POULTRY.

Wholesale, cold storage eggs were quoted last week from 21c to 28c at Toronto; fresh eggs, 31c to 33c; strictly new laid, 45c to 50c.

In Montreal fresh eggs are quoted at 55c per dozen; select 31c to 32c; Winnipeg eggs, strictly fresh at 35c to 40c; cold storage, 25c.

Turkeys were quoted at 21c at Toronto, being better than the previous week by 4c; Winnipeg poultry about the same, Montreal likewise. Turkeys are in good demand, but the supply seems to be adequate to meet the demand.

There is a good demand for new laid eggs at 55c per dozen, at Montreal, but there are very few of them better markets. The receipts from the country continue unusually light.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Wholesale butter prices show no change, in upper Province centres. Receipts are not heavy of the better grades; creamery rolls, per lb., 32c to 33c; creamery solids, 30c to 31c; separator dairy, 28c to 30c. Cheese steady and unchanged at last week's figures.

Dairy butter is in small supply—roll butter in boxes and half barrels have changed hands at 25c to 26c, as to quality. Some choice prints brought from 27c to 28c.

Winnipeg butter quotations are on creamery prints at from 35c to 37c; separator bricks, 29c to 30c. Calgary 33c to 34c. Cheese unchanged.

The firmer feeling of cheese has been well maintained, and the lower priced cheese has been nearly all worked off. Some 500 boxes finest Western O-headers realized 12 1/2c to 13 1/2c, half white and colored in the British market.

HORSE NOTES.

Baden 2,054 by Bingara dam Kaldale by Kreglin was the highest priced horse sold in the world last year. He fetched \$25,000.

A three year old pacer recently got a mile record of 2:10 1/2, in California with four weeks preparation. This is probably a record.

Bingara was the greatest sire of money winners last year placing \$50,000 to credit. Walnut Hall was the leading sire of new performers being credited with 23.

A meeting of persons interested in keeping a speedway clear on the ice during the winter will shortly be called. It should be possible to keep it in order the entire winter.

Breeding of light harness horses should be heavy this year as the demand for good drivers is ahead of the supply. A trace and speed jumps the price and if one has a race prospect he can get almost any figure.

J. C. Ferguson's promising Bonita colt will winter in this city. Since coming into "Jim's" hands a transformation has taken place in the gelding. He will be one of the campaigners from the East this year.

George Crescous 2,241, has quite recovered from the injuries he sustained in Halifax—due to a defective stall. Many will look forward to seeing the "monarch of the home stretch" perform on our tracks the coming summer.

Souris East will be a factor in the racing game this season. Some of its most progressive citizens have taken hold of the old trotting track and are preparing to fit it up in good style and will give a meet in July or August with purses good enough to draw the best horses in the province.

Europe is getting the light harness horse fever and is becoming one of the most valuable markets for the American trotting horse. Several excellent sires have recently found their way across the "pond"—so many in fact that the American turf journals are becoming somewhat alarmed for the future breeding interests of the United States.

It will be of interest to breeders of draft horses in this province to know that at a sale of imported clydesdale fillies held recently at Hamilton, Ont., the highest price of the sale \$510 was obtained for a yearling filly by the great horse "Baron Kelvin." Imported last spring by John Richardson, Biddford. It is also worthy of mention that an imported yearling son of "Baron Kelvin" held the championship of Canada for colts of that age last year and was sold at a high figure to go to the west.

CHINESE Y.M.C.A.

TORONTO, January 2.—The Chinese here have bought land to build a three story Y. W. C. A. building.

LETTER TO THE FARMER

The business of farming is in the most critical period of its development.

Both the working farmer and the investor in farm lands and securities are seriously studying how to turn

P. E. I. RAILWAY

Commencing on December 27th, 1912, the trains of this Railway will run as follows:

READ DOWN				READ UP			
Mon.	Tues.	Daily	Daily	STATIONS	Daily	Daily	Mon.
7:11	8:23	except	except		except	except	Wed.
5:11	6:23	Sat.	Sat.		Sun.	Sun.	Fri.
P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	A. M.		A. M.	P. M.	A. M.
4:07	2:54	9:15	7:15	Lv. O'Connell Ar	8:15	10:20	10:30
4:49	3:22	9:07	7:07	Hunter River	8:22	10:25	10:37
	3:59	8:51	6:51	Emerald	8:29	10:32	10:44
	4:30	8:32	6:32	Port Hope	8:36	10:39	10:51
	5:00	8:13	6:13	Ar Summerside Ar	8:43	10:46	11:00
	5:30	7:54	5:54	Port Hope	8:50	10:53	11:07
	6:00	7:35	5:25	Lv. Summerside Ar	8:57	10:60	11:14
	6:30	7:16	5:06	Port Hope	9:04	10:67	11:21
	7:00	6:57	4:47	Lv. Summerside Ar	9:11	10:74	11:28
	7:30	6:38	4:28	Port Hope	9:18	10:81	11:35
	8:00	6:19	4:09	Lv. Summerside Ar	9:25	10:88	11:42
	8:30	6:00	3:50	Port Hope	9:32	10:95	11:49
	9:00	5:41	3:31	Lv. Summerside Ar	9:39	11:02	11:56
	9:30	5:22	3:12	Port Hope	9:46	11:09	12:03
	10:00	5:03	2:53	Lv. Summerside Ar	9:53	11:16	12:10
	10:30	4:44	2:34	Port Hope	10:00	11:23	12:17
	11:00	4:25	2:15	Lv. Summerside Ar	10:07	11:30	12:24
	11:30	4:06	1:56	Port Hope	10:14	11:37	12:31
	12:00	3:47	1:37	Lv. Summerside Ar	10:21	11:44	12:38
	12:30	3:28	1:18	Port Hope	10:28	11:51	12:45
	1:00	3:09	0:59	Lv. Summerside Ar	10:35	11:58	12:52
	1:30	2:50	0:40	Port Hope	10:42	12:05	12:59
	2:00	2:31	0:21	Lv. Summerside Ar	10:49	12:12	1:06
	2:30	2:12	0:02	Port Hope	10:56	12:19	1:13
	3:00	1:53	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	11:03	12:26	1:20
	3:30	1:34	0:00	Port Hope	11:10	12:33	1:27
	4:00	1:15	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	11:17	12:40	1:34
	4:30	0:56	0:00	Port Hope	11:24	12:47	1:41
	5:00	0:37	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	11:31	12:54	1:48
	5:30	0:18	0:00	Port Hope	11:38	13:01	1:55
	6:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	11:45	13:08	2:02
	6:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	11:52	13:15	2:09
	7:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	11:59	13:22	2:16
	7:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	12:06	13:29	2:23
	8:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	12:13	13:36	2:30
	8:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	12:20	13:43	2:37
	9:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	12:27	13:50	2:44
	9:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	12:34	13:57	2:51
	10:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	12:41	14:04	2:58
	10:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	12:48	14:11	3:05
	11:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	12:55	14:18	3:12
	11:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	13:02	14:25	3:19
	12:00	0:00	0:00	Lv. Summerside Ar	13:09	14:32	3:26
	12:30	0:00	0:00	Port Hope	13:16	14:39	3:33
	1:00	0:00					