

**FARM AND DAIRY.**

This column is devoted to agricultural subjects, and the editors will be grateful to farmers if they will use it for the intelligent discussion of matters pertaining to their important calling.

**Argentine Wheat.**

Few, even of the best informed of our people, have a thorough and precise knowledge of the extent to which the growing volume of Argentine exports has been cutting into the American wheat trade. The great majority among us, in fact, would doubtless be fairly startled to learn that, omitting all consideration of flour, the wheat exports of Argentine are already actually greater than those of the United States. That is the fact, however, as the latest statistics on the subject conclusively show. Thus in February last our wheat exports were 4,000,969 bushels, those of Argentina, 4,320,000 bushels; in March we exported 6,535,818 bushels, Argentina, 9,128,000 bushels; in April American exports were 5,078,346 bushels, Argentina, 9,392,000 bushels. Nor is the whole story told in these figures. Not only has Argentina already surpassed us as purveyors of wheat to Europe, but she has attained to her present superiority by strides which, if kept up, must presently leave us very far behind.

The course of the export grain trade of the two countries is an interesting study in comparison. Our exports of wheat have been distressingly falling off during the very time when the Argentine have been marvelously increasing. In February, 1894, American exports were less than half what they were in February, 1893; in March the loss was about 10 per cent, in April about 22 per cent. On the other hand, Argentine exports in February showed a gain of 16 per cent, in March they more than doubled and in April the gain was 86 per cent. Plainly the growth of the grain trade of the South American Republic is nothing short of marvelous. The United Kingdom alone, according to the recent statement of a well known English reporter, is now taking 8,000,000 bushels a month from a country which a year ago sent out only 4,400,000 bushels, and which a few years ago sent abroad no wheat at all. When to these portentous facts it is added that, notwithstanding the large quantities already shipped, Argentina still has left of this year's crop at least 40,000,000 bushels for export, we begin to get some idea of the meaning, for our farmers and for all of us, of this new competition.

We can begin to understand better, too, why it is that the total wheat exports from this country for the ten months ending with April were only 79,073,281 bushels, against 97,165,047 bushels for the corresponding ten months of the preceding year. We need not stop now to enquire just why Argentina gets the better of us in this trade; the fact should be fully appreciated first. And the fact is that Argentina exports are likely to increase still more in the near future. They would increase, no doubt under natural conditions; but they will be specially stimulated by the present peculiar situation in that country. The payment of interest on the foreign national debt and on the English capital invested in private enterprises is taking \$20,000,000 a year out of Buenos Ayres, and the government is at the same time continually issuing new paper notes. The circulation, already excessive, is thus becoming more valueless and gold premium has risen to 325. This decline in the purchasing power of the currency tends, of course, both to check imports and to increase the volume of exports. Paying the cost or production in depreciated paper at home and selling the product abroad for gold is always a rather profitable operation and the Argentines are likely to try to make the most of the opportunity while it lasts.—*Providence Journal.*

**Maintain the Soil.**

In the annual report of the Experimental Farms, the director, Prof. Saunders, says that the maintenance of the fertility of the soil, is the chief aim of all good farming and on it a continuance of good crops mainly depends. In the soil a large store of fertility has been laid up for man's use, which may be regarded as a savings bank reserve for the farmer, and by judicious treatment may be prodigally wasted. All soils are the result of the disintegration of rocks by force of nature and the intermixture therewith of organic matter, resulting from the decay of animal vegetable remains. They vary much in fertility, partly owing to difference in composition of the rocks from which they have been formed, partly to the variable proportion of organic matter they contain, and partly to their mechanical condition and texture. These variations are commonly distinguished by special terms such as clayey, loamy, sandy or gravelly soils, indicating the materials which form the larger proportion of their bulk. The productiveness of a soil also depends partly on its power of holding water and of drawing supplies of moisture from below. Water which in the soil is usually more or less charged with carbonic acid gas is the universal solvent which nature employs to convey food to the rootlets of plants. A good loamy soil will hold much more moisture than either clay or sand and retain it longer, and among the main advantages resulting from a thorough working of the soil are the prevention of loss of water by lessening rapid and excessive evaporation during the summer, also the opening of it and making it more porous, so that its power of retaining moisture may be increased and its particles at the same time exposed to the beneficial action of air and frost. All soils contain more or less plant food in a soluble form which is immediately available for the use of growing plants—on the other hand there is always a large proportion of the elements of fertility, the immediate use of which the farmer cannot command, and which can only be made available gradually through the influences referred to.

**Future of Mutton Industry.**

Says an exchange: If there is one feature of farm life that gives promise of a most excellent and most promising future it is that of the mutton industry. To this there is no possibility of damage for a score of years to come unless it is done by those who are the most interested in promoting it. There is no more luscious or tasteful meat known to man, and we except none, than the well fed early mutton; and the American people are very fast finding it out. They will pay more for it as the years pass than less, but it must be as described—well fed, young, tender and luscious.

**From London Town.**

There is no foundation for the report, which has been circulated all over Europe, that a marriage is contemplated between the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch, the youngest brother of the czar and one of the daughters of the Prince of Wales. The Grand Duke Paul, who is as unpopular in Russia as his brother, Sergius (the husband of Princess Elizabeth of Hesse), is a widower, his first wife having been the daughter of the King and Queen of the Hellenes, who only survived her marriage for about a year. The Grand Duke Paul has actually never seen the daughters of the Prince of Wales, as they were away in Denmark when he came to England last autumn on a visit to the queen at Balmoral, together with the Grand Duke and Duchess Sergius. The report of the impending betrothal of the Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovitch to Princess Helen d'Orleans is another fabrication, and still more absurd is the story that the Archduke Francis Ferdinand is coming to England in search of a wife, for the Hapsburg family require every member of the great clan to marry a Roman Catholic, and it is well known that the archduke has for years been devotedly attached to the Archduchess Stephanie, the widow of the Crown Prince Rudolph.

Lady Shelley has deposited some interesting relics of the poet Shelley in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The articles include a watch and chain, with seals attached, which belonged to the poet and his second wife, Mary Woolstonecraft Shelley. There is also a portrait of the latter painted after her death, and a case containing locks of the hair of both the poet and his wife. A valuable collection of Shelley manuscripts was deposited at the Bodleian in June last.

The cremation of the body of Edmund Yates adds another to the list of notable persons whose remains have been so disposed of. That list includes Baron and Lady Huddleston, Lord and Lady Braniwell, the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Northesk, A. W. Kingslake, James Beal and Mr. Wardle, ex-M. P.

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**LANDEAU.**

**REV. FINLOW ALEXANDER**

Has Grave Doubts as to Where the True Church is, and Takes Time to Consider.

Rev. Finlow Alexander, for many years sub-dean of the Anglican Cathedral, Fredericton, has, with his own acquiescence, been suspended by the Bishop of Fredericton, until such time as he may set at rest in his mind the question of the respective status of the English and Roman Catholic churches. It was at first stated in the daily papers that he had become a Roman Catholic, but later reports are to the effect that his mind is not yet made up. His position is best explained in a letter written by himself to St. John Sun, and which is here given.

To the Editor of the Sun:

STR.—As I have been waited on this evening by one of your reporters who has signified to me your wish that I should give you a few facts in relation to that with which my name is at this time so unpleasantly prominent, I gladly seize the opportunity of placing before the public the following short but plain statement:

For many years past convictions of the truth of the claims of the Church of Rome have strongly possessed me, and have as many times until now been put away. These have been again aroused, and now so strongly that I cannot but believe them, unless I shall discover solid reasons to the contrary, to be the very voice of God speaking and pleading with me. These have been fully known to the lord bishop of the diocese of Fredericton, and that has caused him with my entire assent to suspend my ministrations in the Church of England until such time as, if ever, these religious difficulties shall be removed. For his lordship's great kindness to me in this time of my trouble I can never feel sufficiently grateful.

Of my dear friend Prof. Stockley, as his name has been mixed up with this matter in the public papers, I will say a single word. It has been my great privilege to have him with me for several months past, and to minister to him, as well as I was able, during a time of deep affliction. Mr. Stockley is not and never has been a Romanist, but has long experienced religious difficulties similar to my own. We have talked over these together, as was natural, but it is wholly untrue to attribute to his influence my present uncertainty. As I have before said, my religious doubts have been the growth of years, and for them I hold myself wholly responsible.

I must ask you to forgive this very imperfectly written note, for your reporter, though very patient, has compelled me to write against time.

I am, obediently yours,

FINLOW ALEXANDER.

Mr. Alexander went to St. John immediately after his suspension to consult with Rev. J. M. Davenport, of the Church of St. John Baptist.

**Western Experience.**

It is not the grip. We are simply the victim of an over-tired feeling. We had thirteen callers today. Twelve of them greeted us with the slightly monotonous, but highly cheerful, salutation of—"Well, old man, what's the news?" The last was a good Samaritan, one who had a heart fit to beat beneath the royal purple. He entered quite tumultuously, lifted our office cat by the tail from a pile of exchanges, inverted the well-filled cuspidor with the toe of his boot, and giving us a whack on the back that woke up the city marshal in a building three blocks away, said in broken tones: "Say, old Sox, come out and take a nip."—*Red Lodge New Idea.*

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**The Churches.**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES.—Rev. Canon Neales, Rector.

Christ Church (Parish Church).—Services at 3 p. m. on first, fourth and fifth Sunday and at 11 a. m. on the second and third Sundays in the month. The Holy Communion on second Sunday. Litany every alternate Wednesday 7.30 p. m.

St. Luke's.—Service every Sunday 11 a. m. and 7.00 p. m. The Holy Communion at 11 a. m. every first Sunday, and at 8 a. m. every third and fifth Sunday in the month, and on Holy Days at 10 a. m. Friday service 7.30 p. m. Sunday School 2.30 p. m.

St. Peter's (Jacksonville).—Service at 11 a. m. on the first, fourth and fifth Sundays, and at 3 p. m. on the second and third Sundays in each month. The Holy Communion at 11 a. m. the fourth Sunday in each month.

Service at Upper Woodstock every first and third Thursday at 7.30, at Northampton every fourth Thursday.

St. GERTRUDE'S (R. C.) CHURCH.—Rev. Fr. Chapman, pastor.—Masses on Sunday at 9 and 11 a. m. On Holy Days at 8 and 10 a. m. Sunday School 2.15 and Vespers 7.00 p. m.; Week-days Mass, 7.30 a. m.

St. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN.—Sunday Services: Preaching 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday School and Pastor's Bible Class 2.30 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

ADVENTIST, MAPLE ST.—Elder J. Denton, pastor. Sunday services: Prayer meeting at 10.00 a. m.; Sunday School, at 11 a. m.; Preaching, at 3 and 7 p. m.; prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7.30 o'clock. All seats are free; strangers welcome.

BAPTIST, ALBERT ST.—Rev. A. F. Baker, pastor. Sabbath services: prayer meeting, 10.30 and preaching at 11 a. m.; Sabbath school and pastor's Bible class at 2.30 and preaching at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday, 8 p. m. Monthly conference on Friday preceding first Sabbath of each month. Seats free, strangers made welcome. Young Peoples Union Association meets every Monday evening.

REFORMED BAPTIST, MAIN ST.—Rev. A. H. Trafton, pastor. Services as follows: Prayer meeting every Sabbath at 10 a. m.; Sabbath school 2.30 p. m. Preaching every Sabbath at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday and Friday evenings of each week.

METHODIST.—Rev. Thos. Marshall, pastor.—Sabbath services: preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sabbath school 2.30 p. m.; class meeting immediately after Sunday morning service; class meeting for ladies Wednesday evening at 7.15, and Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock; prayer meeting, Wednesday evening at 8; Seats free.

F. C. BAPTIST.—Rev. C. T. Phillips, pastor.—Sabbath service: prayer meeting at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.; conference meeting last Wednesday evening in every month; communion, first Sabbath in every month; Sabbath school 3 p. m.; prayer meeting Wednesday evening at 7.30 p. m.; Bible readings Friday evening; missionary meeting first Wednesday in every month. Seats free.

**Fraternalities.**

F. & A. M., Woodstock Lodge, No. 11.—Regular meetings held in Masonic Hall the first Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren are made welcome.

A. O. H., Woodstock Division, No. 1.—Meets in their rooms in McDonough's Brick Block, on the first and third Wednesdays in each month, commencing at 8 o'clock p. m.

Black Knights of Ireland, King Preceptory.—Meets in the L. O. L., No. 38, Hall on the first and third Friday evenings of each month.

Woodstock Hose Company, No. 1.—Meets first Monday of each month at 7.30 p. m.

Wellington Hose Company, No. 2.—Meets the 2nd Monday in each month.

Regular weekly meeting of the W. C. T. U. on Tuesday at 3 o'clock, p. m., in their hall. First Thursday of every month being the Union Prayer Meeting. All women cordially invited to attend.

Regular meeting of the "Y" in W. C. T. U. Hall every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.

The Band of Hope meets in W. C. T. U. Hall every Thursday at 4 p. m.

B. of L. E., Missing Link Division, 341.—Meets first and third Saturdays of each month in K. of P. Hall, King street.

Royal Arch Masons.—Woodstock Chapter G. R. of N. B.—Regular convocations held in Masonic Hall, the third Thursday in each month at 8 o'clock, p. m. Visiting companions always welcome.

Uniform Rank, K. of P.—Meets in the K. of P. Hall, first and third Tuesdays in each month.

K. of P., Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 7.—Meets in Castle Hall, King Street, every Monday evening at 8 o'clock.

I. O. F., Court Regina, No. 652.—Meets at K. of P. Hall, King street.

I. O. G. T., Woodstock Lodge, No. 131.—Meets every Monday evening at 7.30 o'clock, in the W. C. T. U. Hall.

S. of T., Campbell Division, No. 299.—Meets in W. C. T. U. Hall every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Emerald Council, No. 64; R. T. of T.—Meets every Thursday evening in the R. T. of T. Hall.

I. O. O. F., Carleton Lodge, No. 41.—Meets every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, in Odd Fellows Hall, Main street.

I. O. O. F., Meductic Encampment, No. 17.—Meets on second Monday of every month at 8 p. m. in Odd Fellows Hall.

L. O. A., Woodstock Lodge, No. 38.—Meets first Tuesday of each month at 8 p. m.

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