

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL.

### Further Feeding Tests Suggested.

Widespread interest seems to have been awakened among cattle feeders over the report published in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for April 1st of the comparative test carried on at the farm of Hon. Wm. Mulock, in York Co., Ont., between fattening steers (dehorned) loose in a large pen or stall and others tied in the ordinary way. In this connection the practical letter in this issue from Mr. W. C. Edwards, M. P., to which we gladly give space, is a valuable contribution on the subject, as on his farm at Rockland over 100 steers are wintered each year upon that very plan. The remarkable gains reported in favor of feeding steers loose in the Mulock trial indicate the desirability of having further tests made either privately or at some of the experimental farms. The incidental advantages referred to in Mr. Edwards' letter are decidedly important, even though further investigation did not disclose as large comparative gains as reported from the Mulock feeding stables. Since the foregoing was written Messrs. A. & D. Brown, successful feeders as well as breeders of Shorthorns, send us an epitome of their seven years' experience, which is that they could not be persuaded to return to the old plan.

### The Agricultural College Farm.

Principal Mills, of the Ontario Agricultural College, in a letter published in this issue defends the management of that institution against the attacks made upon it in the Legislature during the late session.

Fair criticism of the management of public institutions is all right in its place, and the Legislature is the proper place to demand explanations and seek for information as to the expenditure of public moneys and the returns which are made for such expenditures, but it should be borne in mind that the officials of the Experimental Farm are only human and do not claim to be infallible; that, like the best of farmers, they are liable to make some mistakes, and have to contend with conditions which they cannot always control. In farming, quite as often as in other lines of business, the words of the Scottish bard come true, "The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee." It takes a good farmer all his time nowadays to show a good profit on his year's business, and the superintendent of a farm such as that at Guelph, connected with a college and subject to Government control, has no easy task to manage, surrounded as he is by so many interests and influences which tend to distract the minds of master and men from the work in hand, and probably few men could be found who could do better work than Mr. Rennie has done or do it more economically. He has certainly succeeded in making very great improvement not only in the general character of the farm, in point of cleanliness, of culture and yield of crops, but has also very largely reduced the expenses of feeding the stock on the farm while keeping them in good, vigorous condition, and from what we know of his methods and the way he carries them out we are persuaded that apart from the disabilities he labors under in connection with other interests of the institution, the farm proper under Mr. Rennie's management is more than paying its way, as Dr. Mills' letter shows. A lamentable misconception of the work of the college and farm seems to underlie a good deal of the ill-informed criticism indulged in. It is only necessary to reflect that it is an educational institution devoted also largely to scientific and experimental investigations connected with agriculture and the form of the view taken by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will be apparent. It would be just about as reasonable to demand that public schools or college institutes be made to pay in a direct money

sense. Canada has reason to be proud of the O. A. C. It is doing most excellent work. The only one in the Dominion, its scope and equipment should be enhanced rather than restricted.

### The Canadian Horse Show.

The third annual Canadian Horse Show opened its doors to an admiring public on the morning of April 29th. The duration of the show was this year reduced to three days, in which it was expected the spacious Armories would be crowded on each afternoon and evening by the horse-loving elite of Toronto and other cities and country points. A large American patronage was looked for. It is a regrettable fact that the show could not be held at a more favorable time for the rural classes, not only to enable them to bring out their stock for competition but also for their patronage when important lessons could be learned as to the sorts of horses to raise for the high-class market. We must not forget, however, that although farmers cannot leave home at this season (it being the midst of seeding) to exhibit their stock and witness the show, a positive benefit to them will result in the stimulus such a show gives the horse trade by creating a demand for these—the noblest of animals—among men who have not previously felt any desire to own a horse.

The result from the sale of boxes totaled up to about the same as last year, 32 boxes selling for prices ranging from \$30 to \$100. There is only one American exhibiting this year, Mr. Stoetsbury, Philadelphia, Pa., who is exhibiting roadsters. Among the most prominent Canadian exhibitors are: Messrs. Beith, M. P., Bowmanville; Graham Bros., Claremont; Robt. Davies, Toronto; H. N. Crossley, Rosseau; Hillhurst Farm, Hillhurst, Que.; Hendrie, Hamilton; Fuller, Woodstock; Beck, London; Quinn Bros., Brampton; Royal Stables, Guelph; and Toronto Horse Exchange.

The entries this year number about 440, the largest numbers being in the single and double harness, and saddle and hunter classes. There is a falling off in draft stallions, due no doubt to the fact that most stock horses have entered upon their breeding season, which promises to be a busy one this year. There is also a falling off in Hackney stallions; Thoroughbreds remain about the same as last year, while Standard-bred roadsters are almost double last year's entry.

### Ontario Agricultural College Farm Proper -- Does it Pay?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I think it is due to our Farm Superintendent, and to the institution which I represent, that I should say a word in reply to the attacks recently made upon us in the Legislature of this Province.

Because of the intimate and peculiar relation which our Farm bears to the College and the other departments of the institution, I have not thought it necessary to make annual statements showing the profits or losses of the farm proper as distinct from the other departments. I have given only the cash revenue and expenditure, with notes to indicate that the College and several of the outside departments are largely indebted to the farm for milk, potatoes, feed, fodder, roots, pasture, teaming, carting, and other things which do not appear in the cash statement.

My reason for confining myself to cash revenue and expenditure is the fact that profit and loss statements based to any considerable extent on estimates or valuations are always open to question, because people differ so much about the amounts which should be charged for the keep of animals, the prices which should be put on hay, grain, roots, etc., and the sums which should be allowed for various services. I hope it does not follow from this that our bookkeeping is defective, or that we need a special accountant to put things in proper shape.

Our farm is well tilled and well managed—economically managed, and pays as well as such land can be made to pay in connection with a college and under Government control. I do not hesitate to affirm thus publicly that neither the

Government nor the Opposition can select a man that will make a better showing than is made by our Superintendent, Mr. Rennie, in the special and peculiar circumstances under which he has to work.

I give below a summary of facts and figures. I would rather give the details, but they would occupy too much space in your journal:—

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF FARM PROPER (300 ACRES) IN BRIEF FOR TWO YEARS.

CREDIT. 1895.	
Cash sales of stock, grain, etc.	\$ 5,081 30
Feed, fodder, teaming, etc., for other departments	1,861 30
Expense of feeding and looking after animals not needed on the farm, but required for educational purposes	1,169 00
Loss from not being allowed to sell animals by private sale, and from having to keep so many breeds that there are not enough animals of any one breed to make a good sale	914 04
Time of Superintendent with excursionists in June	60 00
Amount paid in '95 for steers sold in '96	351 92
	\$ 9,440 56

DEBIT.	
Amount paid in '94 for steers sold in '95	\$ 688 00
Expenditure in '95, less half of Superintendent's salary, which was paid for work of instruction and looking after students	7,005 38
	7,693 38

Balance in favor of farm for year.....\$ 1,747 18

CREDIT. 1896.	
Increase in value of stock on hand, since Jan. 1, '96	\$ 536 00
Cash sales of stock, grain, etc.	3,704 47
Feed, fodder, teaming, etc., for other departments	1,948 60
Expense of feeding and looking after animals not needed on farm, but required for educational work	921 00
Loss from not being allowed to sell animals by private sale, and from having to keep so many breeds that there are not enough animals of any one breed to make a good sale	479 81
Special work in reclaiming waste land—stumping, stoning, blasting, grading, etc.	250 00
Time of Superintendent at Farmers' Institutes and with excursionists	175 00
Amount paid in '96 for steers to be sold in '97	341 55
	\$ 8,359 43

DEBIT.	
Amount paid in '95 for steers sold in '96	\$ 351 92
Expenditure in '96, less half of Superintendent's salary, which was paid for work of instruction and looking after students	7,400 22
	7,752 14

Balance in favor of farm for year.....\$ 607 29

The marked difference between '95 and '96 is due to the fact that a large crop of hay intended for feed in the winter of 1896 was destroyed by frost on the 21st and 22nd May, 1895; and the price per pound for beef cattle sold in 1896 was considerably less than in 1895.

*Expenditure for Buildings and Equipment.*—A considerable sum has been spent within the last few years for buildings and equipment, but nothing unnecessary or extravagant—everything of the plainest kind, absolutely necessary to enable the institution to do properly the work for which it was founded, and not to be compared in cost with similar buildings and appliances in the United States, such, for example, as the dairy building at Madison, Wisconsin, \$40,000, voted by the State Legislature and raised by direct taxation; a dairy building at Cornell, \$50,000, and a veterinary building, \$100,000, also voted by the State Legislature and raised by a direct tax.

*Work Done for the Province.*—A large part of our annual expenditure is on account of work done, not for the students in attendance, but for the Province as a whole. The salaries of our professors, instructors, and experimenters are all paid by the College, while a considerable portion of their time is properly chargeable to the Province. The professors organized the Farmers' Institute, and did the greater part of the work in connection with them, lecturing all over the Province, without a dollar of extra remuneration, for ten or eleven years. The travelling dairy has gone from one end of the Province to the other, at large expense, but all charged to the College. Our very extensive, valuable and costly field experiments; our experiments in feeding; the work in our experimental cheese department for nine months of the year, and in our butter department for the same length of time; experiments with strawberries, etc., in the horticultural department; the analysis of ashes, fodders, sugar beets, milk, butter, cheese, etc., in the chemical laboratory; the study of the contamination of milk, the investigation of foul brood in bees, and the manufacture of tuberculin in the bacteriological laboratory; the identification of weeds and insects, and the answering of all sorts of questions relating thereto by Professor Pantou for farmers throughout the Province; the writing of our bulletins and reports; all this and more is for