

farms, and have building materials for "bank barns" near at hand. But not so in Kent, where, in the face of great difficulties, the farmers have made splendid progress. In conclusion, he offers to drive "D. L., of Oxford Co.," through parts of Kent where the cattle do not have to huddle against the straw stack and the pigs side up to a rail fence for protection against the wintry winds, and where farmers are not ashamed to have their methods of caring for live stock compared with any of the eastern farmers. The "Farmer's Advocate" would now suggest that our Kent and Oxford friends arrange a driving party next spring, which would certainly be preferable to a duel, either with words or swords, and we fancy their differences of view can be satisfactorily adjusted.—Editor.]

Halton Institute Judging Class.

To Mr. G. R. Cottrell, the energetic secretary of Halton County Farmers' Institute, which has the largest membership roll in the Province, belongs the credit of inaugurating the first stock-judging class to be held at a Farmer's Institute in Ontario, and from the interest shown by the farmers and the many laudatory comments made by those taking part, it will, no doubt, be but the beginning of a new departure in Institute work.

This class was held in the Exhibition Buildings, Milton, February 11th, and the farmers showed their appreciation and co-operation by turning out to the number of about one hundred and fifty, in spite of the extremely cold weather, and much interest was manifested in the judging and discussion arising thereby.

A class of bacon hogs, and also one of Shorthorn heifers were provided, while Prof. Cumming, of the O. A. C., Guelph, presided in his usual able manner.

A class of four bacon hogs, provided by W. S. Chisholm, of Mansewood, were first taken up. After Prof. Cumming had explained the use of the score-card and the value of the different points, one of the hogs was scored, in order to more firmly fix the relative values in memory. The hogs were judged as they would be in a show-ring, each man being asked to give his reasons for his placing, explaining the good and bad points as he went along. Prof. Cumming then gave his decision, pointing out, with the living animals as an object lesson, the points of an ideal bacon hog.

If possible, even more interest was shown in the judging of the Shorthorns in the afternoon. Probably in no county in the Province is the growing interest in pure-bred stock more noticeable than in Halton, and especially in Shorthorns. This was certainly expressed at the class, which owed the afternoon's profit and pleasure to the kindness of four of Halton's prominent breeders, who provided five animals, the quality of which would do honor to any breeder at any show. From the herd of F. C. Willmott, Milton, came two animals, and from those of Greenlass Bros., Milton; D. Reed, Milton, and Jarvis Bros., Boyne, one animal each. These were judged from the standard of a strictly Shorthorn type, and also from a butcher's standpoint. The same system was followed here as with the hogs. One of them was first scored, and the points explained, then those present were asked to judge the cattle. The contest was made all the more interesting from the very great variety in the form and type of the contesting animals. The five animals were placed in almost every imaginable combination, but a most pleasing feature of the judging was that, no matter how placed, their champions would, without hesitation, give plausible reasons for their placing, thus showing that, no matter how much the judges might vary in judgment, each had an ideal, and knew the type which he was breeding for, and this would emphasize the importance of having expert judges fix ideals, and thus lead to a uniform type all over the Province. Prof. Cumming then rendered his decision.

In the evening, Prof. Cumming gave a very interesting address on the importance of knowledge of stock-judging and an understanding of the value of pedigrees and also claimed that we in Canada could raise just as good animals as they did in England if we only took the same interest.

Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, gave a most instructive address on the agricultural history of our country. He spoke of the great growth of the institute system, and said that if the Ontario Agricultural College had done nothing more than inaugurate this great educational system it would have justified its existence. He traced the agricultural development of this Province from the days when the only money crops were pearl ash and square timber, through the wheat-and-barley age, to the present time of immense production of live-stock, dairy and fruit, and ended by a strong appeal for a further extension of our system to the country school, where the child would be taught to love the farm for its charming associations. The unanimous verdict of all present was that this was the most profitable farmers' meeting they had ever attended.

G. F. MARSH.

The Daughter's Portion.

In your issue of January 21st, I see a letter upon the subject, "The Provision for the Daughters." I have no hesitation in saying it is right to provide for our sisters, but as to giving them equal with the boys, I could hardly assent to that. All I would like to say about the subject is to try and help to solve the problem of what to do with the superfluous girls. Now, what is the cause of so many of those girls being left homeless? I have been in homes where the mother was doing all the work, apparently, and the girl, or, probably, two of them, were sitting reading novels. I know by experience that reading novels will stimulate people's minds away above their surroundings. It will make them think the home in which they have been brought up is the most dismal of places, and feel as if they would like to be in a position to live without work. Such young ladies as these wish to become the wife of some man of high rank—a minister, lawyer, banker or something of that sort. During this time, a prosperous young farmer, who imagines he could love her with all her deficiency, comes along, and proposes to marry. You may guess the result. No, no, that is away below her. Too much work on a farm. "Na, na, canna, will na buckle ta a farmer." Hence, the young man gets the G. B., as it is called. Perhaps she makes the acquaintance of bankers, lawyers and men of high degree, but they soon find out that she can not do, nor does she feel disposed to do, the general routine of housework. Their visits become few and far between. At last they drop off altogether, because, I believe, they like a good meal as well as any of us. And along with all this, the father and mother are removed. Alas, before she knows where she is, she has become one of the homeless or "superfluous girls." Now, some of my readers may think I am harsh and exaggerating in my ideas. Not so. The hired man can tell much about the homes of this Canada of ours. He is tossed about from one place to another, and he has a good chance to see what is going on. I have had the pleasure of eating my supper in the back kitchen, while some of those high-minded ladies fed their bankers and beaux of high degree upon the most delicious bread their mother had baked. I also have been sitting waiting for my breakfast while another of them played a ragtime piece on the piano. Also, I have heard two boys conversing. One was grumbling of how hard it was to make ends meet. The other said to him, "If you were in my shoes you would have reason to grumble." "How is that?" said the former. "If you had a six-dollar hat to pay for every season and a dress of the very latest, and that for three of them, you would have reason to grumble, I should think." The other said no more, and went off thinking he was most fortunate of boys. Now, in the face of all this, do you think such girls as those should get an equal division with the boys? Is it any wonder that we have so many "superfluous girls?" Now, in conclusion, mothers, train your girl to do the general housework, bake the most delicious bread which Canada's No. 1 flour can make, spin, sew, and when the proper time comes for the piano, by all means let her have it. And in time to come she will gladly take the \$500 or \$600, which the former writer deemed a small portion, and move across the road and furnish a lovely home with the prosperous young farmer. And, if Providence favors her with a doctor, lawyer, banker, her ability to do general housework will not come amiss.

THE HIRED MAN.

Who Was to be Trusted?

An Irishman once applied to the skipper of an English sailing vessel in Liverpool for a berth as fore-mast hand.

"Have ye ever been to sea before?" says the skipper.

"I have," says Paddy.

"Ye're an Irishman?" says the captain.

"I am," says Paddy.

"Have yez got your certificate?"

"I have not," says Paddy, "but I have served aboard the Cunard and Allan liners."

"Well, I won't take you without yer get a paper," says the skipper.

Poor Paddy was astounded, but away he went, and got a written character. He returned on board, and was engaged by the captain. While he was there another man came aboard for a job.

"What are ye?" says the captain.

"An Englishman," said the man.

"All right. Go forward," says the captain.

The vessel put out to sea. The third day, while engaged in swabbing the deck, the English hand got hold of a bucket, and while attempting to fill it with water, overbalanced and fell overboard, and was drowned. Paddy saw it, and away he went to the skipper.

"Do ye remember," said he, "the time you engaged me?"

"I do," said the captain.

"Be ye mind ye wouldn't take me without a character?"

"I do."

"And do ye mind the Englishman that ye gave a job to at the same time as ye gave me?"

"I do," said the captain.

"Well," said Paddy, "ye didn't ax him for a character, and signs on it, now he's gone off with your bucket."

MARKETS.

Market reports make more pleasant reading now than has been the case for the past few weeks. Wheat went soaring last week, in response to the bullish tone in Chicago, the expectancy of war prices, and consequent higher cable bids from the Old Country. Other grains, especially oats, also stand firmer. Cattle prices, although not advancing, are firm, and buyers move quickly in securing their supplies. Feeders are not in very active demand, but milch cows are good assets. The hog markets have, at last, stopped declining, and a substantial advance is quoted this week. During the past few weeks, Montreal prices have kept well above those of Toronto and, even at country points in Ontario prices have been a little better than Toronto quotations. The improvement in the weather conditions will be taken advantage of to market live stock.

Toronto quotations are:

Export Cattle.—Extra choice, \$4.50 to \$4.75; choice, \$4.20 to \$4.40; others, \$3.75 to \$4.10, and \$3.50 to \$4 for cows.

Butchers' Cattle.—Picked lots, \$4.20 to \$4.50; good, \$4 to \$4.20; fair to good, \$3.50 to \$3.75, and rough to common, \$1.50 to \$3; cows, \$1.75 to \$3.50.

Stockers and Feeders.—Feeders, \$2 to \$3.70, and stockers are steady at \$2 to \$3.50.

Milch cows, \$30 to \$50 per head.

Calves.—Quotations are \$2 to \$12 each, and 4½c. to 6½c. per lb.

Sheep and Lambs.—Export sheep, \$3 to \$4.25; culls, \$3.50 to \$4, and lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.60.

Hogs.—The market has improved, and higher quotations prevail; selects, \$5.00; lights and fats, \$4.75.

PRODUCE.

Wholesale Prices.

Wheat—Ontario—No. 2 red, white and mixed, are quoted at 90c. to 92c. for milling; spring, 81c. to 82c. for No. 1, east; goose is firm at 79c. for No. 2, east.

Wheat—Manitoba—No. 1 hard is quoted at \$1.05; No. 1 northern, at \$1.03; No. 2 northern, at \$1, and No. 3 northern, at 97c., on track, lake ports. Milling-in-transit for each grade is six cents more.

Corn—Canadian, 38c. for yellow, and 37½c. for mixed, cars west. New American, 54c. for No. 2 yellow, 53½c. for No. 3 yellow, and 52½c. for No. 3 mixed, in cars, on the track here.

Oats—No. 1 white are quoted at 32½c. low freights, 32c. middle freights, and 31c. high freights. No. 2 white are quoted at 31c. less.

Barley—No. 2, 44c., middle freights; No. 3 extra, 42c., middle freights, and No. 3, 40c., east or middle.

Rye—No. 2, 55c., low, middle or high freights.

Peas.—Unchaned; No. 2, 63c., any freights.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 50c., low freights, 49c. middle, and 48c. high freights.

Flour.—Ninety-per-cent. patents for export, \$3.40, buyers' bags, f. o. b., main lines west. Manitoba Flour—First patents are quoted at \$5.15; second patents, at \$4.85, and strong bakers', at \$4.75, bags included, on the track, Toronto.

Mill Feed—Ontario shorts are unchanged at \$17 to \$17.50, and bran is scarce at \$15.50 to \$16, in bulk, cars west. Manitoba mill feed is unchanged. Shorts are quoted at \$21, and bran at \$19 to \$20, in car lots, bags included, on the track, Toronto.

Oatmeal.—There is no change in the price of car lots on the tracks here, which are quoted at \$4.10 for bags, and \$4.35 for barrels. Broken lots are quoted at 40c. above the price of car lots.

Seeds.—Local dealers quote \$5.25 to \$5.75 for red clover, and \$6 to \$6.25 for extra choice lots; \$4.25 to \$4.75 for alsike; \$1.15 to \$1.50 for machine-threshed timothy, and \$1.75 to \$2 for hail-threshed, all per bushel, outside.

Beans.—The market is quoted unchanged here; \$1.50 to \$1.65 for hand-picked, and \$1.25 to \$1.50 for unpicked in job lots.

New York.—Choice medium beans are quoted at \$2.05 to \$2.07½ per bushel; choice pea, at \$2.02½ to \$2.05, and common to good, at \$1.80 to \$1.95.

Detroit.—Beans, cash, \$1.95; February and March deliveries, car lots, \$1.95. The market gained 13c. last week.

Baled Hay.—Car lots, on track here, are quoted unchanged at \$9 per ton.

Baled Straw.—\$5 to \$5.50 per ton for car lots, on track here.

Potatoes.—Car lots, on track here, 90c. to 95c. per bag, and out of store stock at \$1.10 to \$1.15.

Poultry.—Quotations, 14c. to 15c. for chickens, and 7c. to 8c. for old fowls, and turkeys are quoted at 15c. to 16c.

Dressed Hogs.—Car lots on track here, \$6.25 per cwt. for selects, and \$6 to \$6.10 for heavies.

Butter.—Receipts are coming forward freely.

Creamery, prints 20c. to 22c.

Creamery, solids 15½c. to 20c.

Dairy, pound rolls, choice 15c. to 17c.

Dairy, large rolls 15c. to 16c.

Dairy, tubs, good to choice 13c. to 17c.

Dairy, medium 13c. to 14c.

Dairy, poor 10c. to 12c.

Cheese.—11½c. per pound for twins, and 10½c. for large.

Eggs, 35c. per dozen.