

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,  
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:  
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,  
London, W. C., England.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely  
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class of stock they exhibit, know whether, while  
making due allowance for honest difference of  
opinion, they are receiving their just due. And  
yet it is regrettable to know that it is charged  
that—let us hope in but rare instances—men  
known to be unfitted for the work have applied for  
the appointment and undertaken the responsibility  
for the sake of having a good time, or for the  
money there may be in it.

The breed societies which nominate representa-  
tives to fair boards, and a list of judges from  
which fair boards are supposed to make selec-  
tions, it must be conceded, have not set as good  
an example as they might in the filling of these  
appointments and lists. And if there is good  
ground for the complaint heard, that representa-  
tives to fair boards have, in some cases, used  
their position for personal advantage in the nam-  
ing of judges in classes in which they are inter-  
ested, it is up to the breed societies to deal dras-  
tically with such abuses, and to exhibitors to  
place themselves above suspicion in this regard.

In view of the fact that, apart from the ques-  
tion of justness and fairness, as between judge and  
exhibitor, the judge is reasonably expected to  
know the standard of type and quality in the  
classes of stock on which he undertakes to ad-  
judicate, and that his work should show con-  
sistency in the light of those standards in so far  
as the material brought before him admits, and  
that he is, in that respect, supposed to be an  
educator, as well as an arbiter, the position of a  
judge is one that demands careful discrimination  
on the part of those entrusted with the appoint-  
ments, and conscientious work on the part of  
those accepting the responsibility.

Active subscription solicitors are wanted in  
every locality to take subscriptions for "The  
Farmer's Advocate." Straightforward, capable  
men who believe in the paper can make good  
money. Write for particulars.

### OUR MARITIME LETTER. THE WINTER FAIR.

With the fall fairs only completing their long-  
drawn-out series, it may to some seem a bit  
tedious to commence the propaganda for the winter  
ones at once, and still, such were certainly neces-  
sary if they are to be made the success which every  
lover of his profession and country could ardently  
wish. The fall fairs all round these Maritime  
Provinces have been wonderfully successful. The  
weather was propitious; the products of the soil  
and flocks and orchard were up to the average, for  
the most part, and the disposition of the people to  
patronize this worthy institution for its lessons  
and pleasures, has been growing more and more  
general with years. If exhibition-going is to be  
constituted a habit, there must be always some-  
thing in preparation to engage the people's atten-  
tion and call out all their skill in the preparation  
of exhibits.

The Winter Fair at Amherst has grown quickly  
up in public attention. It is not yet crowned with  
its first decade of years, and still, from the very  
first, it filled a want so long felt in the community  
that it was a most successful affair, according to  
the general opinion. Organization, some eight  
years ago, was effected through the Department of  
Agriculture, at Ottawa, and Live-stock Commis-  
sioner Hodson, with all the experience of Guelph,  
where a winter fair was one of the most-prized ad-  
juncts to the system of agricultural education,  
long inaugurated in Ontario, before him, worked  
out, through a Board of Governors and a Superin-  
tendent—Mr. E. B. Elderkin, their President—the  
details of the whole work. The Federal Govern-  
ment made the new institution a substantial  
grant, the three Maritime Governments subscribed  
their quota of expense, and the Town of Amherst  
erected the buildings, and the fair was started  
with an impetus not generally felt by such insti-  
tutions until after weary years of upward struggle.

As had been announced, with the outgoing of  
Live-stock Commissioner Hodson, a disposition  
was evinced on the part of the Government at Ot-  
tawa to throw the entire management upon the  
directors, instead of doing the work through the  
Departmental officers. They were willing to make  
a straight grant to the Fair, together with the  
other Governments concerned, and expected that  
the Board would so administer and report the  
grants as to meet with the approbation of the  
givers. In this way, and after all past deficits  
were guaranteed, it was resolved, at the last  
annual meeting of the association, by the new of-  
ficials, to operate the organization on its own bot-  
tom, with the usual Governmental grants. Ac-  
cordingly, the new Board, which is composed of  
E. B. Elderkin, President; Col. H. M. Campbell,  
Vice-President for New Brunswick; C. A. Archi-  
bald, Vice-President for Nova Scotia; Rev. A. E.  
Burke, Vice-President for Prince Edward Island;  
W. W. Black, R. W. Starr, S. A. Logan, Bliss M.  
Fawcett, Geo. E. Fisher, M. H. Parlee, John An-  
near, Walter Lee, and J. A. Roper, named F. L.  
Fuller its Secretary-Manager, and set to work at  
once to arrange for the Fair for 1908.

Manager Fuller has been able to make such  
progress as to assure the directors that the next  
exhibition will surpass, both in the exhibits and  
the amount of premiums offered for them, and the  
prospective attendance of people, the greatest of  
the Maritime Winter Fairs so far attempted.  
Whilst the Secretary's offices and management  
have been removed from the city in which the  
Fair is held, and where general offices were pre-  
viously maintained at considerable outlay, to  
Truro, where Mr. Fuller has offices of his own, as  
Superintendent of Institutes for Nova Scotia, in  
connection with the Agricultural College there, he  
has quickly and effectively seen to the issuance  
of the new prize lists and fair regulations, and been  
active in securing the usual special prizes from  
public and friendly sources, which will much en-  
hance the importance and renown of the fair. The  
superintendents of the different departments have  
been judiciously selected, too, and the necessary  
clerical assistance for the actual time of the show  
secured, with Mr. Hall, of the Halifax Provincial  
Exhibition Company, at their head.

The prize list for the coming fair has been con-  
siderably revised and extended, the dairy classes,  
especially, receiving greatly-increased purses. The  
poultry, sheep, and swine, very considerable fea-  
tures of the fair, receive additional attention; and  
the fruit, grains and apriary products will be bet-  
ter classified than heretofore. The Board has been  
in consultation with the officers of the different  
live-stock, poultry, fruit and honey organizations  
which operate under the Maritime Stock-breeders'  
Association; and whilst, in other years, there have  
been outstanding matters in the apportioning of  
prizes, etc., in dispute, this year the lists having  
been made up with the special approval of all  
concerned, and, all friction removed, it is but nat-  
ural to look for a greatly-increased exhibit when  
the fair opens.

Whilst the cattle classes have always filled up  
well, and the sheep and swine show been admir-  
able for the Maritime Provinces, the poultry de-  
partment of the fair has made the greatest and  
most wonderful growth and this despite certain

restrictions which very much embarrassed exhibit-  
ors and judges alike. These disabilities have now  
been removed, and, with a fair field and the best  
encouragement the institution can afford fanciers,  
a very marked increase in the poultry department  
is bound to result.

The seed department—only a year or two old—  
has also given great proof of usefulness in extend-  
ing the good-seed movement, and the way the ex-  
hibits have multiplied has been the real surprise  
of the show. Last year a good many sales, at  
good prices, followed this seed show, and it is but  
natural to expect that it will become a favorite  
grain-exchange occasion among careful growers and  
seedsmen for these Provinces by the sea.

The didactic part of the Winter Fair has done  
much good to the country, as much valuable in-  
formation on the whole range of animal husbandry  
has been afforded the farming community in the  
most practical way possible. The herdsmen of  
the different branches of the industry, and the best  
experts in judging, have willingly put their experi-  
ence at the disposal of the visiting public. In  
this way a great deal of useful knowledge has  
been exchanged, and the husbandman cheered on  
his way to better effort in his special work.

The auditorium at Amherst accommodates  
about 2,000 people, and it is always full when the  
speakers impart their lessons at the evening ses-  
sions.

Besides the direct advantage to the breeding and  
tending of flocks and herds, and the knowledge im-  
parted on all the operations of the farm, a great  
deal of good eventuates to those attending, from  
the social side of life, in the acquaintances made  
and friendships formed. This Maritime community  
has a duty imperatively imposed upon it now of  
knowing itself better, that it may the better work  
out in solidarity its great future. The public  
leaders are met and measured, to some extent,  
whatever, and when the moment arrives, the Mari-  
timer is, as a consequence, better able to throw him-  
self into the vital movements on which progress and  
prosperity surely depend. As a medium of inter-  
course, then, as well as in the many other ways  
we have instanced, the Winter Fair is the one  
great common meeting-place of the Provinces down  
here, and as such, its value cannot be estimated  
in words. It should not be necessary—it is not  
necessary—to exhort the people of New Brunswick,  
Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to support  
with greater generosity than ever the eighth Mari-  
time Winter Fair, to be held at Amherst, on No-  
vember 30th, and December 1st, 2nd and 3rd next,  
and thus help themselves by elevating and encour-  
aging the great agricultural interest in these  
Provinces, which, whatever may be said about  
iron, steel or coal, is their basic industry, and as  
such to be fostered and extended.

A. E. BURKE.

## HORSES.

### IRISH HORSE-BREEDING SCHEME.

The Irish horse-breeding scheme has done much to  
promote the interests of the different breeds in the  
Emerald Isle. In 1901 the Department of Agriculture  
registered, and so, in a manner, subsidized, 97 Thor-  
oughbreds, 23 Clydesdales and 8 Shires, or in all 128.  
Last year the Department subsidized 161 Thorough-  
breds, 51 Clydesdales, 26 Shires and 39 hunter sires—  
horses not eligible for the racing calendar or general  
studbook, but to all intents and purposes pure-bred.  
The total was 276, and it will be observed that there  
is quite a considerable relative increase in the number  
of Shires. Clydesdales have only about doubled in the  
six years, while Shires have fully trebled. In respect  
of the nominations of mares, almost the same propor-  
tions hold. In 1901 there were 1,102 nominations for  
Thoroughbred sires, 328 nominations for Clydesdales,  
and 114 nominations for Shires, or 1,544 in all. In  
1907 the relative figures were 2,404, 727, 226, and 315  
for half-bred sires; a total of 3,672. Consequently,  
while the number of subsidized Shire stallions has been  
trebled, the number of mares nominated for them has  
only doubled; whereas, while the number of Clydesdale  
stallions has only been doubled, the number of mares  
nominated for them has doubled, plus 72. The amount  
paid in premiums for horse-breeding in 1907 was  
£8,061.

### REGULARITY IN FEEDING.

A horse that is fed regularly will be in better  
condition on three measures of oats in the day  
than one that is fed irregularly will be on four.  
He knows exactly when his attendant will feed  
him, and does not weary for his meals; whereas a  
horse that is fed at any or all times is never  
really satisfied, and will worry while waiting for  
his careless attendant and his meals. Irregularity  
in feeding is also a productive cause of many stable  
vices. No more straw or hay should be placed  
before a horse in the morning than he will eat up  
cleanly in an hour, a less quantity should be given  
at midday, and in the evening he should never  
get any more than will reasonably serve him over  
night. Regularity in feeding is important in any  
class of live stock in insuring the best results.