

THE FARM BULLETIN.

The Hired Man.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There are cases where the farmer and his hired man don't get along well together. What is the cause of this? If the farmer is doing his part of the contract faithfully—and there are not many farmers that do not—I don't see much reason for the man to complain. In some cases he says his employer is very close, and will not let him have any privileges. Now, I consider that when the man does his best to look after his employer's interest, and tries to help things along, the farmer will not fail to notice this. He will do more for the man who tries his best. The man who is close himself is very apt to find the farmer close, also. If the employee is stingy with his work—I mean, if he is continually looking at his watch, and wondering whether it is six o'clock yet—the farmer will take care that he gets his money's worth out of the man before six o'clock. I don't blame the farmer for this; he has a right to good honest work from the man when he pays for it. Now, if the man had taken pains to lift as much as he could from the farmer's load, so to speak, he would have very little cause to speak about the latter being close. This may not be true in every case, as once in a while we come across a farmer who is a perfect slave-driver, who is so selfish that he is not satisfied with anything that his help does. But hired men usually find out these, and will not engage with them for any definite length of time. My opinion is that when a good, serviceable man finds the practical, progressive farmer, the best thing he can do is to stay right with him. The old saying, "A rolling stone gathers no moss," is emphatically true with the hired man. If he, without any apparent reason, leaves the farmer just because his time is up, he is making a foolish mistake. I know several good decent fellows who have left their employers and hired with others, just for a change, to gather experience, as they call it. They do gather experience of a certain kind, but such experience is often dearly earned. The progressive farmer always has his eyes open for what other men are doing; he knows that his farm is paying him well; he knows everything connected with his theories; and he also knows the worth of his worker. The man with a little common sense will see this, and will help the farmer in his ideas. He will not stand looking on, as if he were a cedar post, but will fathom the farmer's meaning, without waiting to be told. A man that can understand the drift of his employer's wishes, and acts accordingly, is the one the farmer is looking for. I have found the best way to get along is to do the square thing, minding my own business, and showing a willingness to help around the house occasionally. I don't think it ever hurts a fellow to be a little obliging about the house once in a while; it usually cements a friendship between himself and the womenfolk.

Another thing, suppose the man is opposite to the farmer in politics. I consider it the farmer's duty to let his man vote as he chooses, even though he is liable to "kill" his vote; but, at the same time, should it be likely that his doing so would cause unpleasantness between them, I think it is the man's duty to stay at home, rather than cause hard feelings between himself and the family whom he must live with till the end of his term. If, on the other hand, they are of the joking kind, and more amused than angry at their man's opinions, he should vote as his conscience tells him. A hired man (or any other) that can be won over or talked into voting as his employer votes, is not a manly man; neither is the employer who would apply the screws.

Middlesex Co., Ont. CHAS. T. FINTER.

Guernsey Breeders' Annual Meeting.

The fifth annual meeting of the Canadian Guernsey Breeders' Association was held at Amherst, N. S., on December 8th. President D. G. McKay in the chair. Secretary H. W. Corning not being present (on account of a broken leg), Wm. McConnell was appointed secretary, pro tem.

The minutes of last annual meeting were read and adopted. The reports of officers were called for, and responded to by President McKay, and Vice-President E. J. Johnson.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read, and by motion adopted. The Treasurer's financial statement showed a balance of hand of \$91.66. The Secretary's report stated that the membership has nearly doubled in 1909, and Guernseys are rapidly growing in popularity.

Several new herds of pure-bred Guernseys have been started, and agricultural societies, as well as private individuals, are seeking after Guernsey bulls for grading up herds of profitable dairy cows.

There are now 233 Guernseys recorded at Ottawa, and, while this is a small number compared with the thirty-nine thousand registered in the American Guernsey Cattle Club records, yet, when

we remember that we have only been recording cattle for about four years, and that a large percentage of the cattle are just entering their days of usefulness, it can readily be seen that the growth of the Association and increase of the breed is a certainty.

The motto of Guernsey breeders is economical production of milk, cream and butter. That a decided advance has been made in this direction is shown by the fact that cows from several herds are now being tested in the Record of Performance. The Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has entered three cows, and in a letter of recent date Prof. Grisdale stated that he would forward two or three more entries in a short time. The Secretary has entered four, and intends to enter others of his herd as soon as they freshen.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, D. G. McKay, Heathbell, N. S.; Vice-President, E. J. Johnson, Georgie's River, C. B.; Secretary-Treasurer, H. W. Corning, Chegoggin, N. S.; Directors—John McDonald, Shubenacadie, N. S.; Wm. R. McCreedy, Jacksonville, N. B.; T. D. Blakie, Great Village, N. S.; Thos. A. Peters, Fredericton, N. B.; J. J. Gareau, St. Rock l'Achigan, Que. Auditor, R. Robertson, Nappan, N. S.

P. E. Island Horticultural Notes.

The annual meeting of our Fruit-growers' Association happened in an exceedingly stormy time, with almost impassable roads, and the result was a very small attendance, and also a small show of apples, but the samples shown were excellent. Some co-operative shipments have been made from here to Newfoundland, which I believe were fairly successful. In this connection, I might mention the death of our pioneer commercial orchardist, John Robertson, of Inkerman Farm, King's Co. Mr. Robertson was an enthusiastic Horticulturist, and during the last thirty-five years had made a success in growing apples, as well as small fruits, and had also established a nursery, from which he supplied many of our orchardists with stock for planting. He was by far our largest apple-grower, and his success induced many farmers to plant out orchards. He was always a leading member of the Fruit-growers' Association, and the largest exhibitor of fruit at our exhibitions. He was a genial good fellow, who was always ready to help a beginner with good horticultural advice from his own extensive experience. The writer of these notes as well as hundreds of other farmers look back with pleasure to the hearty welcome given them during their visits to Inkerman Farm.

W. SIMPSON.

Returns of Government inspections for the first three months or thirteen weeks of the present year indicate that 57,980 cars of wheat, oats and barley have passed through Winnipeg, Man., on their way to the markets of the world. For the same period last year, the total was 48,426 cars. This increase is despite a tendency recently manifested by Western farmers to hold back their grain.

A beet-sugar factory is to be started in Lincolnshire, England. A company has been formed, with a capital of \$650,000, for that purpose. The difficulty of getting a sufficient number of farmers to grow beets has at last been overcome. Arrangements have been made with 250 farmers to grow about 2,000 acres of beets for five years. The factory will have a capacity of 500 tons per day, or 50,000 tons in the season. It is expected to be in operation in October, 1910.

Chatty Letter from New Brunswick

Perhaps a few notes from this locality would be of some interest to your readers. This is the inland part of Albert County, Parish of Elgin, for we are not subdivided, as in Ontario, into townships and concessions, but into parishes and school districts. Quite different methods of agriculture are practiced here from those that obtain in the lower parts of the county, in the Parishes of Coverdale, Hillsboro' and Hopewell. There the dyked marshes give abundance of hay, and the farmers run to beef; here, we could not depend on beef and live. Our surplus products are mostly butter, pork, eggs and poultry, with an occasional load of potatoes, bundle of wool, or bunch of lambs. A few dairy steers are raised, and, being fed on straw in the winter, and running on the commons in the summer, the raisers consider them clear gain.

Any that are making progress at all are doing so through the cows, though this branch is by no means worked up to its capacity. Breeding is practiced in a most haphazard manner. You may see an occasional pure-bred bull, but he is most apt to be followed by a grade or scrub, or perhaps a pure-bred of some different breed. In times past the agricultural society has imported some fine bulls. We have had in this way, Shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Holsteins, but these have been crossed, mixed and mingled, until I am positive that, either from a dairyman's or butcher's standpoint, the cattle of the parish are inferior to what they were thirty years ago, and those we have are not fed to do what they might. Our own last year's average of 344 pounds per cow is looked upon as marvellous by those who believe it at all.

In crops, as much hay as possible is the first aim; then oats enough for the horses. Potatoes have been the chief hoed crop, but the more progressive are substituting turnips, reducing the potato field to family needs. An occasional corner of peas and oats, corn, etc., may be seen, but not nearly as much as should be.

The past season will be classed as only a fairly favorable one from a Maritime farmer's viewpoint. A very backward spring was followed by a very dry June, and the prospect until the 28th of that month was very gloomy indeed; but from that date till July 20th we had ideal growing weather, and even the hay materially improved. The latter part of July and nearly half of August were hot and dry, giving opportunity to harvest the hay in excellent condition, albeit in some cases rather overripe. From that up to the present there was abundance of rain, at times rather more than was welcome, interfering seriously with the gathering of the late harvest. Hay was under an average crop, but a good percentage of last year's crop is still in the barns, so no pinch will be felt on hay account in this locality. Oats suffered somewhat from red-leaf. Are you acquainted with this disease in Ontario? Has its life-history been worked out? Is there any remedy? Buckwheat, one of our staple grains, was about average. Potatoes were a heavy crop, but rotted badly; turnips fair, suffering toward the last of the season from too much rain. Pastures kept pretty good, but not like the season of 1908, which was ideal from the dairyman's standpoint.

Your request for a discussion on the taxation question was not apparently very heartily responded to. Evidently, the farmers do not consider it a live question. I could find nothing in Mr. Good's series of articles that inclined me the slightest to his views. The man who gets ahead, whether he be farmer or otherwise, does so as



Six-year-old Karl Johnston, Big Lake, Manitoulin Island, Fighting the Gobbler.