

by many an Australian race-horse. Pig-breeding is carried on principally in conjunction with dairying, and for reasons best known to the farmer, does not receive that attention which is so generously conceded to it in Canada. The numbers fluctuate considerably, and for the last year for which figures are available numbered 765,137, as compared with well over a million in 1905.

Realizing the importance the pastoral and agricultural industries are destined to play in the development and prosperity of the Commonwealth, and the enormous extent of land still available for settlement, the Australian Government has taken the matter in hand in a broad and intelligent manner.

In each State there is an alert Department of Agriculture, in which a staff of competent and practical demonstrators is engaged to assist farmers and stock-breeders to cope with any matters whatsoever that affect their interests. In every possible direction that a farmer may require advice concerning his soil, seed, manure, as well as the marketing of his produce, ready and competent advice is placed at his disposal free of charge. There are also large numbers of farms throughout the continent, conducted by the Government, to ascertain facts for the guidance of the district in which they are situated, and these farms are open to the farmers at all times. Excursions are arranged at frequent intervals on the Government railways at extremely low fares, in order that farmers at a distance may come and see for themselves the results following the use of new kinds of machinery, or of new methods of growing or handling crops. In practically every country town of any importance in the farming belt there is an agricultural society, hundreds of which receive substantial subsidies from their respective State Governments, with a view to encourage educative displays of the best stock, products and machinery. At the large shows, a daily attendance of 70,000 people is not unusual, which will afford some idea of the importance attached in Australia to anything likely to advance the interests of the farmer.

For the training of the young men, there are four agricultural colleges and thirty-two experimental farms, occupying a total area of nearly 50,000 acres, on which crops of every kind, and live stock of every description—from dairy stock to ostriches—are grown and cared for by those undergoing training on scientific and practical farming.

In addition to the foregoing, there are well-established Farmers' and Settlers' Associations, all of which are powerful organizations, which have a considerable voice in framing land laws and other matters of importance to farmers and others.

For thirty years past, the dairying industry has been an ever-increasing one in Australia, while within the last few years the strides it has made have been little short of phenomenal. This rapid development is due to a variety of causes, the principal of which being the fact that in Australia the climatic conditions do not necessitate the winter housing of cattle, save in a few instances. The dairy farmer is therefore not under the expense of providing stall accommodation for his herd during the winter, while stall-feeding is almost unknown. With the introduction of the cream separator and the spread of the factory system, the dairying industry has advanced by leaps and bounds, so that at the present time large areas once given up to general agriculture have been devoted almost entirely to dairying. When Captain Phillip established the settlement of Sydney, N. S. W., in 1788, the live stock consisted of one bull, four cows, one calf and seven pigs. At the end of 1909, the dairy herds of the Commonwealth numbered 1,406,174, the total number of all cattle being 11,040,391. During this latter year, Australia produced nearly one hundred and sixty million pounds of butter, which found a ready sale in the London markets, as well as in other countries.

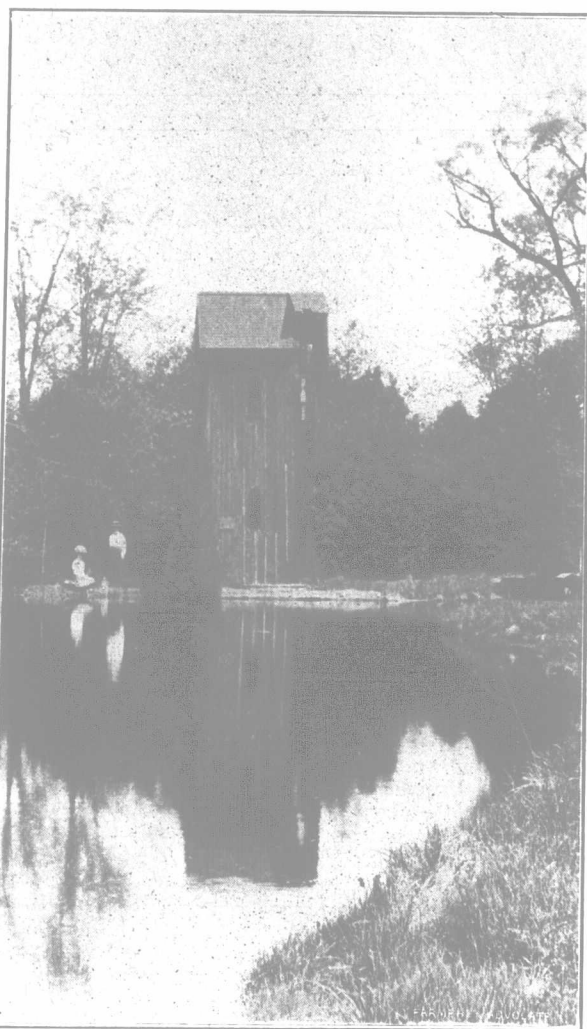
The chief branch of Australia's dairying industry is, of course, confined to butter. Cheese and preserved milk are enumerated, but cannot be deemed of considerable importance, the former being an important feature with New Zealanders, who manufactured in the last year for which statistics are available, 272,212 cwt., valued at upwards of four million dollars.

The best index to the prosperity of Australia is that about one person in every three of the whole population owns a banking account. Taxation with our remote kinsmen is extremely light, in comparison with other countries, and, in the case of farmers, practically insignificant, there being no tithes, no poor rates, no education rates, and no King's tax.

The mileage of the Commonwealth railways is 17,432. The longest journey which can be undertaken is from Longreach, in Queensland, to Oodanatta, in South Australia, a total distance of 3,303 miles. Two transcontinental lines are under consideration. Working plans and specifications are being prepared, in order that construction may be commenced as soon as Parlia-

mentary sanction has been obtained. The line east and west will connect Kalgoorlie in West Australia, with Port Augusta in South Australia; whereas the line extending from north to south will connect Oodanatta with Pine Creek in the far north, 100 miles from the coast. Up to the present time, seven hundred million dollars have been expended on State-owned railways in Australia, and the policy is to keep the freights low, so as to simply defray working expenses and pay about 3½ per cent. interest on the capital invested. Thus, as in the sister Dominion of New Zealand, the railways are not run primarily for profit.

Relative to population, Australia occupies a



A Beauty Spot at Blair, Waterloo Co., Ont. Showing mill dam and the old-style water-wheel tower and cable.

Photo submitted by W. W. Schantz.

high position amongst the trading countries of the world. Her trade imports and exports per inhabitant, according to the last available statistics, places her fourth among nations; while, if allowance be made for the transit trade of Belgium and Switzerland, she would doubtless occupy a still higher position. It is again interesting to note that, in total trade per head of population, New Zealand stands the highest of any country in the world, with an average of \$172.56; Australia fourth, with \$123.90; Canada sixth, with \$110; Great Britain, \$97.92; Germany thirteenth, with \$54.51; and United States fourteenth, with \$34.40. The volume of its external trade is not necessarily an unequivocal test of a country's prosperity, as the total may be obviously affected by various factors; nevertheless, an impartial survey of the general characteristics of the Commonwealth's trade will show that there has been rapid and substantial advancement.

A gratifying feature in connection with Australian trade is the extensive dealings she has with her own kinsmen in all parts of the world. Thus we find that she buys some 75 per cent. of her imports from the United Kingdom and the British possessions, and since the year 1891 Canada's contribution to Australian requirements has increased by upwards of 500 per cent. These latter imports include such commodities as timber, fish, agricultural implements and machinery, paper, bicycles, etc. The city of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, situated on the incomparable Sydney Harbor, known throughout the length and breadth of the world for its peerless beauty, has a population of 600,000, and ranks as the sixth port in the British Empire, her aggregate entered tonnage being upwards of six millions for the year 1909. Thus, the shipping business of the port of Sydney exceeds that of any port outside the United Kingdom; whereas, with Great Britain, it is exceeded only by London, Liverpool, Tyne Ports, Cardiff, and Southampton. Little more than the fringe of Australia's productive area has yet been touched. Of her 1,903,731,840 acres, only about one-twentieth have been

alienated absolutely. The settler may purchase land by the payment of small, half-yearly instalments upon liberal terms, viz.: The settler must reside upon his holding and fulfil improvement conditions of the lightest nature—conditions inserted in order to guarantee that the occupier will become of benefit to the community, by making a reasonable effort to make his holding producing. The maximum area which a settler may select in this manner varies from 200 to 2,560 acres, according to the situation and quality of the land. The purchase price ranges from two and a half dollars upwards, and the payment may be extended over a period of from twenty to forty years, the annual payment ranging from 15 cents per acre upwards. Under the Closer Settlements Act and The Small Holdings Act, farm laborers and working men may acquire freehold property near the centers of work, and money is advanced them by the State Governments on easy terms to assist them in building homes. For the purpose of assisting settlers in erecting buildings and carrying on improvements, financial aid is rendered in all the Australian States. Money advanced for the purpose, together with 5 per cent. interest, is usually repayable by half-yearly instalments within thirty-one years. Reduced passages are offered by some of the States to persons desirous of settling on the land, and others who can satisfy the Agents-General in London that they will make suitable settlers, together with their wives and families, if any.

Australia owns State railways and State tramways or street cars, State telephones and telegraphs, as well as providing old-age pensions; and for the encouragement of various industries, Commonwealth bounties are offered.

Sea-borne traffic by coastal vessels plays an important part in the transport of the country, as can be understood by anyone with the most elementary knowledge of the Island Continent. These vessels are of all sizes, up to 7,000 tons; and of the 138 vessels owned by the eleven largest coastal shipping companies, a gross tonnage of nearly 275,000 is represented. It may be explained that many of the vessels are magnificent and fast-going steamships, as well appointed and as sumptuously equipped as many of the trans-Atlantic liners.

ROBERT WILSON.

Saving Next Year's Seed.

Next year's seeding time may seem a long distance away, but it is sure to come, and this is the season to provide for it. In some localities in Old Ontario, the harvest this year is unusually good, thus providing the opportunity of securing good seed. Usually the best practice is to select seed from one's own farm, or from one's own vicinity. Such seed, in its own mute way, has learned the ways of the farm or of the community and starts out better prepared to cope with local conditions. The grain to be devoted to this important purpose should be placed either by itself or so marked in the mow that it may be threshed by itself and the grain placed in bags or bins separate from other grain. A little foresight in this regard may save a great deal of worry next spring, and pave the way for better things when the next harvest is reaped. The important thing just now is to secure the seed. For this work there is no time like the present. One has the seed and the straw and the soil and the locality and the yield before him, and in this way should be able to judge of what will best meet his requirements. No other time of the year affords such advantages, and no farmer who values a full bin should rest content with any test of seed values that leaves out any one of these features. In securing good seed, eternal vigilance and keeping everlastingly at it is the price of victory. Further, anyone who has a good field which is especially free from weeds, and which has produced grain that is above the average in quality, owes it to himself and to his neighbors to secure and to offer that field for seed. The returns in actual cash will more than pay him for all extra time and labor expended. An advertisement of such guaranteed seed in *The Farmer's Advocate* will be sure to arrest the attention of farmers who are ready and able to pay a price that will demonstrate the esteem in which good seed is held.

Particularly important is it that the farmer should save his second crop of clover for seeding purposes. This ground should be gone over with the utmost attentiveness in search of weeds. It should be harvested and threshed with the same careful diligence and when the seed is secured a fair sample should be sent to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. If it passes the government test the farmer need not fear to advertise it and secure a price for it that will yield good returns for his pains. Sowing good seed that is free from noxious weed seeds goes a long distance towards securing one of the conditions upon which good agricultural practice is based—a clean

J. D.