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EDITORIAL

Success in agriculture, as in almost every other line of endeavor, depends primarily and chiefly upon the man. A good man on a poor farm will often make more than a poor man on a good farm. The value of opportunities depends upon the use made of them.

Newspapers inform us that it cost half a million dollars to produce the new American tariff. Half a million dollars to perpetrate a humbug on the consumer, an anomaly calculated to obstruct a foreign trade which great effort is put forth in other ways to cultivate—between nations that have a minimum of products to exchange.

Returning prosperity is indicated by the Dominion trade returns for the four months ending July 31, the total of imports and exports reaching \$191,919,304. Exports of domestic produce totalled \$73,398,595, a gain of \$6,193,585. Exports of animals and their products increased one and a half millions, and of agricultural products over three millions.

To every rule there are exceptions. A correspondent from Nova Scotia, whose letter appeared in issue of August 19th, says that in his county all farm crops, excepting apples, were extremely poor, though the average for the Province is medium to fair. In Ontario there are sections in which, until the middle of August, there had been scarcely any rainfall for two months, while, from the Province as a whole, abundant rains were reported.

A late issue of the Ontario Gazette contains announcements of the incorporation of no less than eleven new mining companies, with an aggregate capitalization of \$15,890,000, upon which dividends are to be paid, should the dreams of the promoters be realized. That so vast an amount of cash would actually be invested, no one supposes, but the lure of easily-acquired wealth in the regions of New Ontario will be the bait which the investing public will be called upon to swallow.

Here and there all across Eastern Canada may be seen bald, gray hills and guttered hillsides rising up before the tourist, an eyesore on the landscape, and a source of doubtful profit—often loss—to the tiller of the soil. Such hills, where not too steep to mow, should by all means be seeded to alfalfa, which would hold the land from washing, fill it with nitrogenous humus, and turn off easily fifty dollars' worth of hay per acre year after year, with no expense but the labor of cutting and curing, say, ten, or, at the outside, fifteen, dollars a year.

Chas. McNeill, of the Dominion Fruit Division, has undertaken a large order in attempting to advise the planting of varieties throughout Ontario according to comprehensive ideas of adaptability. The first difficulty is to delineate the respective fruit areas with accuracy and lucidity; then to persuade others to take up the ideas and act accordingly. Last, and perhaps greatest, would be the problem of getting the early-apple crop in District No. 1 profitably marketed, if such varieties were obtained. Apple picking and marketing in this section is an operation that would likely be neglected by the average farmer.

Fairs and Fair-going.

The show season in the Eastern Provinces begins with the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, which will be held August 28th to September 13th. In the Northwest, where the summer season is slack, than after harvesting begins, the two big fairs, the Winnipeg and Brandon Exhibitions, have already been held, dates July 11th to 17th, and 13th to 17th; but in the older Provinces, eastwards, summer shows are unknown. There used to be considerable trouble over the choosing of times for the larger exhibitions, but an understanding seems to have been arrived at by the different fair boards, so that for some years there has been no hitch. It is now understood and expected that the Toronto Exhibition will open during the last week of August, and that towards the close of the second week of this exhibition, the other two great fairs of the Province, the one held at Ottawa (Sept. 10th to 18th), and the other at London (Sept. 10th to 18th), will be opened. This gives an opportunity for exhibitors of live stock, and of other articles, to compete in at least two of these three places with scarcely any delay, and but little loss of time in transshipment.

Farther east, still, the Sherbrooke (Que.) Fair begins on the same date as the one in Toronto, August 28th, continuing until September 4th. Fredericton (N. B.) Exhibition comes on September 11th to 23rd. Prince Edward Island Show is at Charlottetown, September 21st to 24th. The Nova Scotia Provincial, at Halifax, is held this year September 25th to October 2nd. The British Columbia Exhibition, at New Westminster, is the latest of all, the date being October 12th to 16th.

Considerable complaint is heard at times of the sameness of the displays at these great gatherings, and there is some truth in it, but it is absurd to expect new things in every department. Grain and roots, horses, cattle, sheep and swine, flowers and fruits, must necessarily be about the same from year to year, but yet not quite the same. The difference in the dairy cow of the present day, for instance, from the best in her line a quarter of a century ago, is astonishing. Wheat will be wheat as long as the world lasts, no doubt, but of this we may be sure, that, if there is anything new developed in agricultural productions, or in live stock, the place to see it is at the exhibitions. However, in these lines, it is not newness, so much as improvement, that is to be expected, and the success that has been attained by breeders in the animal and vegetable kingdoms in the past is assurance that there is more to follow.

It is in the machinery and industrial departments, however, that changes of a radical character are constantly taking place. The blacksmith-made plows and harrows which used to be on exhibition a generation ago, where are they? They have gone with the hand and self-rake reapers which in their day were thought to have reached the limit of perfection in harvesting machinery. Even the self-binder, which for a few years was reckoned one of the wonders of every show, is scarcely looked at now. Hay tedders, side-delivery rakes and hay loaders are fast passing out of prominence, though not out of use. Cement-block and brick machines, gasoline engines, spraying outfits, two-furrow plows, automobiles in all sizes, and the like, which as yet draw interested crowds, will in turn give place to contrivances yet unknown. A ditching machine that will finish a drain as it moves across a field, has actually been at work this season, and will doubtless soon be on hand at exhibitions. The steel silo, about

which many inquiries are being made, might well be exhibited there, also. But there is no use in attempting to predict the unknown. It is the unexpected that appears. This much may safely be said, that, where crowds gather, as they do at exhibitions, there will those who wish to introduce some new device or machine make their display.

Much has been truly said of the educating influence of agricultural and industrial exhibitions on the general public. There is no doubt that the high general average of knowledge prevalent throughout the whole country on the most advanced methods of work, and the possibilities in the live-stock industry, has been due in great part to what has been seen at these displays of the productions of the country. Seeing is believing. But not enough prominence has probably been given to the minute information and stimulus which exhibitors themselves receive. One horseman meets others, and in friendly talk and quiet observation learns a great deal that is unobserved by the passing crowd. None pay such close attention to the stock show-rings as those who are themselves exhibiting. Points of difference and of excellence are observed by them that escape the ordinary on-looker, and they get hints on management which they quietly pack away for use in the future. Poultry exhibitors are a very enthusiastic crowd, and knots of them can be seen at almost any hour in the building set apart for them, eagerly discussing details of their business, with object-lessons right before them. And so with the fruit-men, the vegetable-growers, and, indeed, with those exhibiting in every line. The stimulus thus received bears fruit later, and in turn sifts down to the general public.

The show-time is a time of recreation and of social enjoyment, as well as of seeing sights and getting information. Friends travel together, or meet with others from different parts of the country that they would not otherwise see, and thus old acquaintance is renewed and friendship increased. For those who live far from the city, the journey thither and the city sights are almost worth as much in the way of an outing as attendance at the great show itself.

The exhibitions have their recreative and purely business purposes, but should be attended chiefly with a view to realizing educational advantage.

The Truth About Cool-curing.

As with many other excellent ideas, it is hard to obtain conclusive figures from cheese-factory experience to prove the advantage of cool-curing rooms. Take, for instance, the saving in shrinkage. Except in those cases where a factory has made a definite experiment by keeping two cheese from the same make, one in a cool-curing room, and the other in an ordinary room, it is impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of the saving. One might think, by comparing the yield of cheese at a certain factory the year before a cool-curing room was built, with the yield the following year at the same factory, that a fair comparison would be obtained. Not necessarily at all. Let us illustrate by the experience of two factories in Eastern Ontario, one in Prince Edward and the other in Hastings. At the Mountain View factory, in Prince Edward County, a cool-curing room was fitted up in the winter of 1905-06, has given good satisfaction, and the patrons are pleased with it. They have, however, been disappointed to find that the yield of cheese has risen slightly (that is to say, it is taking a fraction of a pound more milk to make a pound of cheese than formerly), instead of dropping, as