

ing to quality, no matter by whom fed. Probably a good deal of the best Canadian was sold as Scotch, which had a high reputation; while the poorer grades were classed as Canadian, to the injury of our good name as feeders. Lack of finish, the necessity for slaughter within ten days after landing, and the lack of great abattoirs to establish a dressed-meat trade were mentioned as great drawbacks to the export trade. Western cattle were landed in bad condition owing to lack of grain feeding, the long journey, and their wild nature. Ontario cattle were too often sold in December or January for May delivery, and the feeders were then likely to grow careless about finishing them properly. Another trouble was that shippers rather preferred heavy cattle, as the ocean freight was the same, but these were not in greatest demand in Britain.

STOCKMEN'S INTEREST IN GOOD SEED.

Mr. G. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, told of the bearing good seed has on the live-stock industry. Inherited capacity to produce large crops, and freedom from noxious weeds, were the chief characteristics of good seed. The efforts now being made through the Canadian Seed-growers' Association to provide in large quantities selected or pedigreed seed were explained, and the purport of the Pure-seed Bill now before Parliament was given. A large number of copies of this Act would be printed for distribution, and could be had on application to the Department at Ottawa. Seed fairs were being held, with the co-operation of the Seed Branch, at thirteen points in Canada this year, and the good effects of such fairs were pointed out. Noxious weeds were largely introduced from foreign countries in packing materials around merchandise. The trade in grass and clover seeds was the chief medium of distribution, while railroads, streams, and threshing machines had a large share in carrying weeds from farm to farm.

Ex-Warden Boyce, of Carleton County, made a good speech in favor of farmers using only good seed. He told of a visit to the Temiskaming country, where the soil was wonderfully rich, but he referred to the regret he felt at seeing impure seed being taken into that district.

TRADE WITH ARGENTINA.

Mr. W. S. Spark, of Canterbury, Eng., gave a very interesting account of his recent trip to Argentina. He had visited nearly all the leading agricultural countries of the world, but Argentina had the richest soil he had ever seen. The climate, however, was very warm in summer, and the country was full of foot-and-mouth disease. He did not see much prospect of its being stamped out, either. The best class of beef bulls brought very high prices there, and it might be worth while for Canadian breeders to send down some shipments, but considering the risks and the lack of return cargoes, he did not think it advisable for the Government to assist in establishing a trade. Grade cattle were not wanted, and would not bring more than enough to pay the freight. There was no chance for Canadians to buy horses there, as had been suggested, as outside of a few show horses, they were of a very nondescript class. The Palermo Show was the greatest show of cattle in the world, in numbers if not in quantity. At this show last summer there were 3,130 bulls on exhibition, and all were put up for sale at auction. A photo was shown of the bull Newton Stone, which sold for \$14,960 in gold; also of the La Plata Freezing Works, with a daily capacity of 4,000 sheep and 500 cattle.

THE LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY.

Hon. Sydney Fisher emphasized the importance of the educational features of the live-stock shows, and said that the Ottawa show must go on, in spite of the second unfortunate collapse of the building intended for it. Live-stock raising was the most important industry in Canada, as without it it would be impossible to maintain the fertility of the soil, and make certain the permanent prosperity of agriculture in Canada. The live-stock interests would find their best and surest markets for the future among our own people in Western Canada. There was to-day in Ontario a group of live-stock breeders who had hardly an equal in the world. These should do their best to improve the class of stock reared by other farmers, as the more there were in the business the better would be the demand for the best stock.

(Additional reports elsewhere in this issue.)

To Prevent the Retention of Afterbirth.

A Norfolk County reader sends a recipe for prevention of retention of afterbirth, which, he says, he read in the "Farmer's Advocate" about twenty years ago, and has used with satisfaction ever since. It is to feed a quart of wheat, boiled, at intervals of ten days, for a month previous to date of calving. The experience cannot, of course, be regarded as conclusive, since there is nothing to show that it warded off any threatened attack. Probably a quart of bran would have proven equally efficacious. Any more positive experience is solicited.

An Old Friend in Africa.

I enclose herewith money order for \$3.00 for my subscription for 1905. When one gets the "Farmer's Advocate" here it is like meeting an old friend, even if it is a month behind.

THOS. BRADSHAW.

Director of Agriculture.
Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, S. A.

The Sow at Farrowing.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Noticing in your issue of March 2nd, 1905, page 295, article on care of sow and litter, I could not improve on the feeding of the sow, but I do think I have an easier and more profitable way to care for her while parturition is taking place. Remove the sow to a warm, dry place, and fill it entirely with white straw a few days beforehand, so that by the time she is sick she has made for herself a comfortable bed, and is contented. Do not disturb the sow while parturition is taking place, and she will lie there till the pigs are all born. If any of the pigs attempt to stray from the nest they are kept by the high wall of straw around the sow, so do not get cold and squeal to worry the mother.

When she starts to move about in the nest it is marvellous how carefully she crowds them out of the way to make room to lie down, and also when the pigs get older she will lie down, a little distance from the nest, and call the pigs to her.

The main thing is to give her lots of straw beforehand, and not disturb her while parturition is taking place. If you are crowded for room, give her the straw stack or straw mow, and let her have her own way. The Creator has given her an instinct that cannot be supplied or improved upon by any substitute. The mother generally knows best how to care for her family.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

B. S.

years the first week in May, according to the earliness of the season. The second plot was sown with similar seed two weeks later. The soil in the two plots was as nearly alike as it was possible to have it. The average results of the experiments with turnips at Ottawa for five years showed a difference in yield of over ten tons per acre per year in favor of early sowing.

The average results of the experiments at Ottawa with mangolds for five years showed a difference in favor of early sowing of 12 tons 125 pounds per year.

The difference in the yield of carrots was not so marked, though it left no doubt as to the advisability of early sowing. The average results of experiments for five years at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, showed a difference of 3 tons 979 pounds per acre in favor of early sowing.

Between the early and late sown crops of the garden sugar beets there was an average difference in favor of the former of 8 tons 1,660 pounds per year.

"On the whole," said Dr. Saunders, "there's a difference in favor of early sowing on the average of from 25 to 40 per cent."

Dr. Fletcher's Evidence.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

Dr. James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, furnished evidence regarding the work of his division before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons on Friday, March 3rd. The principal phases of the work of the Botanical and Entomological

Division, Dr. Fletcher explained, were the study of insects, both injurious and beneficial, and the study of plants; the diseases which affect them, and how they may be prevented. That their work was being appreciated, the speaker said, was evinced by the fact that during the past year over 3,000 letters had been received from farmers, asking for information along various lines.

Taking up the subject of insects, Dr. Fletcher said that fully ten per cent. of every crop grown was destroyed by insects. This was a very conservative estimate. The pea weevil alone caused an estimated loss of over \$1,000,000 per year to the farmers of Canada, while the San Jose scale also did great damage to the fruit-growing interests. There was also great loss from the ravages of fungous diseases on certain crops. The botanical division had also given considerable attention to the subject of noxious weeds, and had collected and disseminated valuable information along this line.

Eighteen years ago, continued the speaker, when the division over which he had charge was established, the word "spray" was unknown in the sense that it is usually now associated. By the adoption of spraying certain crops for the prevention of fungous diseases the yields were increased fully fifty per cent.; or, in other words, fully fifty per cent. damage was prevented.

"How to kill the pea-weevil," furnished material for a considerable portion of Dr. Fletcher's address. The present year, he said, was a most opportune one for the farmers of Canada to make a determined effort to clean the weevil out of the country. He believed that the number of weevils in Canada at the present time was less than for many years, owing to weather conditions during the past few seasons, and certain other reasons. Dr. Fletcher recommended the following method of treating peas in order to kill the weevil: Place the quantity of peas to be treated in an ordinary coal oil barrel, which will hold about five bushels of peas; then take three ounces of bisulphide of carbon, place it in a saucer and set it on top of the peas in the barrel, and at once cover the latter closely. The chemical may be poured on the peas with equally good results. Carbon bisulphide is a colorless liquid, which turns into vapor when exposed to the air. It is heavier than air, and, therefore, when it volatilizes the fumes sink quickly to the bottom and permeate the contents of any tightly-closed receptacle. Every weevil will be killed by this treatment.

To kill cutworms, Dr. Fletcher said the most effective method was to mix one pound of Paris green with fifty pounds of bran, slightly moistened with water, to which a little sugar has been added, and scatter this mixture around on the spots infested by the worms.



Water Lilly (Imp.) = 436280=.

At 18 months old, first as junior yearling and gold medal as best female in junior class, Toronto, 1902. Included in dispersion sale on March 21st of Shorthorn herd of Gossifellow Bros., McVidie, Ont. See Gossip.

FARM.

Early Seeding.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

In concluding his evidence before the Agricultural Committee, Dr. William Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms, dealt especially with the advantages of early seeding. The average results of ten years' experimental work conducted by the experimental farms, he said, demonstrated that sowing wheat, barley and oats as soon as the soil was in condition to receive the seed, resulted in a substantial increase in the yield of grain, compared with the crop when the seed was not sown as soon as the soil was in condition to receive it. In the tests at the experimental farms, Dr. Saunders said plots were sown with wheat, barley and oats at intervals of one week, the first plot being sown just as soon as the soil was in condition, the second a week later, etc. The average results for the years proved conclusively that the earlier the grain was sown the larger crops would be obtained. The difference between the yields from early and late sowing were more marked in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces than in the Northwest; still, the average results showed that it also paid to sow as early as possible in the Northwest.

A similar series of experiments, Dr. Saunders explained, had also been carried on with field roots during the past five years. The results also showed that the seed of field roots should be sown as early as possible. Experiments were conducted with turnips, mangolds, carrots, and garden sugar beets. The first plot of seed was sown about the middle of May, and some