

EDITORIAL.

The "hog cholera" epidemic this season has been one of the worst ever known in the history of the industry in the Western States. The losses have been appalling.

South Dakota farmers are reported to have been cutting and stacking Russian thistles which, when cured, smell like clover hay. Horses and cattle eat them greedily, it is said.

The events of the Ontario Fat Stock Show week beginning with Dec. 10th, at Guelph, constitute the next great center of attraction for breeders and farmers—the grand finale of the Canadian show season of 1895.

If we may judge from the enthusiasm of the New York Horse Show, as reported elsewhere in this issue, the "horseless age," upon which sundry magazine and newspaper scribes are so fond of dilating, is too vague of contingency to be seriously considered.

The Australian Government are about sending a special agent, Mr. Jas. Sinclair, to Great Britain to report on the conditions under which products from that colony are put upon the market and sold, and to gather any information that will be of service to them in developing openings for the sale of Australian food supplies.

Thos. Jefferson, one of the fathers of the American Republic, and eight years President, wrote:—"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous; and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds."

An important trial under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act took place recently before Sheriff Campbell Smith, Dundee, Scotland, the defendant being Mr. Harry Swan, farmer, Balhugie, Monikie, who had dehorned a number of cattle, some of which died as a result. It was shown that the cattle (stockers from Ireland) were in an unhealthy state before the operation and had not been allowed sufficient time to rally from being driven about the country. The defendant was found not guilty.

If you believe in the Farmers' Institute idea, why not agitate the opening of a small farmers' club, having for its members, say, twenty of your immediate neighbors. It is surprising how many good ideas are exchanged in such gatherings. The meetings may be held every two, three or four weeks all through the winter season at different farm houses or in the school house. A topic agreed upon at one meeting may be introduced at the next by a paper or talk from a successful member of the club in that particular line, say the care of a dairy cow, clover culture, and so on. Let every one present contribute something useful learned in his experience, and when the chairman sums up at the end the main points made, we believe all present will vote the hour well spent—much more profitably than "talking politics" at the corner grocery.

A Suggestion for Politicians.

The new British Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Long, recently took a step which might with advantage be adopted by politicians in this country. During a visit to Scotland he met a large gathering of representative farmers, irrespective of their political bearings; not to instruct them in their political duties, but to learn their wishes as practical agriculturists. As a rule even the representative of a rural constituency is never heard from till an election campaign is on, when various appeals to partizanship create such heated feeling that there is little or no opportunity for dispassionate and impartial consideration of matters that vitally affect the well-being of the farmer. A little more frank and non-partizan consultation between the parliamentary representative and his constituents would be of decided advantage to all concerned.

Fruit Growers in Session.

The annual and winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association will be held in Woodstock, on the 11th, 12th and 13th of December, 1895. Expert fruit growers from all parts of the Province will be present to deliver addresses or take part in the discussions. Among those expected are Prof. Wm. Saunders and Prof. J. A. Craig, Experimental Farm, Ottawa; President Mills and Prof. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph; and Prof. Taft, Michigan Agricultural College.

Our Frontispiece--The Famous Aberdeen-Angus Bull, Prince Inca (7844).

This champion Aberdeen-Angus bull was bred by and owned by Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., Ballindalloch, Banffshire, Scotland. The following is his pedigree: Sire Iliad 2843, dam Pride of Invereshie 7059, by Justice 1462. Prince Inca won first prize and championship at the H. & A.'s Show, at Inverness, in 1892, and again at the H. & A.'s Show, at Dumfries, in 1895. He was six years and five months old when the photograph from which our illustration was prepared was taken. His produce have proved very successful in the show ring; amongst the prize winners this year being Equestrian 9953, winner of the Ballindalloch Cup at Dumfries; Her Majesty the Queen's Gentian 19258, and the Ballindalloch yearling heifer Mantlet 21825, all of which have been in the front. Others could be named, but these sufficiently show the caliber of Prince Inca as a sire.

Lovers of good stock in America, as well as in Great Britain, will learn with regret that this great bull died a few weeks ago from liver trouble. His place, both as show bull and stock getter, will be somewhat difficult to fill. We might add that intelligence of his death reached us since our artist completed the engraving on our first page.

The Feeding Value of Potatoes.

A large proportion of this year's potato crop will have to be disposed of in other ways than for culinary purposes. Fortunately, almost every farm has a market of its own.

The winter feeding value of all dry, bulky fodder crops is very dependent on a supply of turnips or other vegetables. The average quantity of water in a Swede is 89 per cent.; of carbohydrates, 7 per cent.; of albuminoids, 1.4 per cent.; of fats, .03. The average in the potato is 75 per cent. of water, 20 per cent. of carbohydrates, 2.2 per cent. albuminoids, and fats, .03. Casually observed, a ton of potatoes contains nearly three times as much starchy matter and nearly twice as much albuminoid; consequently the analytical feeding value of the potato is far more than twice as great as that of Swedes. In actual practice, however, the analytical value of green fodder crops is not the only factor to be considered. The water contained in green crops is analytically exactly the same as pure water from any other source; but in some unexplained way it acts more beneficially on an animal. Take, for instance, a rich pasture on which cattle fatten in summer without any outside assistance, then try to feed animals on the hay from the same pasture, supplying the water in the bucket instead of in the form of natural juices, and a far different result is obtained. The animal will not starve; at the same time it will not fatten, no matter how much hay and water are given it. Yet, analytically, water is the only constituent lost in the practice of haymaking. "I don't need to grow turnips now, I've got a windmill," remarked one individual who had fallen into the erroneous notion that his way of furnishing stock water would equal Nature's plan, as found in the succulent turnip. Treating from the other side of the question, the carbohydrates, albuminoids and fats can be supplied more cheaply in the form of cereals and other concentrated foods than from potatoes; but the value of the extra succulence of the potato diet more than makes up for the deficiency in constituents. Says W. J. Malden in "The Potato in Field and Garden":

"The full value of potatoes is not obtained unless they are cooked. In the case of sheep, large quantities of raw potatoes produce scours; in pigs and horses, indigestion. It is our personal experience to have had to feed large quantities of potatoes which have been injured in one way or another, so as to spoil them for market but not for feeding purposes, from which we have learned that two tons of Swedes have more value than one ton of potatoes. It is easier to grow 25 tons of Swedes than 12½ tons of potatoes, besides which there is the cost of cooking the latter. We have gone into the subject of the relative feeding values of the two crops, because results of a few experiments are frequently taken as data to show the exceptional value possessed by potatoes as a fodder crop. Experience shows us that there is no special advantage to be reaped by substituting potatoes for Swedes as a crop; nor is it more profitable to buy potatoes at double the cost per ton that would be paid for Swedes at the same time."

As before stated, potatoes should be cooked before feeding. They should also be washed free from dirt, which is easily done by placing a loose wooden grating in a tub or long trough. Fill half the trough with water, place the floating grating on this, then throw in the potatoes, stir and rub them with a broom or hard brush, and in a short time the potatoes will be clean and the dirt will have sunk beneath the grating. Cooked potatoes are readily eaten by all kinds of stock, and poultry thrive on them. They are particularly suitable for horses which are being fitted for sale, as they give a sleek appearance to the skin and a brightness to the coat.

International Exhibition, St. John, N. B. (Concluded.)

The new agricultural hall is a large two-story building. The ground floor of the east end of the building was occupied with farm implements. Messrs. Horncastle & Co. had a good exhibit, and several other firms showed useful implements. Messrs. John Clark & Son, Fredericton, exhibited root pulpers, grain crushers, and a fine display of Daisy churns.

The western end of the building was arranged for the dairy department. In the center Mr. J. H. White, of St. John, exhibited a large collection of creamery and cheese-factory outfits—hand separators, Babcock milk testers, butter moulds, thermometers, etc. On the south side the creamery and dairy crock butter was arranged, and along the west end the print and roll butter and the granular butter in glass jars. The creameries of the three Maritime Provinces made an excellent exhibit. The Nova Scotia creameries got first and second prizes; N. B. third. The dairy prizes were mostly retained in N. B. First and second in the granular butter remained in N. B. The judges reported some of the lots of dairy butter to be very fine, showing a great improvement. The granular butter, the judges said, was as fine as any they had ever seen, and it was greatly admired by the visitors. There were over fifty entries in butter. Probably no such exhibition of fine dairy produce was ever seen in the Maritime Provinces before, which shows the progress agriculture is making. One regrettable thing was that arrangement had not been made to protect the butter and yet give visitors better opportunities of seeing it. Judging by the score card, which gives the points of excellence in each lot, would also be desirable. These matters can be arranged for future exhibitions.

On the other side of the building tables were arranged for the cheese exhibit. There were eighteen entries of colored and twelve entries of uncolored cheese—three cheese in each lot, made between the 1st and 15th of August.

Mr. D. M. McPherson, M. P. P., Lancaster, Ont., was judge, and used the following score card: Flavor, 30 points; body and texture, 20 points; closeness, 20 points; color, 20 points; finish, 10 points. Perfection, 100 points.

The awards were as follows:—

COLORED CHEESE.—First prize, St. Mary's Cheese Co., 96 points; second prize, Peticoadiac Cheese Co., 93 points; third prize, Newport Cheese Co., N. S., 92 points; fourth prize (highly commended), Waterford Cheese Co., 90 points; fifth prize (commended), Glassville Cheese Co., 82 points.

UNCOLORED CHEESE.—First prize, St. Mary's Cheese Co., 97 points; second prize, J. F. Tilley, Woodstock, 96 points; third prize, T. J. Dillon, P. E. Island, 95 points; fourth prize (highly commended), C. L. Tilley, Woodstock, 88 points; fifth prize (commended), Jas. Good, Woodstock, 86 points.

These score points show how very close the competition was in both classes.

Mr. D. M. McPherson in his report said: "It is with a great deal of pleasure that we testify to the generally uniform quality of the cheese exhibited. We are pleased to observe that the best lots exhibited compare most favorably with the finest quality made in Ontario; and we are surprised that such uniform good quality throughout could be attained in a new section in such a short time. The obtaining of such satisfactory results to the dairymen of the Province clearly demonstrates the propriety and justification of the Government in taking an active part to promote the welfare of the farmers, and the expenditure of a reasonable amount of money to place the dairy business on a substantial and permanent basis, under the able supervision of Mr. John Robertson."

In the north-east corner the travelling dairy was in operation. The walls were decorated with field corn, horse beans and sunflowers neatly arranged—a fine object lesson on food for cattle. The corn was Compton's Early and Pearce's Prolific. There were other varieties, but the ears were not so well matured. The beans were excellent—well-podded and well-filled. The sunflower heads were large, some of them sixteen inches in diameter. Butter was made twice each day, some of it in granular form and preserved in pickle, and some printed. Fruit-dishes were used for the granular butter, and square stone platters for the prints, arranged on the table in front of the platform, where it could be easily examined and tasted by the visitors.

The Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, was kept busy giving information to enquirers, so that "the dairy" was quite an attraction as well as an educator, and seemed to be highly appreciated.

On the second floor were the grain, roots, vegetables, and all kinds of farm and garden produce. Around the building were the tables with fruits. We have rarely seen such a fine display of apples and pears—hundreds of separate exhibits. The fruit-growers of the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, made a grand exhibit.

In the other outbuildings there was a good display of turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, and a great variety of different breeds of hens.

During the week there was some speeding of horses on the course, out of the city about a mile; but most of the country people preferred to spend their time in the show grounds—a better place to see and learn something that would be of benefit. The Directors did all they could to entertain the visitors and make the exhibition a success, and we think they have good reason to be satisfied with the results achieved.