

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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EDITORIAL.

Combating Swine Disease.

A fortnight or so ago the daily papers contained sensational despatches from the county of Essex, Ont., regarding a conflict of authority between the owners of several lots of hogs and a local veterinary inspector. Rightly or wrongly, and for longer or shorter periods, probably a score of townships have had quarantine regulations applied to them during the past six months, and we have been repeatedly assured that the "cholera is stamped out." With a view of studying the whole situation—rather than the merits of the above dispute—we commissioned one of our staff to visit the district in question and to note carefully the conditions existing in order to make such suggestions as may be helpful in eradicating the trouble while it can be easily grappled with, and to outline a course which swine raisers especially in their own interests should carefully pursue. We need offer no apology for devoting considerable space to the result of his investigation. The magnitude and high character of the Canadian bacon trade fully warrants every effort to preserve it intact. Our representative was cordially received; in fact, several expressed themselves as more than pleased at the presence of an independent outsider, and we trust the suggestions made elsewhere will be received in the same spirit in which they are given. If applied, as we have reason to think they will be, very great benefit will result from some of them, even though another outbreak of "cholera" or "plague" should not make its appearance.

The Farm Library.

"Book Farmin'," so-called, has not stood in very high repute; nor is this to be wondered at. Agriculture is really one of the most difficult and many-sided industries, requiring every day a wider range of more accurate knowledge, which can only be acquired by study, observation and experience. A man without the latter undertakes to farm by means of a set of technical rules or by text-book, and at every step he will find hundreds of things to learn. In the very nature of things the chances are that his first efforts will be failures. What ailed him was lack of knowledge and how to apply it—not too much of it. Really successful men everywhere know this. Hence, we find an increasing demand for good agricultural papers. The more a farmer knows about his business the more he sees there is to learn, and this is the reason why we have been devoting so large a portion of space in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to giving the record of actual experience in various lines so that mutual help can be afforded. The growing enquiry for trustworthy books on different branches of farm work, such as stock rearing, dairying, soil cultivation, horticulture, etc., suggests another great want felt by those who are pursuing specialties for ample technical information. Every farm home should have its well-chosen library of agricultural works. The arrangement we have made with the well-known Macmillan publishing house will help to meet this need, and we would refer the reader for particulars of it to another page in this issue. We trust our readers will feel free to write us for any additional information desired, and that this very favorable opportunity will be very generally taken advantage of. We have excellent facilities for furnishing promptly works on other subjects not specified in that announcement.

Beware of Swindlers.

We caution our readers against the many swindlers who appear to be operating this season. Steer clear of strangers who offer something big for nothing, or handsome wages for light work. We are rejecting such advertisements every week, but they secure insertion in some of the newspapers and so gull the unwary.

The Fat Stock Show for 1897.

The Fat Stock Show for 1897, to be held on December 7, 8 and 9, ought to be better in every respect than any of those which have preceded it. The prize list to be offered by the combined breeders' associations will be by far the best that has ever been placed before the breeders and feeders of Canada in a show of this character, and is highly creditable to the Directors who have shown a liberal spirit in its preparation quite in keeping with the importance of the great interests they represent. The classification has been improved and extended so that nearly all the acknowledged breeds have a full list, and in addition to the liberal cash prizes given by the Associations, an unusually large and generous list of special prizes has been donated by manufacturers, by pork packing companies, and others. The breeders and feeders have every encouragement and should bend their energies to the work of preparing the best display of stock that has ever been brought out in this country. The city of Brantford, which has been honored by being chosen as the place for holding the show of '97, will be expected to display a liberal spirit in providing for the comfortable entertainment of the Directors and exhibitors, who are representative men of the highest type of Canadian farmers, who know when they are well used, and will govern themselves accordingly when the time comes to decide where the next year's show shall be held. It is no small honor for any city to be made the choice for such a meeting, and there are not a few places that would be glad to assume the responsibility of providing for it. The success of the show so far as the interests of the city in which it is held are concerned depends very largely upon the interest taken in it by the leading citizens, and by advertising the show they advertise their city. An interesting series of evening farmers' meetings has been arranged for the week of the exhibition, including popular meetings in which prominent public men will be invited to take part, and vigorous efforts are being employed to make the show a success in the best sense of the term.

Tuberculosis and the Tuberculin Test.

The subject of tuberculosis in cattle and the tuberculin test engaged the attention of the Agricultural Committee at Ottawa on May 21st. Dr. McEachran, Chief Veterinary Inspector for the Dominion, advised an expenditure of \$100,000 for the purpose of applying the test, slaughtering animals in diseased herds, disinfecting premises, and compensating owners. Hon. Sidney Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, took a different view, and one that ought to commend itself to the good judgment of the country. He preferred an educational process of accomplishing the desired result and encouraging stock breeders to have the test made voluntarily themselves. Public opinion is not ripe for a law involving general testing and slaughtering. We quite agree with the Minister that better and more permanent results can be secured, as he suggests, at much less cost and trouble. Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who was also present, concurred in the foregoing view, stating that from the bacteriological department of the Agricultural College tuberculin was now being furnished free. Dr. McEachran said the Dominion Department also furnished tuberculin and explicit directions for administering the test, which was now very simply done.

Now, there is little doubt that tuberculin in competent hands is a very accurate diagnostic agent, but the FARMER'S ADVOCATE believes that there is yet much to be learned regarding its use. We have it on pretty good authority that some very unscientific, slipshod work has been done by so-called "professional" cow testers. It is really not quite so simple a matter as it may appear to an

old experienced authority like Dr. McEachran, and we are probably well within the mark in saying that even a good many veterinarians do not find themselves entirely prepared for the work. The whole subject presents an opportunity for careful educational work, otherwise we will have another case of "more hurry and less speed." In our view, the work of weeding out tuberculous cows should begin with the herds supplying cities and towns with milk, which are probably the most affected, and where the conditions are such that the most harm might be done by using tuberculous milk.

In our Veterinary Department in this issue we give particulars as to how the test is conducted by the Veterinarian at the State Experiment Station of Minnesota, where it has been made the subject of a long, careful and exhaustive investigation.

The Transportation Problem.

The Canadian public is indebted to Mr. J. S. Willison, of Toronto (editor of the *Globe*), for the frank, luminous and informing contribution he has just published in a small pamphlet of 75 pages, entitled "The Railway Question in Canada, with an Examination of the Railway Act of Iowa." He must be a superficial observer indeed who does not see that the time is at hand when more than one troublesome phase of this question in Canada must be faced. The more light we have the sooner will solution be reached, and the better will it be for the taxpayer and every one concerned, directly or indirectly, with transportation. It is little wonder that in some quarters people have asked, "Does the railway serve or does it simply reign?"

Nominally, under the Railway Act of Canada there is a safeguard in the Railway Committee of the Privy Council to which all rates and classifications must be submitted for approval, but what has it accomplished? Little more, as Mr. Willison points out, than to register the decrees of the carrying corporations. Stockmen know something from experience of this. A year and a half ago the freight agents got together and promulgated a new classification and schedule of rates on stock in less than car lots that would have proved simply ruinous to the trade in pure-bred animals, and struck a fatal blow at the live stock rearing industry. A prompt and vigorous protest through the press and corresponding action by the live stock organizations brought relief, but the incident demonstrated the uselessness of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council in that respect. In Mr. Willison's pamphlet scores of freight charges are cited which are not only oppressive beyond endurance, but for which it is difficult to see any reasonable justification. Think of wool being carried via Vancouver from Australia to Montreal or Boston at a less rate than from Calgary to Montreal (whereby the railway defeats the aim of the protectionist); or a carload of self-binders from Toronto to Australia lower than from Toronto to Alberta; or rates on goods to Western Canada equal to 40, 75, 155, and even 300 per cent. of their actual cost in Ontario; or nearly half a Manitoba farmer's crop of wheat to carry it to Montreal or Toronto; or passenger rates amounting to 4 and 5 cents per mile, with no reduced return fare rates! The Northwest, British Columbia, and Manitoba, where we should have encouraging conditions for the settler, have been the chief sufferers. It is only fair to remember, however, that sections of the C. P. R. like that through the Rockies and in Northwestern Ontario are costly to operate, and vast stretches yet contribute comparatively little for transportation. What is the remedy? We have spent millions getting effective railway service (vast sums needlessly in Eastern Canada, in a vain effort after relief through competition). The public has little idea how it has been fleeced through railroad projects, but this