

Fayette Co. Fine Stock Association.

SIR,—will you kindly publish the following account of the Fayette Co. Fine Stock Association, in which many Canadians feel much interested:

Mr. John Irvine, accompanied by Mr. W. W. Kitchen, of Grimsby, Canada, were waiting for the train, ready to convey the company to their extensive stock farms, 2½ miles from Oelwein. Conveyances being furnished, the party—about 200—set out in regular order for the residence of Mr. John Irvine, forming a grand procession. The whole party were very cordially received and entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Irvine. After a few moments rest the party (ladies and gentlemen) strolled down into the field to look at that beautiful herd of Shorthorns owned by Messrs. Irvine and Kitchen, the finest herd of Shorthorns in Northern Iowa. The cattle were in fine condition and very quiet, so that all who wished could approach and handle them. The Irvine and Kitchen herd numbers about 100 head, and Mr. K. informs us that while at the Centennial he refused to take \$6,000 for two of the Centennial prize cows now running with the herd. Messrs. Irvine and Kitchen have been to quite an expense to plant this herd of Shorthorns in Fayette county. We can assure the public that there is no better blooded Shorthorns in the State than can be found in this herd. The young bull Golden King, two years old past, is as fine an animal as we ever saw; his weight is 1,700 lbs. His dam is imported Golden Drop; his sire is Proud Duke by 10th Duke of Thorndale.

After the party had examined the herd, all were invited to a grand dinner, set on a table in the grove. The table was supplied with everything needful to make the company satisfied and happy, and all present seemed to act as though they were on the very pinnacle of social enjoyment, and we venture to say that a better or more enjoyable occasion never was had in Fayette county.

Mr. Irvine has a splendid farm of 300 acres under cultivation, with good buildings and considerable fruit and good water.

During our visit we had the pleasure of looking over the large and extensive farm, owned by W. W. Kitchen, of Grimsby, Canada. It contains 500 acres of land, all improved and well fenced. A fine stream of spring water runs through the farm, out of which fish have been caught this season that weighed five pounds. He has good farm buildings. There is over 300 acres of grain standing on the farm, all of which bids fair to be bountiful in its yield.

The celebrated Kitchen herd, and also the Kitchen farm is now under the contract of Mr. John Irvine, and it is well worth a person's time to go and see the best herd of Shorthorns in the north part of Iowa.

It now being nearly train time the party left for Oelwein.—[Iowa State Express.

W., St. Catharines, Ont.

SIR,—Since the advancement of the vernal season induced the treasures of flora to leave their winter retreat, and show themselves in all their variety of forms and colors, we have experienced very variable weather. Since the 22nd of May the thermometer has been anywhere between 89° and 44°. The frost of the 23rd of May did little damage at Owen Sound, and along the bay shore, but back in Keppel the plum and cherry blossoms were affected, and the young clover touched. The thunder showers and warm weather we have had since, have had a very beneficial effect. Fall wheat is looking well, and so are the spring crops. The potatoes are growing fast, and the lovely potato beetles are seemingly more numerous than ever. Strawberries are plentiful and will soon be ready to furnish out the annual strawberry festivals. Pathmasters have commenced the performance of the farce known as statute labor. It appears to be a difficult matter to get any legislative measures passed for the farmer's benefit, unless it can be made a party measure. If the statute labor had to be commuted for 50 cents per day, and the work performed by contract, more and better work would be done for the money, and as to preventing cattle going at large, every municipality has power to pass a by-law to that effect, but so long as the councillors themselves are as great offenders as any, no such by-law will ever be passed. The best plan would be to pass a law rendering it imperative on County Councils to pass a by-law to prevent cattle running at large within the county, whenever a certain number of the ratepayers shall petition them to that effect. We must keep these grievances in store for the next session of our Provincial Legislature.

SARAWAK.

SIR,—Suppose that I own twenty-five acres of good arable land, all of it fit for cultivation, within one mile of a town of 3,000 inhabitants. Suppose further that the whole of it is thoroughly cultivated, and that a specialty is made of the most profitable crops. Assuming also that it is well managed, and that there is a ready sale for all the products at prices that would be considered average in any town in Ontario. Taking these things for granted, can you give me an outline of (1) what crops would be most profitable; (2) the acreage of each; and (3) the gross value of the product of one season's work.

All the circumstances are supposed favorable, and it is upon this basis I want to have your calculation? Leave untoward events out of the question, and select such crops as will give the highest financial results. Give the gross value of the product; and, if it is not too much trouble, an estimate of the cost of running the farm for one year, leaving out of the question the interest on the price of the land, which will vary considerably in different localities. Answer through the ADVOCATE in first issue convenient, and oblige,

GARDENER.

[We take it for granted that "Gardener" refers in the above to farm crops. All the circumstances being favorable, the greatest profit would be derived from crops in a four-year rotation from a twenty-five-acre farm. Say six acres potatoes, 250 bushels per acre, 50c per bushel, \$750; six acres barley, 50 bushels per acre, \$150; six acres soiling crops to feed six cows, with average product of cheese from factory 540 lbs., at 5c per lb., \$43.20 per acre, \$250.20; six acres wheat, 25 bushels per acre, \$1 per bushel, \$150. All the circumstances are supposed favorable, and the produce, as estimated, \$1,309 gross. The expenses you can easily calculate—one man, one horse, and seed.]

A Subscriber, Frontenac, asks: "What is the proportion of dressed beef in a well-fed animal to the live weight?" The proportion varies according to circumstances, as the length of time the animal has been fattening, the food on which it has been fed, the breed, and also the age of the animal. At the Christmas fat cattle show in Smithfield, E., was a steer of the "Young Mary" tribe, which, 1,902 days old, had a live weight of 2,440 lbs. He was slaughtered and dressed by Jacob Thuler. The live weight was 2,400 lbs.; offal, 295 lbs.; tallow, 300 lbs.; hide, 305 lbs.; carcass (four quarters) net beef, 1,700 lbs. The dead weight of beef was 70 4-5 lbs. to the 100 lbs. This is a very large proportion, the steer being high bred, and no expense having been spared in his feeding. The general rule for the difference in weight between live and dressed beef is as fourteen to eight. From this has risen the difference in the stone weight—the stone weight of live cattle being fourteen pounds, and that of dressed meat eight pounds.

SIR,—Would you please allow me space in your valuable paper to ask a few questions, which you or some of your readers would be kind enough to answer:—1st, Is it possible to force the growth of squash by feeding them with milk, and 2nd, how is it done. By answering those, you will greatly oblige, ENQUIRER, Hemmingford.

[The size, and consequently the weight of the squash, have been greatly increased by feeding them with milk. Would any of our readers reply to Enquirer.]

SIR,—I have a colt, one year old, with a bog spavin. Give treatment in next ADVOCATE, and oblige.

D. T.

[Prof. Law advises the following as a remedy for bog spavin:—Rest, and use a high-heeled shoe. In case of very violent inflammation use soothing measures (fomentation), and when the extreme heat and tenderness have subsided, use blisters, as for bone spavin, or, still better, the hot iron applied lightly, at a nearly white heat. We have known cases of bog spavin in young horses completely cured by treatment similar to the above.]

In the opinion of "A Practical Farmer" corn hay, that is the whole plant grown for fodder, and cut and cured when in its most nutritious condition, if made from sweet corn, is, if well cured but little inferior to average English hay. Cattle appear to eat it equally well with hay, and to thrive upon it.

Several communications are laid over until next issue.

The Grangers' Picnic.

A GALA TIME AT PORT STANLEY—ADDRESSES BY BRETHREN.

This body have held their annual picnic at the Port. The G. W. R. made liberal reductions from the various stations on the different lines of road, and a large number of the farmers availed themselves of the cheap rates to have an outing, the Order from various parts being well represented. About 300 left the station here, and large accessions were made at Wilton Grove, Glanworth and St. Thomas. The prominent members of the Order met at the Fraser House, and nominated speakers for the occasion. Mr. Wm. Belton, London Division Grange, occupied the chair, and in a few remarks urged the necessity of combination amongst farmers. All other professions had their meetings, and he thought it nothing but right that farmers should meet other classes upon fair terms.

Bro. J. Robinson, of Elgin Division Grange, considered farmers had not their interest at heart. They bound themselves to a party, and outside of that they would not act. He considered there was not unity enough amongst farmers to make a perfect organization. He thought the people of Ontario were too much governed by a surplus of legislators and County Councillors. He felt that he could pick out five farmers present who could run the Government of Ontario considerably better than the present Administration.

Mr. James Armstrong, of Yarmouth, spoke at length on the benefits of the Order as a social institution for farmers and their families. He condemned the purchase of groceries, &c., and showed it was a weakness instead of strength to the Order. The great principle they had to follow was unity of action.

Mr. H. Anderson said it did not follow because a farmer belonged to a Grange, or that a given number of farmers combined, that there was unity. In fact, he thought if anything it had been the means of separating them by internal dissension. Farmers should be prepared to sink personal interests, and yield to a majority in their Granges, and work for their common interest.

Mr. D. C. McDonald spoke of the Order as a step in the right direction on the part of the farmers in joining them together for one common purpose—the elevation of farmers as a class; but he thought with previous speakers—a house divided against itself must fall. He thought by unity of action a great good could be accomplished by educating farmers to hold the highest positions in the country.

Mr. W. L. Brown referred at length to the principles of the Order. He did not think much of the commercial principles of the Order. He thought that more should be done to develop a better class of farmers, and have a better representation in Parliament. He also spoke at length on the financial condition of the country.

Mayor Smith had no doubt the Order had done good in weeding out a large number of middlemen, but still they were necessary as a part of society.

Mr. Fred. Anderson, in a lengthy speech, referred to an article of the Rev. W. F. Clarke on farmers' representation, and was followed by Ben Panye, who, in a well timed speech, exposed the fallacies of the opposition to the Grange.

It was proposed to hold a grand picnic of all the divisions West of Toronto in some central place.

No fewer than seven hundred suggestions for getting rid of the Grape Phylloxera—mostly of no account, of course—were made by correspondents to the learned Commission of the Department of the Herault, France, 317 of which were faithfully tried and the results of the toilsome test, together with conclusions drawn from what was previously known, seem to teach that the destruction of the "little but awful" insect is an impossibility, and that the only resource is to so stimulate the vine that it may fruit in spite of its powerful enemy. For this purpose manures rich in potash and nitrogenous matters, especially when they contain any substance which will act as an insecticide, such, for instance, as mixtures having sulphates and earthy and alkaline sulphurets, wood-ashes, soot, ammonia, lime etc., have proved highly beneficial, and by their continued use one cultivator, as mentioned in the Gardners' Chronicle, keeps five hectares of vineyard in full bearing while others in the same neighborhood are already dead, or going fast in that direction.