

The Appointment of the Rev. W. T. Clarke.

It is with pleasure that we learn the appointment of the Rev. W. T. Clarke as rector of the Provincial Farm and School of Agriculture. The duties of the office are sufficiently important and onerous, embracing as they do the moral and domestic government of the pupils, the charge of the household arrangements, the chaplaincy, the treasuryship, and the correspondence; and could not, we feel sure, be entrusted to any one more thoroughly qualified to discharge them with zeal and efficiency, nor to any one who has displayed from the first agitation of the scheme a more lively interest in the establishment of the institution.

Mr. Clarke has already entered upon the field of his duties, and the actual work of instruction on the farm has commenced. In common with his numerous friends, we wish him "God-speed."

In connection with the appointment the *Graphic Mercury* remarks: "Apart from the strong claims he had on the Government for the great interest he has taken in this institution since it was first spoken of, and the efforts he has made to get it established, he is in every way well qualified to discharge his responsible duties with great efficiency; and we are satisfied will enter on his work with a zeal and earnest desire to make it a success. In sending their sons to the farm, parents may have every confidence that in addition to the valuable instruction they will receive, their moral welfare will not be overlooked; that the principal and rector will at all times study their comfort, and that while going through the daily routine of work they will also endeavor to elevate and refine those committed to their charge. We are satisfied that this appointment will give great satisfaction to Mr. Clarke's numerous friends in this section and throughout this Province, by whom he is well known in connection with his agricultural studies and writings, and for the active interest he has taken for years in promoting its interests."

The Great Flood at the South.

The damage resulting from the recent inundation in Louisiana appears to have been much more extensive and serious than was at first anticipated. Late southern exchanges state that an area of over five million acres of land, and the material interests of fifty thousand persons, are involved in the catastrophe. Hundreds have lost their stock, crops, and, in short, their all, and no fewer than sixty thousand individuals are destitute of the bare necessities of life. The Government, with commendable promptitude, at once forwarded five hundred thousand rations of meat, flour and vegetables to the unfortunate sufferers, and a steamer laden with further supplies was dispatched a few days later. A number of the leading seaboard cities have already responded in the most generous manner to the cry for assistance, and it is to be hoped that ere this the pressing necessities of the case have been fully overcome. What the ultimate consequences of this dire calamity may be, it is of course quite impossible at present to determine, but there is little doubt that it will very materially lessen the products of the south for this season.

Canada Live Stock in the United States.

Most of our readers will have observed, from the reports published in the two last issues of the *CANADA FARMER*, that a large proportion of the best stock disposed of at our recent sales went to United States breeders. Much as we regret the short-sightedness of our own people, in thus allowing the cream of our flocks and herds to be drained out of the country, it is very gratifying to know that those who have come, in some instances, thousands of miles, and risked so much in the matter, are perfectly satisfied with their bargains. Speaking of some of these purchases, the *Western Farmer* says:—

"R. Ogilvie, Esq., of this city, has just returned from a visit to Stansdale, Maine, Wis., the home of George Murray, and his fine herd of Short-horns. The important man here, Maid of Honor purchased at Mr. Beattie's sale, will probably take the place of honor in the herd, as Mr. Murray, we believe, regards her as one of the finest Short-horns he had ever seen,

and Mr. Ogilvie seems to agree with him. She has dropped a fine roan calf since her purchase.

The Clydesdale Stallion Donald Dunnicliffe pronounced decidedly superior to the representation of him recently published by us. We suppose it will be generally admitted that he is the best Clydesdale in America.

Mr. Murray has also just engaged in breeding Long Wool Sheep—having some 29 very fine Cots wols purchased in Canada."

Wm. Lysaght, Esq., Belleville, Wis., arrived at home last week with 61 Cots wold sheep purchased from the celebrated flocks of John Miller, Berrill and Johnson, and Jas. Graham, of Reach, Ontario, Can., at an average cost of \$50 each in gold. We understand that 60 of these are ewes, all young, and that several lambs accompany them. One of the ewes is spoken of as especially fine. She was a prize taker in England, and now has a very promising ram lamb. She cost \$110 gold.

Water Farming.

We extract the following from a letter of George H. Jerome, one of the Fish Commissioners of Michigan, to the *National Granger*:—

When the sea, the lake, and those unnumbered rivers and streams that bear their never-ceasing flood seaward, shall make such returns as they are capable of making, the immense increase in cheap, abundant food will tend greatly to harmonize the relations of capital and labor. It is estimated that the yearly catch, consumption and value of food in these countries alone is equal to \$120,000,000. Now suppose we put the fish at three cents per pound, it will give us 1,000,000,000 pounds of food. Suppose that we estimate the weight of meat cattle at 700 pounds each, and a pound of fish to be the equal to a pound of meat, and we have hereas much food, all the uncultivated sea, as is equal to 5,750,000 cattle. Now to this add the yield of the whole sea, the lake, the river, the lakelet and the rivulet, and we have an amount of good brain, bone and muscle food almost beyond the range of calculation. If we except China, Japan and a small part of Europe, not a tithe of our great water-farm has yet been subjected to cultivation. Let it be cleared up, ploughed, manured, so to speak, scientifically tilled, and the choice varieties of stock introduced, and we will prove a given acreage of water to be equal in production and value to the same acreage of land. In the good time coming we may possibly hold our fairs, build our stalls, make our exhibits, wear our badges, appoint our "tasting and smelling" committees, and feel big generally, according to the fashion of the land.

A Good Farmer.

Unfortunately the general opinion as to who is "a good farmer" is that he who raises the greatest number of bales of cotton is alone entitled to the designation. He may exhaust his land to barrenness; he may never cut a ditch; he may never use any manure; he may ignore subsoil ploughs; he may buy all his provisions; he may never know whether he has lost or gained by his year's operations; he is "a good farmer" if he has raised several hundred bales of cotton, and fully ten bales to the hand. The 500-bale man is generally rated as "a right smart farmer," the 1,000-bale man as a "fine farmer," the 1,200 or 1,500 bale man as a "first-rate farmer," and the man who "runs ten places," "plants for 3,000 bales" and almost always makes his 11 bales to the hand, is "a planter as is a planter." Quantity, not quality, is the measure. Now any one of these men may have old fields on his places, washed and scoured with gullies; his houses, barns and stables may be wretched; all his appliances may be inferior; he may be over head and ears in debt, running behind every year; the sheriff may be waiting to pounce on him—the one fact that he makes a great many bales atones for everything, and planting success is made to depend on the size of the area planted. We form a different estimate. We pronounce only him a "good farmer" who improves his land every year; who attends closely to his business; who has his stock well cared for; who has neat fences, tidy dwelling tastefully decorated and embellished, commodious barns and shelters, and plenty of meat and bread; who owes no man anything; can tell at the end of the year exactly how his account stands with each of his crops, and who has always on hand a manure heap growing daily in breadth and height. He may not raise more than twenty or even ten bales; he may be a poor "patch farmer," but he is infinitely a better farmer than the 5000-bale man who has no improvements, keeps no accounts, pays no attention to his business, and who owes his factor more than he can ever pay. We live in an age when "big" things only are con-

sidered admirable, when even big crimes are deemed less heinous than peccadilloes, robbery of millions venial in comparison with petty larceny. Big crops are not always successes. Indeed, more frequently they are the proofs of bad and imprudent than of good farming.—*Philip's Southern Farmer*.

English Short-horn Prices.

The twenty-third number of Mr. Thornton's *Circular*—just received—furnishes the data by means of which a comparison can be made between the Short-horn prices of this spring and those of the corresponding season of last year. The prices realized at the two Irish sales (reported in our last issue) show an advance of about ten per cent. for animals of exactly the same stamp as those sold from the same herds last season, and similar remarks will apply to nearly all the British sales of the season. The other contents of the *Circular* are as usual, except the notices of forthcoming sales, which are of more than ordinary importance.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—A bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Carleton, member for Halton, intitled "An act to prevent cruelty to animals while in transit by railway or other mode of conveyance in the Dominion of Canada." It provides that cattle, sheep, swine and other animals shall not be confined for more than twenty-eight consecutive hours without being unladen for food, rest and water, except in case of unavoidable detention from accidents or storm, and that the time allowed for food, rest and water shall not be less than six consecutive hours. The act applies to steamers and vessels where no space is allowed for food and rest. When the stock is unladen, the act requires that the car shall be cleaned of filth and offal, and shall be freshly littered with saw-dust or sand.

CROP PROSPECTS ABOUT HAMILTON.—The *Times* says in the vicinity of the city and the border townships the fall wheat is so badly winter-killed that a bad harvest must be the inevitable result. Some fields are so ruined that they will be re-sown with other grain. No spring crops have been planted yet, and ploughing is backward. The grass is badly injured, and the farmers talk of large prices for hay during the approaching winter. In most places the clover is killed off entirely, as the alternate wet and frost have heaved the very roots of the plants inches out of the ground. In consequence of this it is predicted there will be no clover crop this season at all. As a necessary result hay and clover cured last year are dearer, and prices will be higher before they are lower.

Few of our young farmers who leave this happy country with the object of improving their lot and settling down in the Western States are satisfied with the result. As a rule their experience is a bitter one, and after years of hard struggle with misfortune, they either come back to Ontario or long for means to bring them home again. We receive numerous letters telling us of this fact, and one received recently concluded with these impressive words:—"I wish I could sell out; money is mighty hard to get in the west. Emigration to this section (Missouri) is a grand humbug." We sincerely trust that should the emigration fever seize upon any of our farmers this spring they will consider the step before taking it, and remember that the Canadian Government offers advantages to the young farmer in the great Northwest equal to any to be obtained across the border.—*London Advertiser*.

EXPERIMENTS have been recently carried on in Scotland to test the adaptability of dynamite to land clearing in Canada, the object being to show that with the aid of this powerful agent the ground can be rapidly and thoroughly cleared of stumps and boulders. It was found that a charge of dynamite placed below a stump blasted it out with a very slight expenditure of time and labor, proving in fact more efficacious in this way than when the stump was bored and the charge placed within the wood itself. The trials of boulders were equally successful—all the stones were of hard, tough and compact white-stone, yet the dynamite cartridge reduced them to dust, or, in the case of large masses, to bits the size of road metal. It was stated at the conclusion of the experiments, by one Mr. Scott, of the Glasgow Canadian Land and Trust Company, that the new blasting agent could be used with great effect and economy in the land-clearing operations in this country.