

have, by no means, been satisfactory. The "attractions" provided by the authorities of the State fair of Wisconsin were universally condemned. The "attractions" of the State fair of Iowa, while not so strongly condemned, were universally voted a sad detraction from the educational value of the fair. The greatest attempt of all to secure "drawing attractions" was made by the authorities of the State fair of Illinois. And their attractions have been condemned more strongly than any other. This is what the *Farmers' Voice*, of Chicago, has to say in regard to them.

If the public sentiment of our people is not strong enough to put down such scandalous exhibitions; if the decent men and women of the state, brought together to witness what education and science and art and agriculture are doing for the world's uplift, are each year to be insulted by the presence of these aiders and abettors to prostitution and crimes unspeakable, then it were better to raze the buildings to the ground, plow up the soil and sow it to salt, than ever again attempt to hold such an exposition in the name of agriculture.

This is strong language, which can be justified only by strong provocation; but the *Farmers' Voice* is a level-headed journal, one that does not get into hysterics, and knows what it is talking about. The truth is, when a fair with decent management doesn't pay, it is a sign that its usefulness is gone. A further truth to be well pondered over is this: The day of usefulness for fairs is largely past. Only such as are unmistakably successful should be kept alive; all others should be allowed to die their natural death. Public money can be better spent than in keeping up institutions that the public themselves take no particular interest in. We shall return to this subject again.

Fixed Standards for Butter and Milk.

There is an agitation now in the States in favor of a national butter standard, that is, a definition by law as to precisely what legal butter shall contain and shall not contain; in other words, a law prescribing how much butter fat there shall be in legal butter, and how much water, and prohibiting the use of any ingredients not put into the milk by the cow excepting common salt. The fixing of a general standard for both milk and butter would be a good thing. In New York State there is a government standard for milk, and over sixty inspectors are employed, devoting their entire time to the taking of samples of milk and prosecuting those who adulterate. The adulteration most common is watering and skimming. The practical result of this system of inspection is a great protection to the consumer; for this year by the whole sixty inspectors only 400 cases were reported. In 1895 there were 600 cases in the year. The inspection is also a good thing for the farmers, although it bears hard on those who will persist in keeping "skim-milk cows." No matter how good the system of inspection may be the "standards" should be fixed by law. When the standard is not fixed by law the analysts often adopt too low a standard, and so become, as it were, a party to fraud. In London (England) the intention is to proceed somewhat severely against adulterators, but no legal standard has been fixed. As a consequence of this the analysts themselves have had to fix upon a standard. This is so low that one analyst acknowledges (in the government report) that when he reports an adulteration of 3 or 4 per cent. of water, the actual adulteration is probably 15 or 20 per cent! How important it is to farmers that a fixed standard should be instituted and adhered to is evident from the fact that the people of London pay no less a sum than £7,520,000 per annum for water sold to them as milk. This is money wrongfully held by the milk vendors which should go to the farmers that produced the milk.

The Dingley Bill and the Poultry Trade.

Our excellent contemporary *The Pennsylvania Poultry Keeper* in commenting on our article entitled "Our Egg Trade," which appeared in a recent number of *FARMING*, expresses its opinion that the

American tariff on imported eggs is a delusion so far as American interests are concerned. It is forcing Canada to send her eggs direct to England by her own cold storage facilities, whereas, formerly she sent them by way of New York, so that the New York shippers made a profit in handling them. By depriving Canadian poultrymen of the United States market the Dingley tariff is forcing Canadian poultrymen to send their whole surplus to Britain, and thus the English price of imported eggs is brought down to the Canadian level, and the United States exporter in order to make a sale of his eggs in England has to meet the Canadian price. In this way, *The Poultry Keeper* says: "we are losing our trade with Canada for a mess of pottage in the shape of a duty on a few eggs along the border line." This criticism is quite borne out by the facts. Every prohibitory tariff reacts in evil influence on the country that imposes it. It is always simply a case of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

Professor Roberts, of Cornell, estimates that the actual loss that the farmers of New York incur by their waste of the natural manure of their farms, is not less than fifty millions of dollars per annum. Professor Henry Stewart estimates that the total loss of the farmers of the United States incurred in this way, is not less than five hundred millions of dollars.

Canada just now is suffering from tuberculosis in a few places; but we are fortunate as compared with England. Tuberculosis is a manageable disease, and is by no means to be dreaded. The case is different, however, with pleuro pneumonia, and it is this latter disease that they have to struggle with in England just now. Pleuro pneumonia is breaking out in several parts about London.

The Danish Minister of Agriculture is introducing a bill which provides (1) that all imported cattle must be placed in quarantine and tested with tuberculin before being allowed entry into the country; (2) that any home cattle owner may have his herd tested with tuberculin at government expense; and (3) that all milk sold from co-operative dairies must be pasteurized.

We regret to see that while our shipments of cattle to England are increasing our shipments of sheep are decreasing. For the first nine months of this year our shipments of cattle from Montreal were (in round numbers) 93,000, as against 77,000 for the same period in 1896, 79,000 in 1895, and 71,000 in 1894. Our shipments of sheep, however, were only 52,000 as against 62,000 in 1896, 131,000 in 1895, and 100,000 in 1894.

There is a growing impression that township fairs don't pay, either financially or educationally. There is little doubt as to the fact that most of them don't pay educationally. They have served their time. A very different sort of education is now needed. The education that is needed now-a-days is education that is *direct* and *special*; that bears immediately upon tilling the soil and reaping its products by the most productive and economical methods possible, and then, again, that bears upon getting these products to market economically and profitably. We notice that some township fairs are being abolished. This is all right. A better use can be made of public money and public energies.

New York is now reaping the firstfruits of the efforts made to introduce the beet-root sugar industry within its borders. The "First New York State Sugar Factory," located at Rome, N.Y., has begun operations, and is now turning out "ten tons a day," of "clean, white granulated sugar made from beets," "said by experts to be equal to anything manufactured anywhere." As the *Farmers' Voice* says, "a new era is opening for the Amer-

ican farmer. The possibilities of the expansion of the sugar industry in the United States seem almost limitless." This new enterprise, which is destined to do so much good for the American farmer, is wholly due to the energy of the national and state Departments of Agriculture in working for it.

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The United States Department of Agriculture has been trying to develop flax growing in the State of Washington. A ton of flax straw grown in 1895 a few miles south of the boundary line was sent to the famous Barbour flax mills in Ireland to be tested. The report is very satisfactory. The Puget Sound district can grow flax equal to the best European flax districts. The superior quality of the straw produced resembled the straw of the famous Courtrai district in Belgium. Mr. Barbour closes his report with this strong statement: "If the flax is grown and manipulated under proper conditions, and by people who thoroughly understand the business, we are convinced that the cultivation would be of the greatest importance to the country, and in a short time would rival the great Belgian region of Courtrai." While this is the report upon flax straw grown south of the boundary line, it will apply equally well to flax grown north of the boundary, for the climatic conditions are practically the same. The British Columbia Government should follow up these tests with some practical work for the people in the districts where the flax can be grown.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

VII. Henry Cargill, M.P., Cargill.

Mr. Cargill, while he has not devoted his business energies entirely, or even mainly, to farming, may yet be called one of "Canada's farmers"; for in the district in which he lives no one has done more, or is doing more, to promote by precept and by example, good agricultural methods, and to further modern ideas as to farming, than he. Mr. Cargill's principal business, as is well known, is the manufacture of lumber, and besides he is a general merchant and a postmaster. But in addition to discharging the duties of all these vocations, he finds time to manage successfully the farm of 400 acres which he owns, and to keep on it one of the best herds of Shorthorns in western Ontario, and besides an excellent flock of purebred Oxford sheep. The Cargill Shorthorn herd, we may say, have rarely been put into the show ring, but when they have been shown they have taken good places in the prize lists; as for example, in Toronto and London in 1894, when they were second in each case.

Mr. Cargill has for some years represented the constituency of East Bruce in the House of Commons. In Parliament he always takes a keen interest in all matters relating to agriculture, and is especially desirous that public money shall be spent only where it will do unmistakable good. A Canadian born and bred himself, and one who has obtained his present business position by his own efforts, Mr. Cargill is a thorough believer in each man standing on his own feet, and relying on his own energies. And he is of the same opinion as regards the country as a whole. He believes that Canada has within her own borders the potency of a great nation; and that with a wise and thoughtful direction of her destinies on the part of her government, she rightfully will take her place in the world as a strong and self-reliant nationality, a leading member in that great federation of nationalities to which she belongs.

Mr. Cargill is the sort of man farmers ought to send to Parliament (we are speaking now apart from politics, for as to party politics each reader of *FARMING* must judge for himself). As a man of character, as a man with a stake in the country, and one who has acquired that stake by his own unaided efforts, and especially as a practical farmer who is directly interested in agricultural pursuits, he is, we repeat, the sort of man that farmers ought to return to Parliament. There are at present 213 members in our Dominion House of Commons. Of these only 39 are either directly or indirectly connected with farming as an occupation. There are besides 81 Senators in our Dominion Parliament, supposing every vacancy filled. But of these only 18 are either directly or indirectly connected with farming as a pursuit. That is, out of 294 members of our Dominion Legislature, only 57 in all, or a little over one-sixth, are connected with farming as an occupation even indirectly. Now, the farmers of Canada number about seven-tenths of the whole population. Were they represented in Parliament in proportion to their number, they would have 206 representatives. Instead of that number, however, they have only 57 representatives. That is to say, the farmers of Canada have 149 representatives less in Parliament than they should have. Or, to put it in another way, for every farmer now in Parliament there should be three others additional. It is plain, therefore, that we should have more men like Mr. Cargill to be our representatives in Parliament.