

practical politics. Now, if this committee will not give us all we want, there are 214 members in the House of Commons, 35 of whom represent city constituencies, and 179 rural constituencies, and it will be an easy matter for any of those rural members to bring to the attention of the House when in session the unfair treatment the farmers of this Dominion receive under present conditions.

It is up to the Ottawa Valley societies to have a big showing, as it is most likely the first meeting will be held in Ottawa. Select your delegates, and be well prepared to lay your grievances before those Cabinet Ministers when they are ready to meet you.

Encourage the sheep industry; they combat noxious weeds and feed and clothe the people besides.
Russell Co., Ont. T. J. GUNN.

FARM.

The Huron Tract.

Few districts in the Dominion have been more generously endowed by nature with a rich soil and other advantages than that formerly known as the Huron tract, covering about sixty miles, and lying between the City of London and the Town of Goderich, in the Province of Ontario. Scarcely an acre of waste or untillable land is seen from the train in the whole distance. The soil is a friable clay loam, largely underlaid with gravel, forming a natural drainage, though considerable tile draining has been done in some sections, with excellent results. Handsome, tasty and substantial brick dwellings and basement barns are common on nearly all farms, windmills are used to pump water, and in not a few cases the house is supplied from an elevated tank, and water is available on tap in the kitchen. Clover and oats are the principal crops grown, but nearly every farmer raises some fall wheat, which is mostly sown on clover sod plowed down soon after a hay crop has been harvested, rolled and harrowed immediately, and surface cultivation continued till seeded, early in September. With this preparation a failure is seldom experienced, and generally an abundant harvest is reaped. Considerable ensilage corn and some roots are also raised on most farms, and peas are again being grown since the weevil has disappeared. While the majority of farmers raise heavy horses and beef cattle, or buy such to feed, others are engaged in dairying and feeding hogs, and doing well with the good prices prevailing this year. An abundant harvest of hay and grain has been stored, and corn and roots are promising well, except that turnips in some cases are being affected with plant lice, which may discount the crop considerably. Apples, of which good orchards are common here, are scarce this year and generally of inferior quality, owing to insect depredations. Strong herds of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and studs of Clydesdale and Shire horses are found throughout this district, and good grade stock is common. The farmers depend almost entirely on live stock for financial returns, and feed most of the crops they grow.

While labor-saving implements have done much to lighten and facilitate the farmer's work, enabling him, to a large extent, to meet the conditions brought about by the scarcity of satisfactory help, one cannot but think there is yet much room for improvement in the character of implements of cultivation in order to efficiency and despatch in cleaning the land of weeds and the preparation of the soil for seeding.

The occupation of a man and a pair of heavy horses in turning a single furrow of nine to twelve inches in width, and plowing, on an average, about an acre and a half in a day, seems quite too slow a process for twentieth-century ideas. There is surely room for and a fortune awaiting the man who will invent a satisfactory double-furrow plow, capable of doing good work, and of sufficiently light draft to be comfortably drawn by two heavy horses or three lighter ones, driven by one man, thus saving one man and one or two horses. Then, the rollers in common use, an implement which might be used to much more profit than they are, are far too light to do efficient work in crushing lumps, firming the land and facilitating the fining of the soil. By the adoption of roller bearings to lighten the draft and the use of a wider roller, with a box for loading it more heavily when needed, tillage could be more efficiently performed by the harrow and cultivator. And these latter implements, also, it would seem, could well be made capable of much more thorough and efficient work in less than half the time now expended in making a suitable seed-bed.

J. C. S.

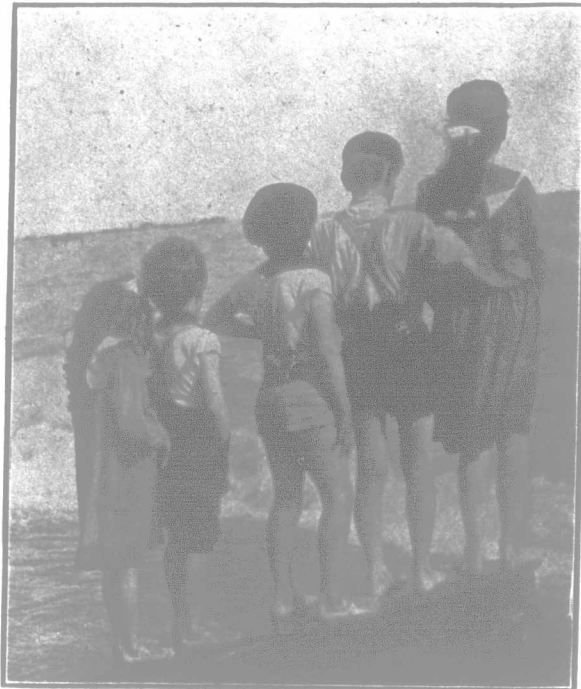
If I had a dozen lives I'd spend them all on the farm, and I'd begin by taking a course at the A. C. S. J. E. BRETHOUR.
B. C. Co., Ont.

Why the Farmer's Son Does Not Marry.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In the August 17th issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" you brought forward the question of farmers' sons marrying, or, rather, failing to marry, and asked for reasons why so many remain in the single state. If you would allow your humble scribe to give a few reasons that he has learned from personal observation in his own district, it might add a little light to the question.

In the first place, we have noticed that the father was to blame. We have seen fathers who kept their



A Good Show of Calves.

sons at work from break of day until dark, not allowing them to do any business; and when they reached an age when they should commence for themselves, they found they had not the training to give them the confidence to make a success.

Secondly, we put some blame upon the girls or sisters of the young man. Their happiness depends largely on their brother acting as their escort, and they do all in their power (and they have a great influence) to keep their brothers from entering the married state. These girls very often could have had other sisters' brothers for escorts, not for an evening or a fair day, but for life. But they would sneer at the offer of marriage, not because the young man had not a good character, a strong physique, a clear intellect, or sufficient energy to put his talents to use, but because he had not a clear deed for a fertile 100 acres, with lovely brick house, bank barns, and other modern improvements. In fact, they wanted a husband with a home "just as good as papa's," always forgetting to study how their noble sire had worked from a humble position to his present standing. Now, these girls usually



Stella and Baby.

Shetland mare and foal. Winner at Highland Show, Glasgow, 1906.

look in vain for this kind of young men; as the old saying is, "They look for the riders and the walkers go by." Yes, the walkers go by, allowing these girls of exalted notions to ponder drearily through life alone. If the farm they did was to themselves alone, it would be bad enough, but through their influence they still hold their brothers for their escorts, keeping them also from entering the married state until it is too late to enjoy it fully. Perhaps I had better say no more about the sisters, or I might be set up as a target, as "Nurse" was some weeks ago.

The third reason we noticed was amongst the young men. Many young men wait to start where their fathers left off. Now, this is a very difficult thing to

do, especially where there is more than one boy. A young man's success in life depends not on how much he has in money or land, but the ability he possesses to manage things properly. Again, we see some who have comfortable homes waiting for the sound of a woman's voice to make it perfect, who will not marry because they would rather enjoy the freedom of single life than come under the great restraint of a woman. They imagine that married life would be a burden, forgetting that a good wife is a helpmeet with which none others can compare. I hope this question will be fully discussed in your popular paper; may it persuade many young bachelors to seek connubial bliss, and may we not in the years to come have the "race suicide" question discussed with such force as it has been of late in our leading journals. YOUTHFUL OBSERVER.
Peel Co., Ont.

Experiments with Autumn-sown Crops.

The wheat harvest has been completed at the Ontario Agricultural College. The brief report here presented gives some of the principal results of experiments conducted at the College and throughout the Province of Ontario.

Sixty-one varieties of winter wheat were grown in the experimental department during the past year. The five highest leading kinds were of the Dawson's Golden Chaff class, having beardless heads, red chaff, and white grain. The yields in bushels of grain per acre of these varieties were as follows: Abundance, 62.7; No. 6 White, 61.; Superlative, 60.1; Dawson's Golden Chaff, 59.5, and American Wonder, 58.7. In weight of grain per measured bushel, all the five varieties went over the standard of 60 lbs., the Dawson's Golden Chaff and the Abundance reaching 61½ lbs. These varieties are all softer in the grain, but yield more bushels per acre than such sorts as Tasmania Red, No. 5 Red, Turkey Red, Crimean Red and Buda Peth. Those varieties of red wheat which gave the highest yields of grain in the past year were as follows: Imperial Amber, 58.2 bushels; Auburn, 57.5 bushels; Genesee Reliable, 57.1 bushels; Early Ontario, 56.8 bushels, and Prosperity, 55.9 bushels per acre. The average yield of grain per acre in 1905 was 56.7 bushels for the eighteen varieties of white wheat, and 51.7 bushels for the forty-three varieties of red wheat. Generally speaking, the white wheats yield more grain per acre, possess stronger straw, weigh a little less per measured bushel, and are slightly softer in the grain than the red varieties.

Within the past few years, efforts have been made to improve both the quality and the yield of grain of some of the best varieties of winter wheat by means of systematic selection and by cross fertilization. There were forty-one new strains of winter wheat grown at the College this year as a direct result of the work done in plant selection. Some of these are very promising. Of twelve new strains of Dawson's Golden Chaff, eleven yielded better than the ordinary variety reported in the previous paragraph, and two yielded at the rate of fully 68 bushels of grain per acre.

Some of the most interesting crops of winter wheat grown at the College in 1905 were those obtained from crosses made between different varieties in previous years. Several thousand hybrid plants were grown separately, and are now being carefully examined and classified, and the seeds selected for autumn sowing. These hybrids were secured by crossing such varieties as Dawson's Golden Chaff, Bulgarian, Turkey Red, etc. The object in this work is to secure new varieties which possess the good qualities and eliminate the poor qualities of the parent varieties. The results so far are very encouraging.

The results of twelve separate tests made at the College show an average increase in yield of grain per acre of 6.8 bushels from large as compared with small seed, of 7.8 bushels from plump as compared with shrunken seed, and of 35.6 bushels from sound as compared with broken seed. Seed which was allowed to become very ripe before it was cut produced a greater

yield of both grain and straw and a heavier weight of grain per measured bushel than that produced from wheat which was cut at any one of four earlier stages of maturity. In 1897, and again in 1902, a large amount of the winter wheat in Ontario became sprouted before it was harvested, owing to the wet weather. Carefully-conducted tests showed that an average of only 76 per cent. of the slightly sprouted, and 18 per cent. of the badly-sprouted seed would grow and produce plants. Surely he is the wise farmer who will sow more, not large, plump, sound, ripe seed of good vitality.

In each of six years, experiments have been conducted in treating winter wheat in different ways to