

### Hot Lunches at Schools.

The introduction of some appetizing dish, hot from the stove or "fireless cooker," is an improvement on the old-time cold lunch at noontide, which is finding quick appreciation in the country schools of Minnesota. The suggestion of such a hot lunch, elaborated by Miss Mary L. Bull, in Extension Bulletin No. 19, has led to numerous experimental trials, and the results have been so satisfactory that the hot lunch bids fair to establish itself as a permanent feature of the noon hour in our schools. It recommends itself not only as promoting the health and enjoyment of the boys and girls, but as affording daily a practical lesson in Domestic Science, the benefits of which accrue not only to the pupils, but to "the folks at home," as well.

Superintendent T. A. Erickson, of the Douglas County Schools, is enthusiastic over this "new departure." He says: "We have never tried a new plan which has taken so well, with children and parents alike. Where a teacher shows a little tact and common sense in working it out, there is absolutely no objection on the part of parents. It is something that appeals to them at once." One teacher tells him "it is the greatest help to discipline that she has." The work of preparing the meal is attractive to boys and girls alike; and they are quick to apply their new culinary requirements at home. "On cold days, the noon hour becomes of unusual interest." Several teachers have introduced the home-made fireless cooker, wherein oatmeal, cream of wheat and soups are finished and kept hot. The menu is undoubtedly more wholesome than the ordinary cold lunch. Add to this the fact that the common human interest in "good things to eat" draws pupils, parents and teachers together; that good-fellowship, democracy and refinement of behavior are promoted, and that all, after the noon hour, are in the best possible frame for carrying on the ordinary work of the school—and the beneficence of the "hot-lunch plan" is easily perceived.—[C. R. Barns, Minnesota.]

### New Brunswick is Advancing.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have just read Mr. McPhail's article, "New Brunswick Needs Farming," in the Christmas Number of "The Farmer's Advocate," and perhaps I have no right to comment on what he says, but I don't think he gave it full justice as an agricultural country, since, to my mind, it is not second to any Province in the Dominion. I have lived for quite a number of years in King's Co., N. B., and might also speak for Queen's, St. John Co., and several others. While I quite agree that it needs more intensive farming, the farmer of to-day is on the right tack; he is using more up-to-date machinery, following a good crop rotation, and is going into pure-bred stock and winter-feeding and dairying. Let any man get off the train at Sussex, in King's, on the main line of the I. C. R., and drive in any direction, and what does he see? Why, splendid farms, in high state of fertility, splendid barns and buildings, etc. Quite a large number of the farmers now own pure-bred herds of cattle—Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Guernseys, and many more are improving their herds by keeping pure-bred sires and raising only the calves from their best cows. Then, along with the dairy, they keep hogs and poultry, and in the summer and winter time, milk shipped to St. John and other towns fetches good prices, and the farmers in the settlements take their milk to the cheese and butter factories which are dotted all through the country, nearly every settlement having a factory of its own, where cash is received for milk, and in winter the milk is separated and the cream taken to the largest factories and made into butter, and again the farmer is paid cash. While there may be a fair percentage of farmers who still sell their hay and grain, the general rule is to feed it on the farm, and large quantities of turnips are now grown and put in cellars or pits to be fed in the winter time. The writer knows of many farms where herds of from 10 to 50 and 100 head of pure-bred and grade cattle are now wintered on the produce grown on the farms where hay, from 50 to 150 tons, is grown every year, along with from 1,000 to six or seven thousand bushels of turnips, besides grain and potatoes. Now, Mr. McPhail said that only in large towns was cash paid for farm produce, and that the farmer had to trade everything at the store. While I am ready to agree, and have made the statement myself many times, that the trading at the store is a curse to New Brunswick, it is, I think, gradually and surely dying out. Large farms are now paying cash for all kinds of farm produce delivered in small lots, to make up carloads, which are shipped to the larger towns and cities. The New Brunswick farmer now, if he is awake, receives cash for his milk and cream, and is usually paid by the test, and prices average from 50 cents to one dollar per hundred for milk, and for pork, during the last three years, prices have been from 8½ cents up to

11 cents per pound, by the carcass, delivered; and potatoes always have a ready market for cash from \$1.00 up to \$2.00 per barrel, and so on through all kinds of produce. Then, again, farmers are now growing corn, and here and there you see a silo, not many, but the silo is coming slowly and surely, and coming to stay. Then, take fruit-growing. New Brunswick is not behind in this industry, and is awaking to the splendid possibilities of apple-growing. Take, for instance, the splendid apple show held in St. John only this fall, and also the splendid exhibit at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, recently held at Toronto. Apples will grow in almost any part of the Province, and New Brunswick apples are second to none in quality. The Province is practically a country of hill and dale, and is particularly adapted to sheep-raising, and many farmers are now making good money in the sheep industry. As a mixed-farming or fruit-growing country, New Brunswick is unexcelled in the Dominion. What she wants is advertising and more intensive farming, with a systematic crop rotation. The writer has lived several years in New Brunswick, also on the prairie, and in British Columbia, and, in his opinion, comes away ahead of the prairie as a place for the homeseeker and settler, for farms of fifty acres and upwards, with good house and buildings, can be bought almost anywhere for prices ranging from one thousand to several thousand dollars, for cash, on reasonable terms, and there are good schools and churches in every settlement, good roads, and the rural mail delivery in some places, and a very large number of farmers now have the telephone installed, and are in touch with the towns and markets, and doctor, in case of sickness, etc. New Brunswick certainly needs better farming, but the New Brunswicker to-day is advancing slowly, though surely.

"NEW BRUNSWICK."

King's Co., N. B.

Once a man gets into the spotlight, the press does its best to keep him there. A recent newspaper item, credited to the Detroit Free Press, stated that J. W. Flavelle, of Toronto, had been quietly buying up lands near Chatham, with the purpose of supplying his string of stores in Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, and other points. The alleged plan was to bring over Scotch crofters and place them on the land, with the view of going into intensive farming. Interrogated as to the truth of this report, Mr. Flavelle informs "The Farmer's Advocate" that neither he nor the Wm. Davies Company has bought nor intends

buying any lands in Western Ontario, or any other Province. The whole thing he characterizes as a newspaper creation.

Moral.—Be careful what papers you trust.

### HORSES.

The present-day drafter must have size and substance, yet, from watching the work of the judges at recent exhibitions, it is still evident that quality figures very materially in the eye of the heavy horsemen.

Good stallions find ready sale, and are usually quickly picked up. Prospective buyers should lose no time in making their selection in order to secure the best horse for service in their locality. Buying early insures greater satisfaction.

### Care of the Colt.

The ideal way of raising colts is not to wean them until they have learned to eat well, said John Bright, of Myrtle, in his address at Guelph Winter Fair. While the colt is nursing, it is usually able to look after itself. It is after this that most of the mistakes are made. The first winter is the most important six months in the colt's life. He should be fed liberally on good clover hay, oats, bran and roots, and also a little skim milk. Avoid getting the colt too fat. If fed in this way, he will shed his coat before he goes on the grass, and when he is put on the pasture will continue to grow as he did in the winter. When the flies get bad, it will pay well to look after the colt in the day time, by providing a box stall and some good hay, with plenty of good pure water.

Too many colts are ruined in their first year. Many are weaned before they have properly learned to eat, and so receive a setback at the start. These same colts are often poorly fed all the first winter, are kept in poor quarters, and not given the proper amount of exercise, so that it takes them all spring, until the flies appear, to recover from the setback they received the previous fall and winter. Then the feed grows scarce, and when it comes time to enter winter quarters again the colt is finally no larger at two years old than he should have been at one. Thus we have so many undersized draft horses to-day.

Others, again, receive just the opposite treatment. They are promising colts at birth, and are rushed for show purposes; the feed is increased, but exercise is often neglected, and so we have many of our best colts ruined by building up



Proportion (imp.).

Shire stallion, foaled in 1907. First in class and champion, Canadian National, Toronto. First, Winter Fair, Guelph, December, 1911. Exhibited by Porter Bros., Appleby, Ont.