the adoption of a vegetarian diet would lead to an entire suppression of those barbaric customs and habits which were closely allied to the flesh-eating process, and permeate society with a gentle and more humane spirit.

UNITED STATES.

The Whittaker court of enquiry cost the Government $4,000, and the court-martial will cost $6,000 more.

Bradstreet's agency reports that the cotton crop last year reached nearly 6,000,000 bales, the largest ever known.

David Jones, a well-known brewer of New York, died yesterday leaving an estate estimated at ten millions.

Twenty deaths from smallpox have occurred in New York since the 1st of January. The disease is gaining ground.

The Rochester branch of the Irish Land League passed resolutions protesting against the persecution of the Jews in Germany.

The Lehigh and Schuylkill Coal Exchanges announce to operators in the authracite regions that it has been agreed to work full time.

A female domestic was burned to death at the Hebrew Orphan Asylum in New York on Friday. She was probably insane. She piled a quantity of wood about her and set fire to it.

The plans for new buildings in New York city filed last year aggregated 2,336. The estimated cost was nearly twenty-four millions, or a million more than the estimates for 1879.

An Annapolis despatch says there is great suffering among the crews of the oyster schooners imprisoned in the bay by the ice. Two oyster men are reported to have been frozen to death.

The Pennsylvania coal companies are considering the question of resuming work on full time next week. It is stated that all the companies, with one exception, have agreed to this proposal, but it has been determined to take no action for February until the latter part of this month.

Under the provisions of the Civil Damage Act Mrs. Ellen Bender, of Brooklyn, N.Y., recovered $700 damages from David and Edward Shields, saloon keepers, for selling her husband liquor despite her frequent protests.

Health Commissioner Waller, of Chicago, is agitating the subject of compelling street car companies to furnish a substitute for the straw used on the floors of street cars, on the ground that straw is liable to spread contagious diseases. He recommends gutta percha carpeting.

A starving woman was found locked up in a house in Flushing, N.Y., and was identified as a demented girl named Mary Hammel. She claimed she was locked in the place by Mrs. Allen, who has been prominent in philanthropic work. It is alleged that Mrs Allen obtained control of the woman's property and then kept her in constant subjection by intimidations.

The World's Fair Commission last week elected Gen. Grant to the only vacancy on the Commission, and unanimously, and with cheers, Grant was afterwards elected president of the Commission. The following vice-presidents were chosen :—Henry G. Stebbins, Hugh J. Jewett, William A. Cole, Augustus Schell, Samuel Sloan, Frederick L. Talcott, General Joseph E. Johnston, Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman ; Thomas McElrath, elected secretary ; George W. Debvres, treasurer ; R. G. Rollston, fiscal agent. The Commission then adjourned, subject to the call of the president.

Dr. Clare Beamer, of New York city, reports that while residing at Pamrapo, N.J., a few months after the lost steamer City of Boston was missing, his servant found a small bottle on the sea shore containing a scrap of paper on which was written with pencil, "Steamship City of Boston burned, June 29th, 1870. A. Harrick Treque." The paper was soaked with hair oil contained in the bottle, making the writing rather indistinct. Beamer says he did not allude to the matter at the time because so many rumours prevailed. He put the bottle away, and when it came to light recently he decided to make the matter public.

IS HE INSANE?

Strange Actions of a Canadian—Poetry that Indicates an Unsound Mind.

Several days ago J. A. Buck, or an individual registering by that name, and indicating that he was from Belleville, Ont., put up at one of the best hotels in this city. His actions at first appeared to be all right and he paid with commendable promptness for whatever he ordered. Soon, however, it was noticed by the hotel employes that he did some very strange things. At night he would disturb the inmates of the house by walking about the hall, reciting verses, and singing. One of the porters was ordered to search the room occupied by this strange gentleman while he was out, and the result was the discovery of some twenty-five or thirty verses of poetry, such as would seem to indicate that the man was labouring under an impression that he had killed some one, or else was trying to write a poem on the same subject as that of "Paradise Lost." The jingle is at times very mild and religious, and again morbid and profane. Several verses are published to indicate the state of mind under which "Mr. Buck" is evidently suffering.

THE SON OF BELZEBUB.

"I killed thy father with one blow
By act of will, two years ago ;
His son like a man took his part,
Sent me to Belleville gaol on cart.

I did sing God's praise on the street
To all the people I did meet ;
There were spirits hovering round
Right and left above the ground.

* * * * *

The doctors came, pronounced me mad ;
They said I lost all brains I had
For killing father with one blow,
With iron will, two years ago."

This morning the police authorities were informed of the condition of the stranger, and although he is considered perfectly harmless, a careful watch will be kept over him. In the meantime the authorities of Belleville will be communicated with, and should he have any friends they will be requested to come and take care of him.—*Rochester Union, Jan. 13.*

The Earth's Population.

Behm and Wagner, in the last edition of their book on the population of the earth, estimate the entire population of the inhabited globe at 1,456,000,000 persons. Europe, without counting Iceland and Nova Zembla, is believed to have 315,929,000 inhabitants on an area of 176,349.9 German square miles, or at the rate of 1,791 persons to the German square mile ; Asia is put down as having 834,707,000 inhabitants, on 869,478 square miles—that is, 1,031 persons to the square mile ; Africa, as having 205,679,000 inhabitants, on 543,187 square miles, or 378 persons to the square mile ; America, as having 95,495,500, on 697,138.5 square miles, or 137 to the square mile ; Australia, as having 4,031,000, on 162,609 square miles—that is, 24 persons to the square mile ; the Arctic regions are assumed to have 82,000 inhabitants, on 82,091 square miles, or about one person to every square mile. The sum total, as observed, is 1,455,923,500 persons, on 2,470,903.4 square miles, or at the rate of 589 persons to the German square mile. The German Empire comprises 9,815.1 square miles, with a population, in 1878, of 44,210,948 persons.

Father is Getting Well.

My daughters say, "How much better father is since he used Hop Bitters." He is getting well after a long suffering from a disease declared incurable, and we are so glad that he used your Bitters.—A lady of Rochester, N.Y.—*Utica Herald.*

Those requiring a good sewing machine, equal in every respect, and superior in many, to machines manufactured in the United States, are requested to examine the Wanzer. It runs so lightly that 5 oz. weight will turn it. Possesses all the latest improvements, and is nickel-plated and finished in the latest style. The cabinet work is superb. Price within the reach of all. Toronto office, 82 King street west.

THE FARM.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"Mr. Andrews, a Goderich butcher, last week purchased what appeared to be a fine plump goose. Upon a close examination it was found that the fowl's apparent rotundity was caused by three goodly-sized newspapers which had been stuffed into it." That bird must have been fed on the co-operative plan. It had a patent inside.

We have recently referred to a number of things in which a large export trade might be done by our people. We would add another game. Some idea of the demand abroad may be gathered from the fact that Chicago consigned one million dollars' worth of wild game to Europe last year. What Chicago can do surely we can do.

Mr. Clare Sewell Read is very kind. He wishes us all to pack up our traps and follow Horace Greeley's advice. In his speech before the London Farmers' Club, Mr. Read said, "I say, let the Canadians and Yankees go to the West, and let the people who emigrate to America be located in the civilized regions." Mr. Read is worse than an Irish landlord.

The Berlin *News* declares that so far from the Manitoba Mennonites leaving the Prairie Province for the United States, the Mennonites settled in Dakota are moving into Manitoba and the North-West Territory. A Berlin Mennonite, Mr. J. Y. Shantz, has received a letter informing him of removals to Canadian territory from the States. He is also advised that the Mennonites who have settled in Minnesota are in a very bad way, having had only one fairly good crop in their five years' residence there. They are also very anxious to make a change if they could succeed in disposing of their land. Thus is another "exodus" slander exploded.

The other day we directed attention to the importance of the egg trade, and pointed out to our farmers that a very remunerative export trade might be done if they so willed. A couple of illustrations of the money just now being made in eggs will bring the subject nearer home. In Belgrade, Me., a seller bought up all he could find in the district, and though he paid a good round price per dozen, turned them over at a profit of $30,000. In Auburn, Me., a speculator gathered together fourteen thousand dozen at prices ranging from fifteen to twenty cents, and is now disposing of them at an advance of a hundred per cent. As Col. Sellers remarks, "There's millions in it."

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

By Telegraph and Mail.

An unknown disease has broken out among the cattle in the Ottawa district.

A London miller shipped 40,000 sacks of flour across the Atlantic within the past quarter.

Great damage has been done to the cotton and rice crops in South Carolina by protracted wet weather.

Live stock in the interior of British Columbia are reported as doing well, notwithstanding the severity of the season.

J. Elliott, of Kingston, has purchased 150 head of cattle for shipment to England in May from the Messrs. Satchell, of Ottawa.

Mr. H. Legru is at Ottawa for the purpose of conferring with the Government in relation to the encouragement of the manufacture of best-root sugar.

The Detroit *Free Press* :—A. J. Fair, of this city, and Wm. Edgar have secured 5,000 acres of timber in Essex county. They will employ 200 teams and 500 men. The timber is near Essex Centre, Ont.

Mr. Wm. Gray, Guelph township, has sold his farm of 160 acres to Mr. John Laidlaw for $5,000. Mr. John Reading has also sold his farm in the same township—100 acres—to Mr. Wm. Murray, of Nichol, for $6,000, and Mr. Murray has sold his farm of 50 acres to Mr. Kenneth McLennan for $3,000.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last, the exports of horned cattle were 32,680, valued at $2,292,161 ; for the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1879, the number was 23,272, and the value $1,767,801. The number of sheep exported in 1880 was 110,143, of the value of $629,654, as against 54,721 sheep, of the value of $335,099, in 1879.

TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK.—Mr. John Paterson, Secretary of the Georgina and North Gwillimbury Agricultural Society, has evidently taken time by the forelock when he requests us to state, for the benefit of other societies, that the annual fall show of his society will be held on Thursday and Friday, the 13th and 14th day of October next.

A. L., East Morigomish, N.S.—I have two horses, one troubled with stomach worms, long red kind ; the other has pin worms, short white kind. Answer.—Feed your horses on bran mashes for twenty-four hours, then administer the following drink, viz. :—Oil of turpentine, two ounces ; raw linseed oil, eight ounces, and repeat the drink three days afterwards if necessary.

Ormond E. Flewelling, of Salisbury, N.B., is to be a passenger by the Polynesian this week. He goes out in connection with a private scheme of immigration formed by E. P. Chandler, who wishes to settle a number of farmers in King's and Westmoreland counties. Several other people having farms for sale have gone into the scheme. Mr. Flewelling will go out armed with maps, plans, and valuations, and letters to Canada's High Commissioner.

The Sarnia deputation had an interview with Sir John Macdonald on Thursday morning with reference to an Indian reserve of some 625 acres near that town, which is only occupied by some seven families. They asked that a road should be constructed through it, and also that the land should be rented to outsiders and the proceeds devoted to the Indians. Sir John intimated that the proposal was a reasonable one, and would probably be considered favourably.

The New Brunswick Lumber and Land Company, formed with the object of developing and colonizing the lands purchased from the new owners of the New Brunswick Railway Company, was organized yesterday by the election of the following officers :—Right Hon. Lord Elphinstone, president ; George Stephen, Bank of Montreal, Donald A. Smith, Hon. Isaac Burpee, J. Kennedy Todd, Samuel Thorne, O. H. Northcote, T. W. Ritchie, Montreal, E. R. Burpee, directors ; Robert Turnbull, secretary.

On Tuesday afternoon a London firm shipped what is said to be the first consignment of goods that ever left that port for the East Indies. It consisted of thirty cases of butter, half a ton of lard, a ton of spiced bacon and hams, about half a ton of cheese, a large quantity of canned goods, and oatmeal, cornmeal, white beans, fish chowder, succotash, pickles, etc. The order, amounting in value to £200 sterling, is filled for the Baranga Oil Refining Company, of Akyab, British Burmah, being supplies for the company's employés. The goods will go by way of New York and Liverpool.

Messrs. Adamson & Lamb, of Hamilton, report the following as some of the sales recently made by them :—Bruce Co., 150 acres for $1,000 ; Dufferin Co., 100 acres for $1,200 ; Durham Co., 97 acres for $3,200 ; Elgin Co., 100 acres for $1,100 ; Haldimand Co., 100 acres for $2,850 ; Halton Co., 200 acres for $9,200 ; Kent Co., 900 acres for $14,000 ; Lambton Co., 400 acres for $2,900 ; Norfolk Co., 94 acres for $2,300 ; do., 75 acres for $1,800 ; Simcoe Co., 200 acres for $350 ; Waterloo Co., 90 acres for $2,500, three-run grist mill for $8,000 ; Wentworth Co., 100 acres for $6,500 ; Wellington Co., 115 acres for $2,000.

O. K., Derry West.—I have a horse that has a quarter crack (front foot) about one inch and a half from the heel, and is cracked right up to the hair. Last winter I cut into the quick and started a new hoof, and it did well until about a week ago, when it started to bleed ; but he is not a bit lame. Its about the centre where the blood comes out, and solid at bottom. What is the best cure ? Answer.—Remove the shoe and cut the ball down immediately under the crack, and also pare the edges of the crack slightly. Poultice the foot for two days with a bran poultice, then apply a blister around the coronet, composed of powdered cantharides one-half drachm, lard, three drachms. The horse should be kept quiet for some time.

An Eastwood correspondent says :—Some of the beauties of leaving "Happy Canada" and emigrating to Nebraska are pourtrayed in the following sketch :—About four months ago Mr. Edwin Lewis, jr., left this neighbourhood, and journeyed to the Western States, settling on a farm in Lancaster county, Nebraska. He built a house and moved into it with his wife and two children ; let out by contract the breaking up of thirty acres of prairie with the intention of putting it into crop next spring. On New Year's day he arrived back with his family at the old home near here, leaving the prairie farm to take care of itself, as he resolves not to go back there. He gives the following reasons for leaving Nebraska :—No wheat can be raised on the land, all they raise in that locality is corn, which they sell at 20 cents per bushel. Fuel is very expensive ; wood, $11 per cord ; coal, $13 per ton ; lumber, $20 to $30 per M. ; other articles can be got at about the same rates as in Ontario. Winter sets in about the first of November, the cold being more intense than ever experienced in this country, the winds being dreadfully cold, and sweep along with fearful force, so much so that all houses exposed require to have the rafters well fastened to prevent the roofs from being blown off.

FOR THE FARMER.

Suggestions for the Season.

In our position of farm manufacturers and merchants, it is well to take account of stock ; to figure up and put down on paper, in some form, however simple, a catalogue of everything we have, small and large, with its present value, indeed every implement, every animal, produce, and cash on hand, and dues to us, the farm itself, each field, and the value invested in growing winter crops upon it, etc. On the other hand, set down every liability, and strike a balance. One great effort of the coming twelve months will be to increase the stock on hand, and decrease the liabilities. If not done hitherto, begin with January 1 to note down, each day, every transaction, the work of the day, what is sold or bought, of or to whom, and its price, whether paid for or not, etc. The writer of this kept such a journal, on a farm of 238 acres, from the age of 14 years onward. At first it was only written on foolscap sheets. A rough plot of the fields was made and each one numbered, and the amount of ploughing and sowing, seed, manure, etc., expended upon each and every field were written down at night. All the larger animals were named. The sheep, swine, and poultry, too numerous to name, were classified for reference. In brief, everything on the farm was noted down on paper, and everything done or transpiring was daily entered with the pen. It furnished entertainment, and the sheets became valuable for reference in many cases. A simple style of farm bookkeeping grew out of it, which was of decided utility ; but we will leave that for the present. We would be exceedingly pleased to know that every farm reader of this, or some one in his family, would start such a complete memorandum, beginning January 1, 1881. We know its usefulness by experience, and what good it leads to.

Let one of the first plans for the year be to secure more knowledge about our occupation. Certainly we each know some things that others do not, and every other man knows some things that we do not. Writing and talking with others, the talks at farmers' club meetings and conventions, what others think and say, as given in books and papers, are all sources of new ideas. Let the head help the hands by better thinking and better plans. One cannot talk with an intelligent neighbour, or read a farm book, or farm paper, without getting some new idea, or suggestion, that will help his own thinking and planning.

Well, along with the above, we must look after the work in hand. The farm animals are the chief care at this season, generally ; not merely to get them through winter, but in the best condition, and to do this at the least expense—for that means the best profit in the end. Any flesh or strength lost for want of a pound of hay or grain, will be likely to require half a dozen pounds of feed to restore it, and here "a penny saved" is "a sixpence lost." Animals grow less in winter ; most of their food goes to keep up internal heat to supply that escaping by reason of the cold outside. A warm place will save much of the food thus used, and less will be required, or more will go to increasing growth and weight, and that is profitable. Warm shelters, barns, stables, closed cracks, tight fences, straw sheds well stuffed in, "dug-outs" on the prairies for cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry—all these are feed-saving, growth-producing, health-conserving, and therefore sources of real profit. There is money in keeping every animal shielded from wind and cold, as much as possible, excepting only that they be not confined in foul air. . . . Growing animals need more food and protection than mature ones. The future size, vigour, and value of a horse, ox, cow, or sheep, may be doubled by a little extra feed and care during the growing period, all especially in winter. The boy's idea of feeding his pig only on alternate days "so as to have a streak of fat and a streak of lean meat," is too often acted upon —unintentionally of course. The one day's hunger will pull down a colt or calf, or other animal greatly. Warm or unfrozen water is a health-saver and food-saver. . . . Thought and mechanical skill will devise many contrivances for saving food.—*American Agriculturist.*

Wheat, Clover, and Sheep.

In Great Britain the average yield of wheat is twenty-six bushels per acre against thirteen bushels in the United States. Wheat is no longer a profitable crop in many parts of this country where the yield was very large within the memory of men who are still young. The soil of England has been cropped as many centuries as ours has decades, and is increasing instead of diminishing in fertility. The English have rendered continued wheat production practicable by combining the industry with growing clover and raising sheep. It is likely that we must adopt this practice or give up raising wheat except on new lands and our supply of virgin soil will soon be exhausted. Clover returns to the surface soil much more than it takes from it. It derives much of its sustenance from the air. Its growth is wonderfully increased by an application of land plaster, which costs very little. The production of clover improves the soil mechanically as well as chemically. Its roots penetrate the subsoil deeper than any plough or harrow. Its foliage shades the soil and keeps it moist during very hot weather. There is no better food for sheep than clover. Sheep while feeding on clover leave their droppings scattered about where they will manure the soil to the best advantage. Winter wheat sown on a clover sod enriched by the manure of sheep will produce a vigorous growth, and ordinarily affords good pasture during several months. Where winters are mild wheat may be eaten off by sheep without injury to the crop. In fact, the yield of grain is often increased by allowing sheep to feed on the foliage during a portion of the winter months.

Bristol's Sarsaparilla is a grand medicine for all kinds of CHILDREN'S AILMENTS, being a fine tonic as well as a great cleanser and healer, and, if given in moderate doses, will ward off very many of the sicknesses affecting children from the ages of 5 to 16 years. While it is thus safe and efficacious to the little ones, it is at the same time powerful enough to search out and heal the worst cases of disease in adults.

BREEDING THOROUGHBREDS.

Some Practical Information for Farmers.

BY ALEXANDER HYDE.

By a thoroughbred animal is meant one that has been bred in one strain of blood for so many generations that the excellent qualities of the family have become fixed, and may confidently be expected to be transmitted by heredity. Exactly how many generations are required in order to entitle an animal to be called thoroughbred no one ventures to say, but the tendency to "strike back," as farmers call it, is so great that the longer an animal has been bred in one line the greater is the probability of transmission, and when a cross is made with a mongrel, the thoroughbred impresses his characteristics upon posterity much more strongly than the mongrel. Thus the shorthorns (Durhams) have been bred with much purity for so long a time—some say 200 years and more ; certainly for a century, for Colling began his improvements with this breed in 1780—that when a shorthorn bull is put to a cow of this breed we expect the calf to show the characteristics of the family as certainly as we expect the offspring of white parents to be white. Again, when a shorthorn bull is put to a native (mongrel) cow we can rely with great certainty upon the calf showing more of the points of the sire than of the dam. Another great advantage of thoroughbreds is the high price which they command, varying, as it does, from twice to twenty times that of common stock. At Colling's great sale of shorthorns in 1810, English farmers opened their eyes in astonishment when one of his bulls, Comet, brought the then unprecedented price of 1,000 guineas ($5,000,) and the common remark was, "the fool and his money are soon parted." Still the price of shorthorns has steadily risen, and nowhere more than in this country. Possibly it culminated at York Mills a few years ago, when a shorthorn cow of the Duchess family brought about eight times as much as Mr. Colling's Comet.

An unreasonable prejudice against thoroughbreds has existed in the minds of some farmers. They have seemed to regard this class of animals as a sort of quadruped aristocracy, suitable enough for rich amateurs in agriculture, but not adapted for general use. We are glad to say that this prejudice is dying out. True merit always triumphs, and the thoroughbreds, having intrinsic and not fancy value alone, as their enemies claimed, have conquered, and studs of Morgan, Messenger, Percheron, and other breeds of blooded horses, breeds of Durham, Devon, Dutch, Jersey, and Ayrshire cattle, and flocks of Cotswold, Merino, and the various Downs of sheep, are to be seen in all parts of the country, and scarcely can a herd or flock be found in which there are not traces of thoroughbred blood. Still there is here and there a farmer who claims that mongrels are just as good as thoroughbreds, and that by a judicious crossing with choice mongrels a herd can be soon established equal to anything in the country. This shows ignorance of the laws of heredity. It is not disputed that specimens of native cows may be found that give as good milk and in as large quantity as many of the thoroughbreds, but the trouble is, their characteristics cannot be perpetuated, and possibly the excellence of these native cows is due to some thoroughbred blood introduced into the herd years ago, for it is a well-known fact that among the first importations of cattle into this country were the Devons and the Dutch, the former in New England and the latter in New York.

All attempts, however, to build up a new breed from choice specimens of mongrels have proved failures. The process is too slow and has too many drawbacks. The "Cream-pot" breed, which had considerable celebrity in New England for a time, amounted to little, as it was liable to "sports," and it was found impossible to transmit the virtues of the good old mother cow. And why should the attempt be made to establish a breed of native cows, when we have ready made such various and excellent breeds adapted to the varying wants of the farmer, and the result of scores, if not centuries, of skilful crossing and manipulation by the most intelligent breeders of this and other countries ? For a few weeks past we have been eating cheese made from the milk of thoroughbred Dutch cows, and though it is not as creamy as some would like, in flavour it is all that can be desired. If golden butter is wanted, the little deer-eyed, waxen-horned, and yellow-skinned Jersey will fill the bill. She has been bred for butter, and nothing else, in her native island for an indefinite period, and he must be foolish who thinks he can originate any breed that will furnish more cream or better butter to the quart than the Jersey.

Nor is it worth while to cross the different families of thoroughbreds with each other in the hope of securing a "roundabout cow," good in all points. We have known this to be attempted in many instances, and the experimenters at first thought they were meeting with great success. The first cross might result in a beautiful animal, but no one could tell in what the second generation might result. A breeder of Suffolk pigs thought to start a new breed larger than the Suffolks, but retaining their short legs and snout and fine bones throughout, so he crossed the Suffolk sow with a Chester White boar, and the first litter proved to be large, handsome pigs. But crossing one of these sow pigs with another Chester White, he obtained a mongrel-looking litter, by no means uniform, some being very coarse and others fine. Continuing his experiments in this line for a few years, he gave up in disgust. A shorthorn bull was put to a very fine Jersey heifer, and the result was a heifer calf of such size and symmetry that the owner named her The Beauty, but as a dairy cow she was worth little, if any more than a good native. She gave a good mess of milk, but it had none of the qualities of Jersey milk. The experiment was a failure in the first cross, and succeeding crosses were no better.

Much as we favour thoroughbreds we would by no means recommend all farmers to go into the business of raising these aristocratic animals. To do this successfully requires an amount of capital and talent such as few possess. Besides, if all were to breed thoroughbreds the profits from sales—the main source of profit to the breeder of such stock—would be reduced to such a minimum that the business would not pay for the large expenses which skilled breeders say are necessary to keep their herds up to concert pitch. When we hear of a Jersey calf being sold for $100 soon after it is dropped, and a Dutch cow bringing $500 as soon as she is landed in New York, it seems like an easy way of making money, but the truth is comparatively few breeders, even with skill, business talent, and capital to back them, attain great pecuniary success. The business is too much like a lottery, with many blanks to one prize. This is particularly true of the breeders of thoroughbred horses. These animals sometimes sell for $10,000, and even more, but there are more sellers than purchasers at these high prices, and only the capitalist should run the risk of purchasing, for the horse is one of the most precarious kinds of property, liable to disease, accidents, and death when least expected. If a farmer has the rare combination of money, talent, and tact, he may possibly succeed in breeding thoroughbred horses, but otherwise he should let them alone. With cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, the risk is much less, and the chances of success are greater, but even here there must be a trained eye to see, and a hand to handle, combined with a natural love of these domestic animals, and a sound judgment to regulate the enthusiasm naturally engendered in the business, or success is very doubtful.

CANADIAN POULTRY, PIGEON, AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.—At the annual meeting of this Association, held on Wednesday evening in the Council Room of the Agricultural Hall, the following officers were appointed for the ensuing year :—President, W. H. Doel, J. P. ; 1st Vice-President, W. Boddy ; 2nd Vice-President, J. M. Ewng ; Corresponding Secretary, L. B. Greenslade ; Recording Secretary, W. J. Way ; Treasurer, I. B. Johnson. Auditors—J. James and G. Murchison. The Association has grown rapidly since its formation, fifteen months ago, showing that fanciers are taking a deeper interest in the breeding and exhibiting of pure bred poultry and pigeons.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

A Brilliant Gathering at the Opening.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The second session of the fourth Legislature of Ontario was formally opened on Thursday afternoon by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. Long before the arrival of his Honour the floor and galleries of the Chamber were crowded to their utmost capacity, and it is safe to say that a larger or more brilliant gathering of our citizens has not been seen on any previous occasion of the kind.

At three o'clock his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor left Government House escorted by the Governor-General's Body Guard. At the entrance to Parliament Buildings he was received by a guard of honour supplied by the Queen's Own, the guns of the Field Battery firing a salute, and the band of the Q. O. R. playing the National anthem.

His Honour, attended by his A. D. C., Captain Geddes, and preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Speaker, at once passed on to the Chamber and took his seat.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Honour then addressed the House as follows :—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

It affords me much pleasure, on this the first occasion since my appointment as Lieutenant-Governor, to meet the representatives of my native province, and to welcome them to its capital, in the discharge of their legislative duties.

I congratulate you on the revival of commercial prosperity, the result of the abundant harvest of the past year, of the revival of trade abroad, and of the increased demand for lumber, the receipts from which source, I am happy to say, have considerably exceeded the estimate of last session.

It is much to be regretted that the Dominion Government have taken no steps to obtain, and have hitherto shown no intention of seeking to obtain, from the Parliament of Canada legislation confirming the award determining the northerly and westerly boundaries of Ontario, made two years ago by three most distinguished arbitrators chosen by the two Governments ; and who had before them all the evidence obtainable from the most diligent researches both in America and Europe, or brought to light during the many discussions bearing on the subject that have taken place during the past century. The result of the inaction of the Dominion Government in this respect is to defer the settlement and organization of a large extent of country ; to deprive the inhabitants of that district of those safeguards of peace and order which they, in common with all others, are entitled to enjoy, and to withhold from the people of Ontario the benefits which the possession of that territory would afford.

It is obvious that the earliest possible construction of railway communication between the existing railway system of Ontario and the Canadian Pacific road is of the very greatest importance to the interests of this province. An appropriation having been made for this purpose by an Act of a former session of the Legislature, a measure will be submitted to you for carrying out the object of the Act with the least possible delay.

The commissioners appointed to enquire into matters connected with the agricultural industry of Ontario have, by close and unremitting attention to the duties assigned to them, collected a large amount of information of a most interesting character and of much value. The evidence and report of the commissioners will be laid before you in the course of the session. I trust that the publication of these documents will stimulate enterprise and encourage a spirit of improvement among the farmers of the province, and at the same time produce a favourable impression elsewhere of the openings which Ontario affords to the capital and energy of the intelligent and experienced agriculturist. I am sure you will agree with me that the province is under no small obligation to those gentlemen who, as commissioners, placed their services, without any pecuniary recompense, at the disposal of the Government, and will share the feeling of satisfaction with which I have observed in how cordial a spirit the proceedings of the commissioners have been regarded by the public.

The subject of constructing the new provincial buildings, required for the safe keeping of the public records, the due performance of the ever increasing business of the departments, and the proper accommodation of the Legislature, and of the provincial library, as well as the safety and health of the members and other persons engaged in the public service, has received the earnest attention of the Government. Competitive plans were invited, and sixteen different designs, by as many competitors, were submitted. None of these designs were entirely satisfactory, but three of those which were considered to have most nearly complied with the conditions of the competition were, under the terms of those conditions, secured for the province ; subsequently it was deemed advisable to permit the authors of the best of the three, and certain other competing architects on whose plans experts had reported most favourably, to modify and alter their plans, with a view to a reconsideration of their merits by the Government when so altered. Time has not yet sufficed for this to be done ; but I confidently anticipate that the result will be to secure the commencement in the coming spring, and the early completion, of buildings worthy of the province, and at a cost not exceeding the amount already voted for that purpose by the Legislature.

The reports of the several departments of the public service will be laid before you. I am glad to find that the several institutions under the management of the Government are in a state of satisfactory efficiency ; and that others, to which provincial aid is given, are respectively performing services to the community fully commensurate with the aid afforded them.

The report of the Minister of Education, as usual, possesses deep interest, showing, as it does, to what a high standard of excellence, as compared with other countries, the educational system of Ontario has attained ; and I doubt not that you will agree with me, that no efforts should be spared to maintain it in its fullest state of efficiency. While marked improvement may be observed in elementary education, the expense of that branch has been less in the last three years than previously. Gratifying progress, too, has been made in the department of higher education.

I commend the very important subject of the administration of justice to your continued and careful attention. Pro ting by the example of Great Britain and other states, in which the anomaly of two systems of pleading and practice in the Civil Courts has been abolished, and by other reforms effected in their judicature, a bill will again be laid before you for the purpose of consolidating the Superior Courts, establishing uniformity in pleading and practice, and making further provision for the due administration of justice.

Amongst the other measures to be submitted to you are, a bill relating to railways, and making provision for the greater safety of railway employés and the public ; a bill for protecting the public interest in streams and rivers within the legislative authority of the province ; a bill giving increased stability to Mutual Insurance companies ; and one dealing with the question of market fees, which have long been a source of complaint by the farmers of the province.

In view of the many extensive and beneficial improvements in our laws effected since the province obtained, thirteen years ago, control over its local affairs, and of the further legislation which will engage your attention during the present session, I commend to your serious consideration the question whether the time has not come when the public interests may be sufficiently protected, and at the same time a considerable saving of expense be effected, by confining future legislation to every alternate annual session, except in cases of special urgency.

The public accounts of receipts and expenditure for the past year and the estimates of moneys required for the services of the current year will be laid before you. The estimates have been prepared with every regard for economy consistent with the public interest.

I trust that the labours of the session now commencing may, when brought to a close, reflect fresh honour on the wisdom and patriotism of our legislators, and prove permanently beneficial to all classes of our people.

His Honour then left the Chamber and returned to Government House.

BUSINESS PRELIMINARIES.

The House having been cleared, Mr. Speaker entered the Chamber, and having taken his seat offered up prayers.

Mr. MOWAT moved the usual formal motions relative to the administration of oaths of office to persons appointed as justices of the peace, and providing for the taking the speech into consideration to-day at 3 p.m., for the appointment of standing committees, &c., &c., which were carried.

The House adjourned at 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 14.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. GIBSON, in rising to move the adoption of the reply to the Address, said that as one of the young members of the House he craved their indulgence. He thought they would all join in congratulating his Honour on his accession to office, and they might safely predict that he would prove an eminently constitutional Governor. He proceeded to say that they would all hail with gratitude the signs of a return of prosperity which had manifested themselves ; public credit had been revived, and the general indebtedness of the community was being cleared off. The increased activity in the lumber trade, as evidenced by the timber dues being in excess of the estimates, was a good proof of the revival of prosperity. The shipping interests were looking up, and lake freights had improved. He did not attribute this return of prosperity to any particular cause, although some ascribed it wholly to the National Policy. In no sense, however, did he believe it attributable to any trade policy. He regretted that in the matter of the North-West boundary the Dominion Government had taken up an antagonistic position by neglecting to ratify the award, and by the tone of the speeches of Government supporters on the resolution to refer the matter to a committee. The most important measure foreshadowed in the address was that to limit the meetings of the House to alternate sessions, which as it would effect a saving of $50,000 was a proposal worthy of grave consideration. He was entirely opposed to any proposal to give up our legislative control of our own affairs to the Dominion. (Applause.)

Mr. DRYDEN seconded the resolution. He congratulated the House on returning to the Chamber with unbroken ranks. In alluding to the proposed legislation for the session, he approved of an alteration in the law respecting market fees, which, while removing the farmers' grievances, would do a measure of justice to the cities and towns. He congratulated the Government on the completion of the labours of the Agricultural Commission, who had been appointed solely on account of personal fitness, and not for their political proclivities. Many of its members were representative men, who cheerfully gave their labours entirely free. The statistical information gathered by the Commission from every township in the province would prove most valuable for reference, and the report would, moreover, be found to contain everything relating to farming gathered from practical farmers in different localities. The evidence in regard to the importance of breeding good live stock would be of particular value, especially as there was such a demand for cattle of a good class in England. After dwelling upon the public benefit to be derived from the enquiry into the subjects of forestry, fruit culture, he said the publication of the information collected would present this country in a more attractive light to other people, and would tend to direct immigration here.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the Premier had last session made the most alarming predictions of what would happen when the power of appointing the Lieutenant-Governor passed out of the hands of his party, and had said it would be necessary to watch the next occupant of the office. He, however, found the hon. gentleman smiling at the auspicious opening of the House yesterday, and he came to the conclusion that he had found no necessity for watching his Honour—(laughter)—and this view was confirmed by the tone of the reference to his Honour made by the mover of the reply to the address. He thoroughly agreed with the sentiments expressed by that gentleman, and believed his Honour would be found to be as thoroughly constitutional a Governor as any of his predecessors. It struck him that when the hon. member for Hamilton referred to the National Policy, he did so in a way that indicated that the views of his constituency were not in accord with his own on that subject. He stated that none of our present prosperity was due to the inauguration of that policy. He (Mr. Meredith) believed that no inconsiderable number of the citizens of Hamilton were supporters of that policy, and no city had probably derived so much benefit from its operation as Hamilton. (Applause.) The unanimous voice of the country was that the National Policy had in a large measure tended to restore confidence and bring about the return of prosperity. While he agreed in regard to the importance of the next subject touched upon by the address, it seemed to him that there was a desire on the part of the Government to make a point against the Dominion Administration in reference to the boundary award. It was a paltry thing to try to make political capital out of such a question, which involved the interests of other provinces. Many of the smaller provinces were jealous of Ontario on account of its wealth and extent of territory, and regarded any further addition of territory with disquietude. The Dominion Government had had no opportunity of dealing with the question since the passing of the resolution on the subject by the Legislature last session, nevertheless the Premier seemed desirous of having recorded another condemnation of the Ottawa Administration. He was fully sensible of the importance of the connecting link with the Pacific railway, but fancied that when the subsidy was paid there would be little left of the surplus of Sandfield Macdonald. As to the operation of the Agricultural Commission, no doubt some valuable information had been gleaned, but the extent of the value must be estimated when their report was laid before the House. He was not one of those who believed that the Government made political capital out of the appointment of that Commission, but thought that in conducting its affairs the Minister of Agriculture had been actuated by a desire to serve the interests of the country. He agreed that some legislation was required in reference to the imposition of market fees. Many cities in the country had of their own accord remitted the market fees, and had found it to their interest. He came to another matter, introduced into the Speech, he favoured as a kind of counter-attraction to the legislation at Ottawa, and that was in reference to holding of alternate annual sessions. The Government did not come out boldly and say they favoured biennial parliaments, or alternate sessions, but put the proposal in a tentative way, that if their supporters were in favour of the change they would introduce it. He believed that the proposal would not obtain the assent of the supporters of the Government, and it certainly would not obtain the assent of those on the Opposition side. It was an absurd thing to propose that the House should meet every year, but that no legislation should take place every alternate session. The scheme would not result in saving much expenditure. A proposition which would be favoured by the country would be to reduce the membership of the House and alter the rules in regard to private bills, so that there would be no loss of time. If this were done, the business of the country could be transacted within thirty days, and $400 of the sessional allowance to each member would be saved. He denied that there were any members of the Opposition in favour of the abolition of the Legislature. But to pass such a measure as suggested by the address would have a tendency to belittle the business done by the House. He trusted that they would have a short session, so that the members, after performing their duties, could return to their homes at an early period. (Applause.)

Mr. MOWAT, after complimenting the mover and seconder of the reply to the address on the able speech they had made, said that he was glad to say, in reply to the remark of the leader of the Opposition, that up to that day his Honour had acted in a constitutional way. It was proper and becoming on the part of the leader of the Opposition to ask for a postponement of the Judicature Act, as it was characteristic of Conservatives to be a little too slow. But the House would remember that the English Judicature Act was passed seven years ago, and its defects removed by occasional legislation. He had taken up the subject when he thought he could no longer delay with any good reason, or in other words, that the time was ripe for it. Although the bill was an adaptation of the English Act, he had not taken up any subject which had involved a larger expenditure of labour. So far from centralising, the tendency of the bill was in the direction of decentralization. With regard to the suggestion made as to alternate sessions, the subject was wor