

EDITORIAL.

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease occurred lately in Cambridgeshire and Kent, England.

British authorities claim to have discovered two cases of pleuro-pneumonia among American cattle, one landed at Deptford, the other at Newcastle.

Now is the time to plan farm buildings that are to be erected next year. During the winter supplies of sand and gravel are easily secured for use in the construction of what are called cement walls and floors, which have grown very popular of late years.

Hon. John Dryden was re-elected President of the American Shropshire Association, at the recent annual meeting. In his annual address, he said that Shropshire interests had been well maintained during the year; that Shropshire breeders had bred and must continue to breed for quality rather than for pedigree.

Another British Royal Commission on Tuberculosis has been appointed, though the first one has never yet reported. The new one consists of Sir Geo. Buchanan, Prof. Geo. T. Brown, and Dr. J. S. B. Sanderson, their duty being to inquire and report what is the effect, if any, of food from tuberculosis animals on human health; and if prejudicial, under what circumstances and conditions?

President Mills on the Relation of Agricultural Colleges to Farm Life.

SIR.—There appeared in the October number of the *ADVOCATE*, a report of an address on "Agriculture in the Schools," by the Rev. Dr. Bryce, of Winnipeg. In this report Dr. Bryce is represented as saying that "an Agricultural College is an institution for educating agricultural professors. We want one to educate the farmers' sons and daughters. The worst feature about an Agricultural College is that instead of your sons being educated for the farm, they are educated away from it." Assuming that this report is substantially correct, I take issue with the Doctor, and ask space for a few words in reply.

The Doctor's statement may be true of some agricultural and mechanical colleges in the United States, especially of those which are mere departments of universities, but it is far from a correct representation of the work and tendencies of our Canadian institutions. Speaking for the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, I may say that our course of study, the instruction in our class rooms, the work in our stables and fields, the associations, the conversation—everything in and around our College—tends to keep up the connection with the farm, to increase the interest in farm work, and develop the belief that agriculture is one of the most healthful, independent and honorable of all the occupations open to Canadian youth.

Boys who begin the study of medicine occasionally change their minds and become teachers or preachers; so also the young men who set out for the legal profession not unfrequently turn aside to other occupations; and the same thing is now and then true of those who go to school or college to fit themselves for farming. An odd one of our graduates becomes a professor at home or abroad, and a few abandon agriculture for other vocations, but the great majority (over 95 per cent.) of those who come to us from the farm return to the farm with increased interest in farm work and farm life. Not only so: a fair proportion also of our town and city students exchange urban for rural life.

JAMES MILLS.

Agricultural College, Guelph.

The Tuberculin Test at Quarantine.

A Dominion Government Order-in-Council, requiring cattle coming into Canadian quarantine to undergo the tuberculin test, received the sanction of the Governor-General on November 16th, but quarantine officers had been notified of the proposed regulations previously.

With regard to those responding to the test, the Order-in-Council specifies that no such animal is allowed to leave the precincts of the quarantine, and the owner can have the alternative of returning it to the place whence it came or having it slaughtered without compensation.

At a farmers' club meeting in New York State, the pros and cons of saws and clippers were discussed, and it was conceded that, if the clippers are sharp so as to make no fractures, they may be best, as they do the work quicker. All agreed that dehorning is a great success, and that all cattle ought to be dehorned. Cool weather was preferable.

Retrospective and Prospective.

To all our readers from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and "beyond the seas," we extend a hearty Christmas greeting. Judging from the many kind expressions we are constantly receiving from all parts of America and the Old Land, we feel assured that our arduous labors are being appreciated, and never more so than at the present time. Believing, as we do, that upon the condition and prosperity of Canadian agriculture the national fabric largely rests, we could not do other than battle for the interests of the farmer and the advancement of farming.

On general questions there is an increasing disposition on the part of the agriculturist to do independent thinking and acting. This is well. The *ADVOCATE* does not propose to take a hand in party politics, but we counsel our readers to scrutinize closely but fairly the declarations of public men addressed to them. A well-known politician stated not long since to his audience that farmers were now as well off or better than ever before in Canada, for the reason that, though prices of grain had fallen, the prices of what the farmer bought had also fallen, and "the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat was as great as ever." The farmer must look deeper into the question than that. What he has to maintain himself and his family comfortably with, or put by, is only what remains above the cost of production. With the aging of the country, soil depletion, changes in the public demand for foods, shifting markets, etc. (not to speak of the growing cost of conducting public affairs), farming becomes necessarily more elaborate and expensive, and the farmer finds himself confronted with the problem of how to increase the product of his farm or its value, and keep down the cost of production. He must either produce more bushels, sell those produced for more, or else turn his grain into a higher-priced product. These processes require skill and increasing knowledge. The real question for the farmer is not whether the bushel buys as much, but whether the profit he realizes on a bushel buys as much. Hence, the statement of the politician might be misleading. It is indeed a time to think.

In all departments of human activity, and nowhere more so than on the farm, *knowledge is power*. Speaking before a large convention of breeders assembled a few days ago in the City of Guelph, Hon. John Dryden, the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, in laying down the fundamental principles that should be observed in the establishment of a herd or flock, rightly placed as the first essential the possession of a clear conception of the end which the breeder desires to attain. So it is also in the general operations of the farm. Industry and steadfastness of purpose will go far in winning success against unfavorable odds, but without clear ideas of the end in view, to begin with, and knowledge of how these operations should be directed, and work done under the varying conditions that constantly present themselves, the outlook becomes indeed doubtful. We do not minimize the value of experience, because it is the hard training school through which every man must pass, but men do not stand singly, alone, working independently of all that others do and know. Mr. Mortimer Levering, of Indiana, in delivering a thoughtful address before the same gathering of breeders referred to, contradicted one of our cherished proverbs in the very wording of his subject, which was, "Practice does not make Perfect." Said Mr. Levering, in the course of his observations: "He (the farmer or breeder) must do his work, not exactly as it was done yesterday, but better to-day and with a determination to improve to-morrow. The mere doing of a particular kind of work over and over again in a listless, mechanical sort of way, no matter how long continued, will not make the operator expert or the operation as productive and profitable as it is desired." Speaking of the various advantages by which his hearers could keep themselves abreast of the times, Mr. Levering placed first in the category the Agricultural Press.

For many reasons, notably in the line of live stock husbandry, we are disposed to regard the outlook for the Canadian farmer as decidedly hopeful. In the order of Providence, the past season, speaking for Canada generally, has been a bountiful one. With the application of the principles above outlined, we have no fear for the future, and we counsel our readers to go forward with a hopeful determination to succeed in this the original and Divinely instituted avocation of man.

We sincerely thank our friends and able staff of contributors who, by voice or pen, have aided us during the year in increasing the *helpfulness* of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, and solicit a continuance of the generous support of all our patrons for the future. In thus serving each other, we believe we will best serve the interests of our common country.

A Practical Friend.

One of our readers living in the Eastern States writes us a most encouraging letter. He says among other things: "I think you are publishing the very best journal for farmers in Canada." Personally interested in farming, and a cheese factory proprietor as well, he knows whereof he speaks. Appreciating its practical value, he sends us the paid up subscriptions, one year in advance, for sixteen of his patrons, realizing that from the factory-man's point of view no investment will give a surer or better return than practical information, coming regularly at short intervals through such a periodical as the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. It will help these men to become better and more successful dairy farmers, and this will benefit the industry in which our factory friend has his money invested. In one sense the *ADVOCATE* is not a "special purpose" paper, but in another way it is. All our space is not devoted to stock breeding or dairying or horticulture or poultry keeping or grain growing, but we make every one of these departments a special feature in itself. What we give is the cream of the latest and most successful practice. We find that it is *quality* that counts with our readers in these busy times. We are thankful to our Eastern friend for his appreciative words, which stimulate us to still greater efforts, and can certainly commend the special plan he has taken to circulate trustworthy dairy knowledge in his locality, and will be pleased to hear from others following his example. A man cannot be a first-class dairy farmer without being a good all-round farmer, and we have the testimony of our readers on file, that we have helped them to reach that goal.

Breeders and Feeders at Guelph.

The eleventh annual Provincial Fat Stock Show was held at Guelph on December 11th, 12th and 13th, under the joint auspices of the Agricultural and Arts Association, the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, and the Guelph Fat Stock Club. It was not inappropriately styled the "Smithfield of Canada," on a large banner swung across one end of the commodious Victoria Rink, where the show was held. As a display of live stock it was an immense success, though the weather, which was simply abominable, spoiled the attendance and the gate receipts. The following table shows the number of animals entered in the different classes this year, compared with last:—

	1893.	1894.
Cattle.....	51	52
Sheep.....	160	288
Swine.....	147	169

Numerically, the cattle display was about the same as last year, but it was hardly up to the other two classes in general evenness and excellence. There was a good increase in swine, and an advance of over 100 in sheep, and a marvellously fine display of dressed poultry.

From the experience of the last three years, it is only necessary to look forward one or two years to see the need for a much larger building than what is now used to accommodate the exhibits. It is only two years ago since considerable space was occupied by stock from the College Farm, which was auctioned off during the last day of the show. This year, not only was the entire space well filled with fat stock, but all the space that remained was too cramped to accommodate even the small number of visitors present. It is a source for regret when the most important day of a show knows not even an hour of fair weather; but had Wednesday, the 12th inst., been fine, spectators would have had no place for standing, unless in the galleries.

The breeders' meetings passed off most successfully. At the Agricultural and Arts Board meeting arrangements were begun with regard to the Spring Stallion Show in Toronto. An effort will be made to popularize it in the direction of a suggestion thrown out in the last issue of the *ADVOCATE*. The initial steps were also taken leading toward the establishment of a show of dairy cattle, products and appliances, in Eastern Ontario, to be an equivalent to the East of the Fat Stock Show in the West.

On Wednesday evening the stockmen and distinguished visitors were royally entertained at a banquet at the Western Hotel. The City of Guelph received a great deal of well-merited praise upon this occasion, for the efforts put forth in order to make this great annual event successful.

A complete report of the show and various association meetings held will appear in our next issue.

We take pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the extended report which appears on pages 498 and 499 in this issue, of the Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association meeting. In every way it was a most successful gathering, upon which the indefatigable Secretary, Mr. L. Woolverton, of Grimsby, and the directorate, are to be heartily congratulated.