

Lincoln Co., Ont.

The year 1901 was not a very prosperous one for the farmers of the Niagara Peninsula. The spring seeding was exceptionally late, on account of heavy rainfall during May, consequently the oat crop harvested very light, both in yield and in weight per bushel, and the straw was not as good as usual on account of rust.

Very little corn was planted last spring, and owing to planting very late did not yield very many bushels to the acre. Quite an amount of fodder corn and millet was sown, which did fairly well.

The old adage, "A cold, wet May will fill the barns with wheat and hay," came true as regards the hay crop, and possibly would have been equally true regarding wheat, had it not been for the Hessian fly, which played such havoc in this section.

A large acreage of peas was sown. The grass pea is the only kind we can raise to advantage here, as the pea-bug destroys the common round pea. The grass pea is a splendid yielder, and will do better on hard land than the common variety. They are bug-proof and excellent for chopping purposes. If cut green, they make excellent feed, but if allowed to thoroughly ripen, the straw seems to be of no use for feeding. The weather was very dry for fall seeding. However, wheat looked fairly well later in the season, but rye looked exceptionally poor.

The root crop was not very heavy. Mangels did fairly well, but turnips were not a heavy yield in some places.

Fall plowing was very backward, and as the weather continued so very dry, a great many farmers did not get through with their plowing, consequently a considerable amount will have to be done in the spring, which will likely be a disadvantage here.

More bacon hogs are being raised in this section than there have been heretofore, and good prices have been realized during the past summer, which has enhanced the encouragement of the farmers along this line.

I. E. N.

Waste Land.

Ontario is a grand Province, and in many localities we find the lands put into first-class order for miles together, but occasionally we find patches, either great or small, on good farms that are not a real credit to the owner or tenant, as the case may be. Of course, circumstances alter cases. We say it takes time to do this and that. It would take considerable time to root up and drain fifty acres of a willow patch, or even ten acres, but quite frequently we see men plowing around a briar bush, a small stump, or a stone, and continue to do so year after year. Of course, it takes no time to gee and haw around these obstacles. Perhaps thirty minutes with an axe, spade and crowbar would settle the whole thing, and allow the land to bring forth a crop that would be valuable. On the other hand, we waste time and steps going around the objects, and horses destroy, for considerable distance around, the crop which has been tilled. Then, in the case of sale, the land will not bring nearly so high a price. Let us try to cut our furrows clear from fence to fence. When once done, we will never regret it. The little waste places look very bad, especially when seen near the front of a farm. Moreover, the farms with gay fronts are not always models at the rear. I might give an idea or two that may be helpful to the reader if interested in any way. In the case of a few acres of rough land to be cleared, I would say: Prepare three pieces of 4x4 inch scantling about 16 or 18 feet long, saw one of these into four pieces 4 ft. long, bolt these to the longer ones in the form of a ladder. Plow your land next spring as early as possible, cutting the knolls only, following with the disc. Hitch to one end of the big ladder with a crotch chain which fastens to both front corners, drawing it lengthwise. This implement does good work behind the disc. Repeat a few times and your land is in better shape. Let the ground lie for three weeks or so, then repeat the disc, and you will be pleased with the result, and so will your neighbors. Clean up the homestead before buying more land. Paying taxes on bog-holes, briars, little rocks, etc., upon the surface is a poor way to get rich.

FARMER LITTLE.

A Short Institute Trip in New Brunswick.

Leaving Amherst, N. S., by the noon train, we were told by the conductor that we were too late to make connections by rail, and would have to cross the river by ferry and drive some eight or ten miles instead of a pleasant forty miles or so by rail. I felt like saying something pointed to the railway clerk who had misinformed me, but there was no help for it now, so, leaving the train at Dorchester, we hopped up the ferryman, and now the fun began.

The tide was at low-water mark, and a mud flat a quarter of a mile wide lay between the wharf and the river. What was to be done? No long boats, and the mud from six to nine inches deep, and almost as sticky as prairie mud, but of a black color instead of black. There was the boat, about eighteen feet long, high and dry in the mud. It was not customary to cross except at high water, but as that would make us too late for our meeting, a good deal of coaxing and a little extra pay induced the ferryman to take us over at low water. But how were we to get that boat to the water? Old Grey came to our assistance, and the faithful old horse was hitched to the painter, or tow line, and away we went. This was my first experience at boat-riding in the mud. On we plodded until the steep bank of the channel of the river was reached, then Old Grey was allowed to return home alone, the sail was run up, we all pushed with oars, and soon we were on the water. A good stiff breeze tipped (listed, the sailors say) the little sail well over, and away we went for a three-mile sail, passing a lighthouse, quarries and dwelling houses, and as we rounded the cape, came in sight of a small fleet of all sorts of sea crafts loading plaster from the Albert Gypsum Quarries.

The ferryman landed us amid rocks and mud, perhaps ten rods from the wharf, and by jumping from one rock to another, we managed to get once more on terra firma.

A pleasant drive alongside, or almost under, the Shepody mountains, which we could see so plainly from our own front door thirty miles distant, brought us to our first meeting at Hopewell Hill.

The little hall filled with an interesting and interested a company of farmers as one need wish to talk to. "A good meeting," everyone said, then a pleasant hour or so with new-made friends, a good night's rest, a look over some splendid farms, containing more than a hundred acres of this fertile marsh or dyked lands, which is below the level of the sea at high water and protected by dykes; a run through some good large, well-planned barns, containing many nice feeding steers and lots of splendid hay from the marshes, and turnips and mangels in quite large quantities; then on to the next place of meeting, and after a few days we return to our own farm, exceedingly pleased with Albert County, and strongly impressed with its great resources of field, forest and mine.

C. H. BLACK.

Cumberland Co., N. S.

The Government Sale at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Feb. 13th.—The auction sale of stock held here yesterday under Government auspices, met a rather chilling experience, the attendance being small and the prices for those sold, with few exceptions, discouragingly low. The weather was cold and roads heavily with snow. A large proportion of the animals offered were withdrawn, the bids being in many cases less than their value as butchers' stuff. Mr. Geo. Jackson, of Port Perry, Ont., was the official auctioneer. Hon. Mr. Fisher opened the sale with a short address.

Of the 65 Shorthorns at prices and catalogued for this sale 45 were sold at prices ranging from \$36 to \$160, 20 being withdrawn or failing to face the auctioneer from some cause, a number being withdrawn on account of the bids not being satisfactory to the owners. The dairy breeds fared much worse, the prices made being very low, and in one or two breeds the most of them being withdrawn, at ridiculously low offers. The pigs also made very low prices, a large proportion being withdrawn.

Tamworth boars brought from \$9 to \$10; sows, \$13.50 to \$16. Berkshire boars, \$8 to \$14; sows, withdrawn. One Yorkshire boar sold for \$23; the other three entered were withdrawn. One sow sold for \$7; balance withdrawn.

Following are the sales of cattle, with prices and address of buyers:

SHORTHORNS.	
Bulls.	
Lipton, 2 years—Chas. Pink, Hull.....	\$ 85
Sir William—Alex. Stewart, Stewartville.....	95
Leader—Wm. Tink, Columbus.....	125
King George 2nd—Jas. Proudfoot, Fenaghvale.....	120
Wide-awake—Geo. Burwash, Martintown.....	70
Bismarck—D. Moir, Merrickville.....	60
Victor—Stewart Campbell, White Lake.....	75
Wilfred Enfield—Jno. McEwen, Ashton.....	130
Roan Duke—J. W. Grant, Hazeldean.....	105
Tom Brown—Jno. Kemp, Hazeldean.....	45
Bonny Archer—Leslie Pettypiece, Kars.....	92
Roan Choice—Ed. Kenny, Aylmer.....	110
Lord Roseberry—Ed. Baker, Winchester.....	77
Indian Lad—D. Hurley, Vankleek Hill.....	90
Premier—Wm. Henry, City View.....	70
Roan Duke—Frith, Cummings' Bridge.....	60
Rover—Jno. Frith, Cummings' Bridge.....	100
Gloster Hero—Andrew Sly, Shawville.....	87
Scottie—Thos. Brown, Venosta.....	92
White Choice—Ed. Pearson, Carp.....	55
General French—John Heron, Billings' Bridge.....	66
Waterloo Prince of Elmdale—D. Blair, Rideau View.....	60
Johnny Canuck—D. Campbell, Adamstown.....	85
Ophir—Wm. Bradley, Blackburn.....	62
Strathallan Royal—F. W. Richardson, Billings' Bridge.....	36
Red Ribbon—And. Cochran, Almonte.....	40
Whitby Lad—T. A. Stevens, Wakefield.....	75
Females.	
Lady Newton—A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge.....	130
Minnie Fairfax—A. Cochran, Almonte.....	127
Rose Monrath—Alex. Bradley, Blakney.....	95
Merry Maid—A. W. Smith.....	80
Lenora—Thos. Brown, Venosta.....	80
Red Rose 3rd—Jas. Proudfoot, Fenaghvale.....	122
Whitby Maid 2nd—P. Cochran, Almonte.....	160
Rose of Peace—Robt. Johnston, Mono Mills.....	70
Jessie Jones—Thos. Scobie, Kars.....	80
Manetta—J. R. Robinson, Manion.....	65
Waterloo Mina—J. R. Robinson.....	75
Marigold—John Cassidy, Farrelton.....	55
Oxford Queen—J. R. Robinson.....	57
May Queen—C. Bayne, Teanaton.....	60
Lady Dartington—Thos. Scobie.....	50
Alberta's Rose—J. R. Robinson.....	50
Gold Elsie—D. Muirhead, Renfrew.....	107
Enfield Maud—J. R. Robinson.....	100
AYRSHIRES.	
Bulls.	
Shamrock of St. Anne's—P. S. McGaren.....	75
Terry—W. Cochran, Russell.....	28
Dauntless—Thos. Cox, Buckingham.....	25
Aberdeen—Thos. Cox.....	25
Toronto Boy—A. C. Carter, Kewilton.....	24
Addington Hero—Chas. Reid, Kirk's Ferry.....	13
Females.	
Thorncliffe Grace—B. Rothwell, Cummings' Bridge.....	59
Lady Aberdeen—B. Rothwell.....	52
Maude of Spruce Farm—J. R. Eadie, Russell.....	36
Lotette—S. Duncan, Easton's Corners.....	40
Lady Aberdeen 4th—Thos. Cox.....	53
Jennie of Chester—A. C. Hare, Mosgrove.....	40
Brownie—C. Hardy, Bowesville.....	30
Cherry—Henry Hart, Bowesville.....	30
Easter Sunday—J. R. Eadie.....	22
Beautiful Jennie—R. Spratt, Johnston's Corners.....	32
Daisy of Fairview—R. Duncan, Johnston's Corners.....	36
HOLSTEIN BULL.	
White Star—W. Cochran, Russell.....	18
Abbekyne Witzgide—H. H. McLatchie, Gatineau Point.....	37
JERSEYS.	
Bull.	
Duke Minto—O. Lambert, Hull.....	26
Cows.	
Lassie of Arklat—H. Fenton, Billings' Bridge.....	33
Victoria of Carleton—Geo. Miller, Ottawa.....	36
GUERNSEY BULL.	
Don Laddie—Ed. Boyce, Merrivale.....	15

Grey Co., Ont.

We are having excellent winter weather—mostly fair and enough snow for all kinds of work. Our January thaw was a brief one, much to the regret of some people, as water is very scarce in several localities. Feed is moderately plentiful, and, as a result, stock are in good condition. A large number of farmers have gone into raising pure-bred stock—principally Shorthorn cattle. Buyers have been plentiful. Several lots of five or six in number have been shipped out to different points in Canada and the United States at good prices. Grey Co. is fast becoming famous for having stock second to none in Ontario. A considerable number of farmers are feeding cattle for the Easter and export markets, and high prices are expected, while others, owing to the high price of coarse grains, are feeding with the intention of finishing on the grass in June or July. The hog industry has not been neglected, strict attention being paid to raising a hog that will enable the packer to satisfy the demands of the British market and be profitable to the producer as well. The Yorkshire and Tamworth seems to predominate. High prices have been realized for a year or more, in some parts of the country the farmers selling direct to the packing house.

Horses are in good demand, buyers numerous, offering good prices for good animals of all classes, and not a few farmers are looking for work horses. Good colts a few years and older sell for \$100 upwards. The lumber business is scarcely as brisk as a year or two ago. Mill yards are not so well stocked as in former times, which will have its effect in some districts. The managers of butter factories are on the alert, canvassing for patrons for the coming summer, and

will endeavor to operate on a larger scale in the future.

Prices for all kinds of farm products are good. Times are prosperous, which is being demonstrated in a large degree by the preparations for erecting new buildings. Silos are becoming very popular. Those who have them speak highly of their usefulness, while others are making preparations for erecting silos. Still the question of filling is a conundrum which confronts many, as it is hard to secure a power to drive the cutting box at the particular time when it is needed. It is also difficult to secure help, but, doubtless, through time these obstacles will be overcome.

The real-estate market is active; farm property has advanced from 30 to 40 per cent. during the last eighteen months. The man inquiring for a farm to rent or work on shares is frequently met. Farm hands are now being employed for the coming summer. Wages seem to have slightly decreased, and men seem to be plentiful.

\$9,100 for an Aberdeen-Angus Bull

and \$6,300 for a cow of the same breed was the record made at a combination auction sale of selections from six herds held at Chicago, Feb. 4 and 5. The bull is Imp. Prince Ho, a Highland champion, imported and sold by M. A. Judy, Williamsport, Ind., and bought by B. R. Pierce & Son, Creston, Ill. The cow is Blackcap Judy, bred and sold by Mr. Judy, and bought by C. H. Gardner, Blandinsville, Ill. These are the record auction prices for a bull and a female of any breed in the last 20 years.

Toronto Markets.

The receipts of live stock at the Toronto Cattle Market, on account of the severe snowstorms, have not been so large for the past two weeks as for the two weeks mentioned in our last report. The total receipts from Feb. 4th to Feb. 11th, inclusive, were 364 carloads, composed of 6,427 cattle, 3,917 hogs, 2,359 sheep and lambs, with about 150 calves.

The quality of fat cattle has shown some improvement, although not as good as the season demands. On account of the high prices for feeding grains, farmers seem to have fed sparingly, as there are too many unfinished cattle coming forward, both in the shipping and butcher classes.

Trade has been brisk, with prices firm in all the different classes of fat cattle, sheep and calves. Prices for hogs are lower, while feeders, stockers and milch cows have remained steady, but firm.

Export Cattle.—Extra choice lots of exporters sold at \$5.25 to \$5.60; light unfinished rough exporters at \$4.25 to \$4.50; green exporters at \$4.75 to \$4.95; and the better class of butchers' cattle, weighing from 1,100 to 1,200 lbs. each, at \$4.60 to \$5 per cwt.

Export Bulls.—Choice heavy bulls sold at \$4 to \$4.30; light export bulls at \$3.65 to \$3.90 per cwt.

Export Cows.—Export cows, weighing from 1,100 to 1,300 lbs. each, sold at \$3.75 to \$4.40 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots, 1,000 to 1,050 lbs. each, sold at \$4.40 to \$4.65 per cwt.; loads of good butchers' sold at \$4.25 to \$4.40 per cwt.; loads of common to medium butchers' at \$3.25 to \$3.40; inferior butchers' (canners) at \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt.

Heavy Feeders.—Heavy short-keep feeders, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs. each, are scarce, and are worth all the way from \$4.25 to \$4.50; light feeders, 900 to 1,050 lbs. each, are worth from \$3.50 to \$4 per cwt.

Milch Cows.—The demand for good to choice milch cows and springers has been and is brisk, at \$40 to \$55 each, while common medium have sold at \$25 to \$35 each.

Calves.—Choice veal calves are scarce and are worth from \$5.50 to \$5.75 and even \$6 per cwt.

Lambs.—Prices firmer, at \$3.75 to \$5.25 per cwt., the latter price being paid for choice grain-fed for export purposes.

Sheep.—Prices firmer, at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. for ewes, and \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. for bucks.

Hogs.—Prices easy, at \$6 per cwt. for selects, while lights and fats sell at \$5.75 per cwt.

	Extreme com- parative prices to-day.	Two weeks ago.	Same date last year.
Butcher cattle.....	\$ 5 60	\$ 5 40	\$ 5 00
Butchers' cattle.....	4 65	4 50	4 35
Bulls.....	4 30	4 25	4 25
Feeders.....	4 25	4 25	3 90
Stockers.....	3 40	3 37½	3 25
Sheep (per cwt.).....	3 75	3 25	3 50
Lambs (per cwt.).....	5 25	4 50	4 85
Hogs.....	6 00	6 37½	6 50
Milch cows.....	55 00	55 00	48 00

PRODUCE MARKET.

Wheat.—Prices remain about steady, as follows:

White at 70c. to 78c., red at 68c. to 77c., goose at 67c., spring at 70c. to 72c. per bushel.

Barley.—Deliveries of 700 bushels sold at 55c. to 63c.

Oats.—Seven hundred bushels sold at 47c. per bushel.

Hay.—Timothy sold at \$12 to \$14 per ton, and clover \$8 to \$10 per ton.

Straw.—Loads of sheaf sold at \$9 to \$10 per ton, while loose is worth about \$6 per ton.

Dressed Hogs.—Prices easy, at \$8 to \$8.25 per cwt.

Potatoes.—Prices steady, at 70c. per bag by the load from farmers' wagons; car lots are easy, at 65c. per bag.

Poultry.—Prices firmer, as follows: Chickens 50c. to \$1.50 per pair, or 12c. per lb.; ducks and geese, none offering; turkeys 12c. to 14c. per lb.

Butter.—Prices firm, at 18c. to 24c. per lb. from farmers' baskets.

Eggs.—Strictly new-laid are worth 30c. per dozen.

Hides and Wool.—No. 1 green, 7c. per lb.; No. 2 green, 6c. per lb.; No. 1 green, steers, 8c. per lb.; No. 2 green, steers, 7c. per lb.; hides, cured, 8c. per lb.; calfskins, No. 1 sell at 9c. per lb.; No. 2 calfskins, 7c. per lb.; sheepskins, 70c. to 80c. Wool, fleece, 13c. per lb.; wool, unwashed, 7c. per lb.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, Feb. 10.—There were about 400 head of butchers' cattle, 6 calves and 50 sheep and lambs offered. The butchers came out in large numbers, and trade was brisk, while the prices continue high. Six prime steers were sold at 5½c. per lb., and several others not so good at from 4½c. to 5c. per lb.; pretty good cattle sold at from 3½c. to near 4½c., and common stock at 2½c. to 3½c. per lb. The calves were all rather young veals, and sold at from \$3 to \$5 each. Sheep sold at from 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb.; lambs at from 4½c. to 4¾c. per lb. Fat hogs sold at from 6½c. to 6¾c. per lb. for good straight lots, weighed off the cars.

British Cattle Markets.

London, Feb. 10.—United States cattle, 7½d. sheep, 6d. Canadian cattle, 6d. to 6½d.

Liverpool, Feb. 10.—Canadian cattle, 6½d.; sheep, 5½d. Cattle firm; sheep bad.