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JANUARY 14, 1904.

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE.

63

Lincoln County Prospering.

The year of 1903 was one of plenty and prosperity throughout Lincoln County. Well-filled barns and granaries bespeak the success that has crowned the efforts of the farmer in Niagara Peninsula. The spring opened full, with little freezing and thawing, which is so disastrous to wheat and clover. Although the land worked somewhat hard, the spring crop was put in in very good shape. In 1902, the grass pea was a total failure, turning only about two and a half to three bushels per acre, and many farmers thought that 1903 might prove better. Consequently, quite a large acreage was sown, with but little better results. In some cases, an average yield was fourteen bushels per acre. Outside the grass pea, the crop yield was splendid. Oats turned out well, both in weight and quantity. The American Banner variety stands the test here about as well as any variety that has been tried. Spelt is becoming quite a popular crop, too. Its yield in some instances is enormous. It makes a grand chop when mixed with some other grain. Corn did not do much for the first month or so after planting, but when a start was made it grew rapidly, and a good yield was the result. A great deal of fodder and ensilage corn is sown here of late.

The silo is becoming quite a popular thing here, and more dairy cows are being kept. Good grade cows sell from \$35 to \$55 in price.

Hay, which was a heavy crop, sells from \$8.50 to \$10.00. Quite a large amount of hay will be fed this winter, as the farmer is beginning to see the benefit of raising more cattle, instead of teaming his hay to market, thereby impoverishing his farm.

The root crop was grand, except turnips. These the louse destroyed. Mangels, both red and yellow, sugar beets and carrots were the heaviest yield for years.

There was a serious drawback in the apple business here on account of the "barrel famine." Many apples went to waste. Fall plowing was very backward, and a great amount of spring plowing will necessarily have to be done, which does not prove as satisfactory as fall plowing by far.

There have been a great many hogs shipped to Toronto and other places during the past couple of years, as many as 550 leaving Smithville station in one day. Hog-raising, too, has been more profitable for farmers than selling their grain, as it benefits their farms to a considerable extent.

Taking in all, the season that is past has been one of plenty, and the spirit of the farmer is more cheerful than it was some years ago. By the taking of the "Farmer's Advocate" and learning its principles of improved farming, the tiller of the soil can look to 1904 to be even more grand and prosperous.

I. E. N.

P. E. Island.

We have had close winter here for about two weeks, but there has been very little snow—just enough to get round on with sleighs. The first week in December a combination sale of pure-bred cattle, sheep and swine was held on the Exhibition Grounds, Charlottetown. There was quite a large number of animals offered by Island breeders, but the sale was not a success, very few changing hands. The day was stormy, and the sale was not largely attended. Quite a large number of Island farmers attended the Winter Fair at Amherst. Roper Bros. had two of their Guernsey cows in the milking test, and got one first prize. A. Boswell, the noted sheep breeder, was a very successful exhibitor of sheep, and J. W. Calbeck, our leading Yorkshire breeder, got the cream of the prizes in his line, as well as a silver tea service and a silver cup which were given as specials. The Winter Fair was a grand success. The attendance was all that could be expected. Many of the animals shown would compare well with those we have seen at Guelph. Our Maritime Winter Fair is here to stay, and will be a great means of educating our farmers and inducing them to raise the quality of their products. It was the writer's first visit to this exhibition, and the size of the building, the number of animals exhibited—about 250 in all, without poultry, of which there were over 700 birds—the immense lecture-room, seating about 2,000 people, and full every afternoon and evening, was a great surprise to him. The addresses by Prof. Mills, O. A. C., Hon. John Dryden, J. H. Grisdale, Duncan Anderson and Prof. Andrews, of Mount Allison University, were of very great interest. We were especially interested in the address of Hon. John Dryden on "Aesthetic Agriculture," and in Prof. Andrews' address on "The Functions of Air in Agriculture." We would like to see many more of our farmers at this show, as we believe it to be the agricultural show par excellence of the Maritime Provinces.

The hog market has been badly demoralized here of late. There has been such a rush of hogs that the packers have had things all their own way. Best quality live hogs are now only worth 4c. A large proportion of our hogs are slaughtered, and either packed here or shipped in carcass to St. John and Halifax. There is a large trade the last two months between here and Sydney and other Maritime ports in beef quarters. Shipments of smelts are large, and the price good. This latter business gives employment to farmers during the first of the winter, and is often quite profitable.

We look forward with interest to the weekly "Farmer's Advocate," and we predict for it a still larger field and greater usefulness than it has enjoyed previously. We know of no agricultural journal that has in the past been such a great factor in improve-

ment along agricultural lines. Wishing the "Advocate" every success, and its staff the compliments of the season.

W. S.

The Voice of the People.

Jas. Currie, Prince East, P. E. I., says:—"I don't want to miss a copy of the 'Advocate,' for it is a great paper. I will try to get new subscribers."

Jas. Lindsay, Sr., Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I don't want to lose any of the numbers of the 'Advocate.' We are well pleased with it, and would not like to do without it. I wish you every success in your new venture."

E. W. Common, Fillmore, N. Y., U. S. A.:—"The 'Advocate' is one of the leaders of the day. I should have liked to have got you more subscribers, but it is impossible at present. Maybe, later on, I can help to get you a few more."

A. B. Clarke, King's Co., N. S.:—"I did not have any trouble in getting the new subscriber. He just said, 'Well, I used to take that paper, and I know what I am getting.'"

Geo. F. Bellamy, Durham Co., Ont.:—"I also congratulate you upon sending this wonderful and helpful paper as a weekly."

Robert Harvey, Maisonneuve, Que.:—"I have much pleasure in sending the name of a new subscriber, accepting your offer with thanks. I am looking forward to getting your paper every week, and would not be without it even if it cost double the money for all the valuable information we get in it."



Hon. A. G. Blair.

Late Dominion Minister of Railways and Canals; recently appointed chairman of the Canadian Railway Commission.

H. I. Elliott, Richmond Co., Que.:—"I am sure the farmers and public will appreciate your efforts, which will make the 'Farmer's Advocate,' not only the leading farm journal in Canada, but on the continent. Wish you every success and the compliments of the season."

Geo. Mansfield, Carleton Co., Ont.:—"I still have the knife I received from you two years ago, and it is as good as ever yet. Wish you every success."

S. Smith, New Westminster, B. C.:—"We appreciate your enterprise in giving us a weekly instead of a semi-monthly paper."

Blake Mott, Leeds Co., Ont.:—"I will try to get you some more subscribers, and I wish to say the 'Farmer's Advocate' is the very best, and ought to be in every home."

S. G. Hogle, Lennox Co., Ont.:—"I am sending you one new subscription with my own, according to your offer. I can always recommend the 'Advocate' to every one who wants a first-class farm paper. It always seemed a long time between 'Advocates,' and I do not think there will be any too many if they come every week. I wish you success in your new venture, and all the compliments of the season."

Alex. Hunter, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I have read your paper for a long time. I got it first in 1866. I am getting to be an old man now, but I made up my mind to keep it on. If you will send me some blank forms I think I can get you some new subscribers. I am a great bee man, so I only farm twenty-five acres; but my son farms, and I got him to send for the 'Farmer's Advocate,' too. I always speak a good word for the 'Farmer's Advocate.' Please send me some sample copies."

W. J. Owens, Carleton Co., N. B.:—"I consider the 'Advocate' the best farmer's paper in Canada or the United States. It ought to be taken by every farmer."

The C. P. R. Irrigation Scheme.

Speaking recently of the C. P. R. irrigation project in Alberta, Superintendent of Irrigation, J. S. Dennis, stated that extensive engineering surveys have been completed, and they are now considering the actual work of canal construction.

The main canal will head in the Bow River, on the east side, about three miles below Calgary. This canal will carry two thousand cubic feet of water per second, but to convey a more graphic illustration of its size to the ordinary reader it may be stated that it will be sixty feet wide in the bottom, and will carry water to a depth of ten feet. The main canal is about twenty miles long, and is simply a transporting artery to bring the main body of water from the river to the most convenient point for distributing it throughout the area.

At its easterly end, the water is taken out in three secondary canals, which are located along the heights of land so as to enable the water carried therein to be easily distributed over the smaller areas which will be cultivated.

The secondary canals so far located comprise a length of about one hundred miles, and the total mileage of distributing canals will ultimately reach some four hundred miles in length. It is expected that about fifteen hundred thousand acres of land will be irrigated within the block of three million acres when the scheme is finally completed, the balance of the block being devoted to grazing and dairy farming.

It is not, of course, intended to proceed at once to construct the whole system of distributing canals, but simply to put in the main canal, and then build the secondary or distributing canals as the demand for land arises and development warrants, and it will probably take several years to complete the whole system, which, in its completed state, is expected to cost about four million dollars.

If this scheme is carried through, it will have the result of transforming a tract of country one hundred and fifty miles in length from east to west, by fifty miles from north to south, now only the home of a few scattered bands of cattle, into a densely populated and prosperous agricultural district, with the centers of trade and industries naturally resulting therefrom, and the company will be in a position to point with pride to one of the great undertakings of the West, whose ultimate object is to make happy homes for a large and prosperous agricultural population.

Good Year in Lanark.

I am quite satisfied in the "Farmer's Advocate," without any premium. We have had a very successful season here. We sold a pair of Clyde fillies—one three, the other four years old—for \$800. Cattle sold well all through the autumn months—two-year-olds for \$30, \$35 and \$38; lambs, \$3.50 to \$3.75 per 100 lbs., live weight, and turkeys, 15c. per lb., dressed. Our wheat averaged twenty-six bushels to the acre; variety, Red Fife. I would like Western breeders, when advertising in the "Advocate," always to give their county. Here, in the East, we know all the counties in Ontario, yet there are a number of small towns we do not know, unless we look them up on the map. We find that seed grain from Ottawa or Guelph Experimental Farms yields well when other home-grown grains are almost a failure. The Ontario Government should pay the salaries of the instructors for cheese factories. We had a grand season in the cheese business—high prices all through, and number one cheese.

Wishing you a prosperous New Year for the "Advocate," I remain,
Lanark Co., Ont.

JAMES G. KIDD.

World's Fair Monthly.

The World's Fair Pub. Co., of St. Louis, U. S. A., is issuing, monthly, a most elaborate bulletin, whose purpose is to set forth the multifarious attractions which are to make St. Louis the Mecca for sight-seers next summer. Judging from the December number, of which we are in receipt, we should say that the great fair of St. Louis promises to be in no way inferior to those of Paris and Chicago; in fact, its promoters propose to outdo all that ever has been in the exposition line.

Railway Commission Chairman.

Hon. Andrew George Blair, K. C., who a few months ago resigned his position as Minister of Railways and Canals, owing to his disagreement with the Dominion Government in regard to the proposed construction of the Quebec-Moncton division of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, has now been appointed chairman of the Canadian Railway Commission, the act for which was passed at last session of Parliament. Hon. Mr. Blair was the author of the Bill, and piloted it through the House, and it is believed to be the best that has yet been devised in any country for the regulation of railways and rates in the interests of the people. Mr. Blair is of Scottish descent, being born on March 7th, 1844, at Fredericton, N. B. After practising law for twelve years, he entered Provincial politics in 1878, and was for many years Premier of New Brunswick. In 1896, he entered the Dominion Government under Premier Laurier as Minister of Railways and Canals, holding office till his recent resignation. It is understood his salary as chairman of the commission will be \$10,000 per year. Mr. Blair has the reputation of being a fighter, and can, if he will, be of great and vital service to the most important of Canadian industries—agriculture—and in the mutual development of trade between the west and the east.