

STOCK.

The Winter Shows.

The remarkably mild weather of the last month has been so little suggestive of what is sometimes called grim winter, that it is difficult to realize that within a fortnight the fixtures now known as the Winter Fat Stock, Dairy and Poultry Shows will

purposes for which they are intended are placed before the people and their comparative merits passed upon by competent and experienced judges who know the kind and quality of products which best meet the requirements of the markets and command the highest prices. The slaughter tests, which will be a part of the Provincial Show to be held in London, December 11th to 14th, as advertised in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, should prove an

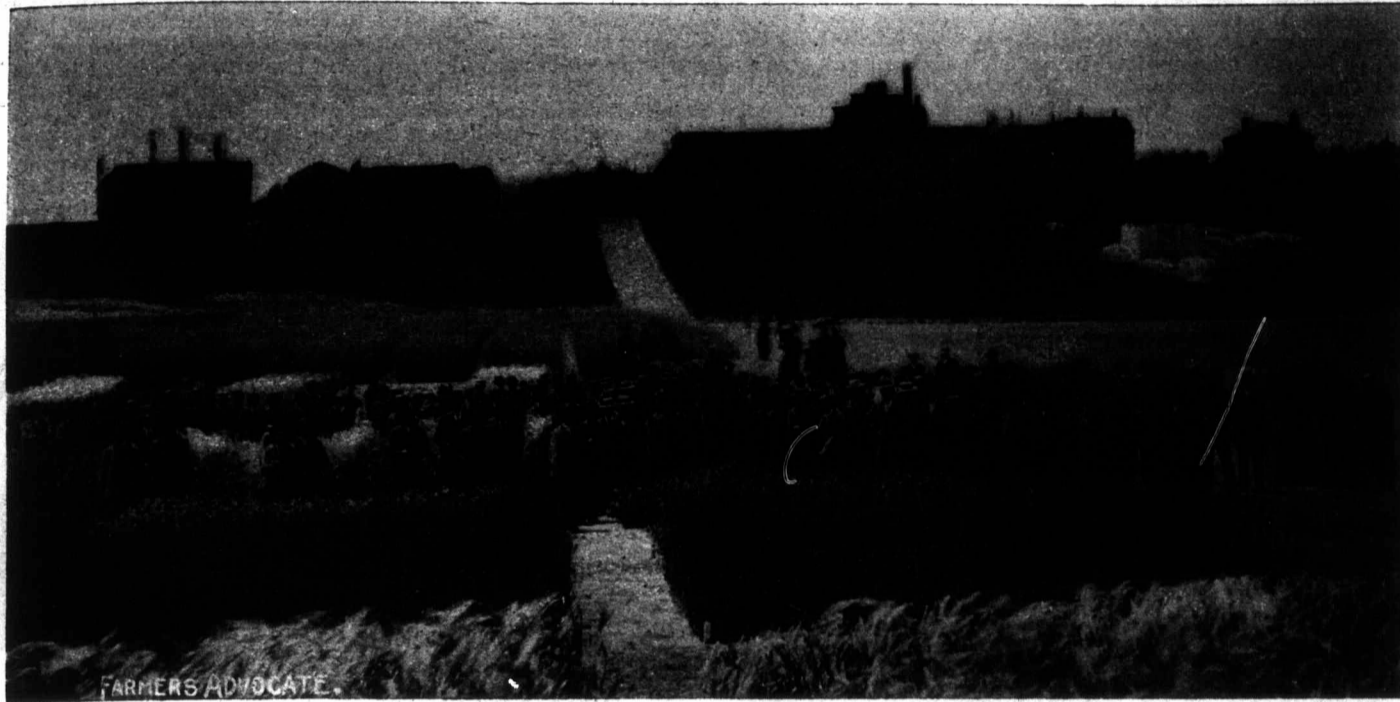
in various lines of work connected with stock-raising, feeding and marketing, is an additional feature of interest, and cannot fail to be helpful to all who are willing to learn. The complete programme of the show was published on page 643 of our November 15th issue. Some changes in this, made at a recent meeting of the committees, are referred to in a paragraph in our "Gossip" columns. The probabilities point to the shows of this year, both at London and Guelph, being better than ever before, the prizes being more liberal than at any time in the past, and the entries likely to be more numerous than ever before.

The New York Horse Show.

The Horse Show held at Madison Square Gardens, New York, is without doubt the greatest annual light-horse event of the continent. The city, the "Gardens," the patrons, and the exhibits, make success doubly sure, and each succeeding recurrence of the Show seems to surpass previous efforts. For fifteen years the exhibition, under the auspices of the National Horse Show Association, has proved a continuous climax. The conduct of the Show has always been good; but it improves with the advantage of experience, until the rising and setting of the sun seems no more regular nor prompt than the succeeding events were brought on. The morning audiences were light, the afternoon crowds were great, but at nights there was simply a crush during the entire week.

The show of Hackneys was not as large as it has been at the Gardens, but the uniformly high character of the entries suffices to cause the breeders of this popular type to congratulate themselves. The chief exhibitors in the breeding classes were Messrs. F. C. Stephens, of Attica, N. Y.; E. D. Jordan, Chiltonville, Mass.; while the following contributed to the competition: A. J. Cassatt, Berwyn, Pa.; Glen Dower Stock Farm, South Newbury, Vt.; Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.; Chestnut Hill Stock Farm, Pa.; F. G. Bourne, Oakdale, L. I., and Gerkendale Stock Farm, Long Island. It was unfortunate, and is much regretted, that through illness a consignment from Hillhurst Farm, Quebec, could not be present. The Canadian entry, Lord Roseberry, by Lord Derby, met a strong rival in Fandango, from Maplewood, each putting up a sensational display, and each conformed well to the ideal Hackney pattern. Fandango, by Lord Rattler, by Lord Derby 2nd, like his rival, is no youth, being nine years old, and like him, he has until recently been under cover, but he is a great horse of a great breed. He was well shown, and won over Graham Bros.' entry, that did not reach his best in going. There was keen competition in the smaller horses, colts, mares, and fillies. In the male cham-

pionship contest, Fandango, Prince Crompton, a son of Dangel, Brandon by Cadet, and Enthorpe Performer contested, but the two-year-old, Prince Crompton, carried off the challenge; while Fandango won over Enthorpe Performer in the stallion and progeny contest. There was a great show of light harness horses, including Standard-breds and roadsters. Some of the great sires of speed contested in the stallion sections. Gen. Tracy's Advertiser, 2.15, by Elec-



FARMERS INSPECTING EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS IN REAR OF COLLEGE.

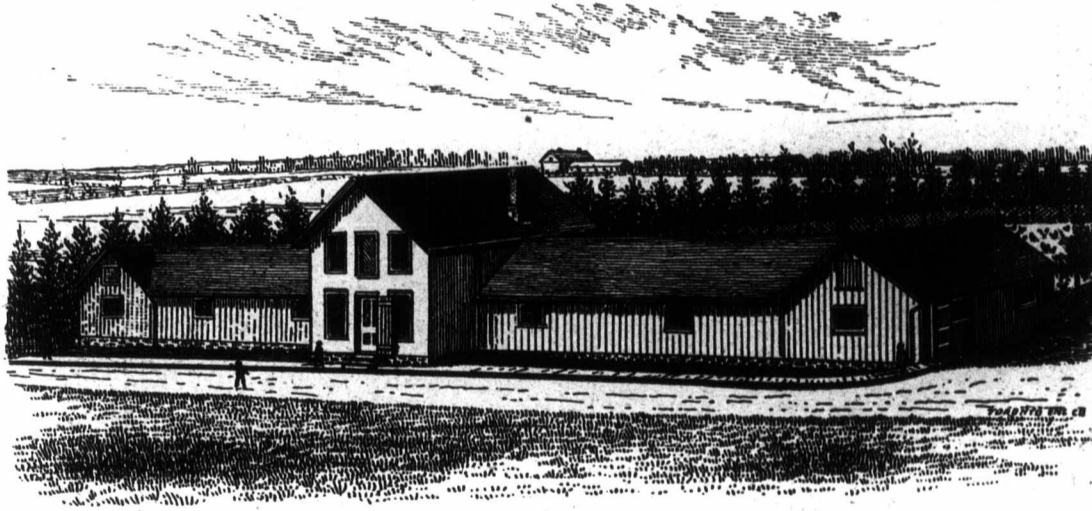
be events of the past, and yet the calendar—sure index of fleeting time—points unerringly to the fact that within the period named these will have come and gone.

The steadily-growing importance and interest of this class of shows, in the estimation of those leading the van of live-stock improvement, has not yet been so generally realized by the rank and file of farmers as is desirable in the interest of all, but year by year increasing numbers are coming to see them, and, invariably, to see is to be satisfied that these are in many respects the most interesting, helpful and practically useful exhibitions of live stock and its accompaniments that are placed before the public in this country. From the consumer's standpoint all classes of the community are vitally interested in the objects of these exhibitions, which are the improvement of the quality of a large proportion of the food being prepared for the people, and the best means of securing that improvement. The great aggregation of producers in these lines are doubly interested, since they are not only included with the consumers, but are largely dependent for the sinews of war to carry on the battle of life upon their receipts from the handling of live stock and its products, while all the indications point to the certainty of an increasing dependence upon these as the safest source of revenue from the farm.

The feeding of stock on the farm is the only practicable means by which the average farmer can hope to retain or maintain the fertility of his land and reap a fair reward for his labor, and the class of stock he feeds determines the question of profit or loss in the transaction. If it be true that one class may be fed at a fair profit and another may be kept at an actual loss, as has been clearly demonstrated in numerous instances by the sure logic of weights and measures and dollars and cents, surely the sooner the people interested know it and realize it, the better for them and for all. There is only one means of grading up the common stock of the country, either for meat or milk production: that is by the use of pure-bred sires of the standard breeds, and in order to make the best use of this means, intelligent and judicious feeding must accompany it. The object of the fat stock, dairy and poultry shows is to furnish a school of practical science, which simply means common-sense methods, in which object lessons of the best class of animals for the

exceedingly interesting feature from an educational standpoint, while the practical illustrations of the most approved methods of dressing, preparing and packing poultry for the export trade, which is constantly growing, are subjects which interest a very large number of the farmers of Canada.

While we believe these shows are yet in their infancy and are bound to experience great expansion in the not distant future, yet they have made



THE POULTRY BUILDING AT THE O. A. C.

sufficient progress under obvious difficulty to commend them to the favorable consideration of the people, and will well repay the time and expense of attending them, and the latter item is reduced to very moderate limits by the arrangement effected with the railway companies, whereby on presentation of the prescribed certificate single rates are secured for the round trip. The schedule of meetings of farmers and stockmen during the show week at London, to be addressed by well-known experts



A SAMPLE FIELD OF OATS ON THE COLLEGE FARM.