

The Western Fair.

SIR,—I saw some time ago a paragraph in a newspaper to the effect that the Torontonians were about to establish a three-weeks' Fair in Toronto, and the writer wanted to know why we should not do the same. The question of holding a two-weeks' Exhibition was fully discussed by the directors of the Western Fair some time ago, and it was found next to impossible to carry out a two-weeks' Fair successfully; and I think your numerous readers will come to the same conclusion when they consider the number of such gatherings that are held, not only on the same days as the Western Fair, but for weeks before and after.

The Guelph and Provincial Exhibitions invariably take place before the Western Fair, and, as is well known, most of the implements, stock, etc., are exhibited at these shows before coming to London, and the consequence is that the animals and implements very often arrive in a miserable condition for exhibiting. And it not unfrequently happens that inferior animals which had not been exhibited at other shows take prizes over what, under ordinary circumstances, are very superior animals. It is no wonder, then, that the owners of valuable animals should display such anxiety as they do to get their stock home even before the close of one-week's Western Fair.

It is becoming a serious question with many whether it pays, "for the mere chance of obtaining a prize," to have their stock sent round from one place to another, for it must not be forgotten that, besides the expense of transit, there is attendance and extra cost of keep to be considered; and to those who are not fortunate enough to take prizes it becomes a serious loss.

As one of the oldest members of the Western Fair Board, and one who up to the present has escaped the ordeal of being interviewed by members of the city press, I might be excused for giving you my idea with respect to the holding of our exhibitions. In the first place, then, I would advocate doing away with the perambulating Provincial, and would suggest that to such cities or places as could raise amongst themselves, say, \$800, the Government do grant a sum sufficient to bring the total equivalent to the amount now granted to the Provincial. This to continue for four years, and in the fifth year these places to forego their exhibitions and throw all their energy into one Grand Provincial Exhibition. And I would further suggest that, instead of money prizes in the leading classes, they should offer gold, silver and bronze medals; and as to the result, I for one have not the least doubt what it would be.

J. H. G., Westminster.

From Our English Correspondent.

SIR,—Respecting the exportation question, I am quite sure if the Canadian authorities are alive to the interests of their country they will stop all importations of cattle, sheep and swine from the U. S. You may depend that as pleuro-pneumonia is known to exist in Canada, the English authorities will stop all live importations of cattle from your country to England. I should like to see all meat importations into this country carried on in the dead-meat system. I think it would be more profitable to all parties.

The exporters of live-stock must be great losers in sending animals from America to England. I hear they have very often to throw more than half of the cargo overboard, from rough weather, etc. When a great number of animals are on board ship, and battened down in rough weather, the heat and stench of the animals for days in that state is enough to breed any disease. The argument in favor of the dead-meat trade is by far the strongest. I mean by the dead-meat trade that all imported animals should be killed at the ports of debarkation. Fish is carried dead all over the country; why not meat go the same?

I think pleuro-pneumonia is one of the worst cattle diseases we have to contend with. We never know when we have got rid of it. It is just as likely to break out again in a twelvemonth's time after you think you have got clear of the disease. So you cannot urge upon your countrymen too thoroughly to prohibit all live importations from the States.

We have had a very severe winter, and are much in want of fine weather to get on with our spring corn. There is a great breadth of wheat yet to sow; if we do not get favorable weather soon, it will be too late to plant wheat.

Beet Sugar.

SIR,—I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for the last six years, and the more I have seen of it the more I have made up my mind that it endeavors to prosper the interests not only of the farmers of Ontario, but of the whole Dominion. I was much pleased with your articles in the March number, especially those headed "Protect us from Danger" and "On Political Economy." I think if our farmers as a class would study these articles more and trust to political office-seekers less, it would be better for them.

I also endorse every word said by a farmer from Wilmet Township, in regard to growing sugar-beets. I have grown them for the last four years, and find them a most profitable crop. From the experiments shown at our Agricultural College, we can grow sugar beets of superior quality in saccharine matter and a greater number of bushels to the acre, than they can do in France, where, I am told, they manufacture nearly all the sugar they consume in that country. Why could we not do the same in this Province? We have as good soil and as intelligent a class of farmers. Why could we not go into this branch of agriculture as well as the French? If our Government would give us a bonus of \$100,000 to start a sugar-beet manufactory, some enterprising individuals would at once go into it; and if we could get some one who understands the manufacturing of it in detail, we might make all the raw sugar we could consume in this Province. And what a boon it would be not only to our farmers, but also to the public at large, as I am told the pulp is ahead of turnips as food for stock. We have here a splendid centre for the cultivation of the sugar-beet, and if the Government would take the matter up, Allan's old distillery in this section would be the very place for it. We have all the water from the River Speed at our command, and being situated in the centre of the best root-growing section of Ontario, it could not be unsuccessful. By stirring up the Government by suggestions from such a valuable paper as yours, it will ultimately succeed, and if I can do anything in my humble way to assist, I will be most happy to do so.

A WELLINGTON FARMER.

Several Inquiries.

SIR,—Will you please inform me in your next number on the following questions:

Whether it would be better to buy several of the Leghorns and other game, or order a dozen or so of the eggs?

Whether it is much of an advantage to have hay cut for horses' feed, or is it profitable to feed according to the common practice—that is, without cutting?

Whether it is of advantage to cut hay fine? and what is it estimated could be saved in a winter's feeding of a horse by thus cutting hay, over the ordinary custom of feeding the hay as it comes from the mow?

Some writer, of late, has stated as his opinion that hay is better fed without being cut. Is he correct in saying that the hay does the animal more good to let him cut it for himself by the process of mastication?

By answering these questions as clearly and correctly as possible you will much oblige your readers, and in particular

A SUBSCRIBER, Lower Montague, P. E. I.

[The advantage of cutting fodder—hay and straw—for horses is now generally admitted. A correspondent of an American paper had, for a period of thirty years, personally superintended the feeding of horses, and during that time no horse died, nor was there much sickness among them. A straw-cutter with rawhide roller was in continual use. In this cutting of the food for two teams, enough is saved in one year to pay for its purchase. While the horses are eating, enough can be cut for the next meal, then watered to moisten and destroy the dust, and with it four quarts of meal is ample for each horse. The meal is one-third corn, one-third oats and the other shorts. A variety is made by giving a few small potatoes or carrots weekly. Of course, the same good quality of hay and grain is given when cut as when they cut it for themselves.]

As to inquiries about fowl we refer you to our advertising columns for particulars.]

Morbid Affection.

SIR,—I have a valuable horse nine years old. About six weeks ago he suddenly became very stiff, seemingly all over. He has a good appetite and is in good condition in flesh. He has a very dull look out of his eyes. About three weeks ago I took him to a horse-doctor, who said, after examining him, that he was threatened with yellow jaundice, and prescribed for him accordingly, but he has done his case no good whatever. Please tell me through the ADVOCATE the character of his ailment, the cause producing it and the best treatment for him.

T. B. W.

[This morbid affection and stiffness developed in your horse has been brought on or produced by exposure—that is, you have allowed your horse, while his system was in a heated condition, to stand in a draught of air uncovered, and he has taken cold. The treatment indicated in this case is the following: Administer a drench composed of 14 ozs. raw linseed oil, 2 drachms of powdered Cape aloes, 1 drachm each of antimonii et potassa tartras, powdered carbonate of iron and colchicum seed. Mix and pour slowly down the throat from a common drenching-horn, or a smooth-necked champagne bottle. Repeat the drench on the fifth day subsequent to administering the first. To further facilitate the treatment and change the morbid condition, give him one large tablespoonful morning and evening of a powder composed of equal parts of powdered lac-sulphur, sassafras-radix, cream of tartar, African ginger and gentian-radix. Mix through mash food, consisting of sound and sweet oats and wheat bran, equal quantities of each, with one pint of bruised linseed-meal added to each mess. Season the mashes properly with salt.]

Tree Planting—Municipal Officers.

SIR,—Tree planting is a most important subject. My idea is that, in all Western Ontario, black walnut, chestnut and hickory tree-planting should be encouraged. These are most valuable woods, and they are rapidly disappearing. Let farmers procure the nuts and raise small nurseries of these trees, and transplant at the proper age and season, either in plantations or in rows between their fields. Other timber may also be grown according to soil and situation.

We have too many governors and too many legislative bodies to support. I happened to be in Barrie during a session of the County Council of Simcoe, lately, and dined with some fifty-six members of that august body. These men receive, I think, \$3 per day, and their sittings generally last a week at a time. Only think of the expense—in addition to our municipal and other legislative assemblies!

With ten bushels of wheat per acre, at less than 80c per bushel; pork at \$3.50 per cwt.; butter at 10c per pound; hay at \$7.50 per ton; beef at 3c live weight, and other produce in proportion—these are about the ruling prices here, and very little to sell at that—what can the farmer do under the circumstances? I think the Deputy-Reeves might be left at home to attend to their private affairs, to improve their farms and increase their productiveness, thereby adding a little to the wealth of the country.

Verily I think we have too many representatives to support these hard times.

T. H., Meaford.

Cattle Salesmen in England.

SIR,—In the July number of the ADVOCATE I see a communication from W. O., Birchtown, inquiring for information with respect to some reliable parties as cattle salesmen in England. I herewith send you the address of a firm which is considered the most reliable of all the salesmen there are in Liverpool. These gentlemen do a large business as salesman for the Irish farmers who ship their stock to the English market. The following is their address:

Verdon & Cullen, Cattle Salesmen, James-st., Liverpool, England.

But I think it would be best to open up a correspondence with them before any consignment of stock is made. Their commission is 5 per cent.

Should your correspondent be successful, we would be glad to hear from him. But we have our doubts as to any single individual making it a success, on account of the long sea-voyage; yet, if the farmers were united in their efforts, it could not prove otherwise than a grand success. "Unity of purpose and effort" should be the watchword of the farmers of Ontario.

MUSKOKA.