

Our Maritime Letter.

The rather frank criticism of Mr. Registrar White, at the annual meeting of the Fruit-growers' Association of Prince Edward Island, has had the effect of compelling, in the officiality of the institution, a degree of introspection seldom if ever before equalled in that body. They were living, if the inferences were at all true, in a sort of fool's paradise; and possibly cumbering the good ground, which planted to better stock would long ago have brought forth fruit both pleasing to the eye, delicious to the palate, and potent in the wealth of dollars from it obtainable. No acknowledgment whatever of any virtue in the administration would be made either.

The oldest members of the association, feeling perhaps for the chair, and for their own reputation as members of a useless society, were inclined to resent the imputation somewhat peremptorily. The flush of rising indignation crimsoned the President's cheek, but, controlling himself, he there and then resolved that if he must occupy the position longer, the charge would have to be examined into in all its bearings—denounced if denouncement worthy; admitted if just, and the necessary steps taken to remove the organization from the blameworthy circle.

In this world of puff and foolish adulation, the tendency, even with those we call sensible men, is to apply the flattering unction to their souls in coats thick enough to scale off readily in a moment, one would think; and go on inhabiting the fool's paradise, in a state of sweet and serene unconsciousness. We may have been there. It is a blessing to have someone with the courage of Mr. Registrar White to disillusion that sort of functionary. We have the candid friend for our own, in any case, and we are going to profit, in so far as may be, by his fraternal correction. Already we have increased our concern in the New Year's work, and hope to be able to face our constituency next time with the record of something done.

"You have been organized now for eleven years," he said in substance, "I have come here year after year for five years, and in all that time I have never heard a discussion on varieties; not a single variety has been discussed to a finality and adopted by the association as the right one for any Islander to grow." There was an impeachment for you! If this were the primary work of the F.-G. A., then had we surely been derelict in duty.

Let us hasten to inform our readers, however, that we have had discussions time out of memory, on varieties. They come up always. The chair has its greatest difficulty in side-tracking them. We had even had committees appointed to recommend the sorts of apples adapted to growth here; but nobody, it is true, had debated a single variety to the general acquiescence, and declared it the apple of all others Islanders should grow. Our sin was one of omission; it was a sin all the other organizations had fallen under; equally, it is likely to hold against us long, for we are convinced that we will never reach that happy consensus of opinion when unanimously, and after discussion even bordering on physical exhaustion, all will agree to pronounce this or that apple the one par excellence for the country.

Here is the list our association had long ago recommended to planters, and every year revised. Some would fight forever against any one of those being preferred before the other. We can grow them all well; that is all: Alexander, Baldwin, Baxter, Ben Davis, Blenheim, Canada Red, Fameuse, Gravenstein, King, McIntosh Red, Mann, Northern Spy, Oldenburg, Ribston, Roxbury Russet, Stork, Talman Sweet, Yellow Transparent.

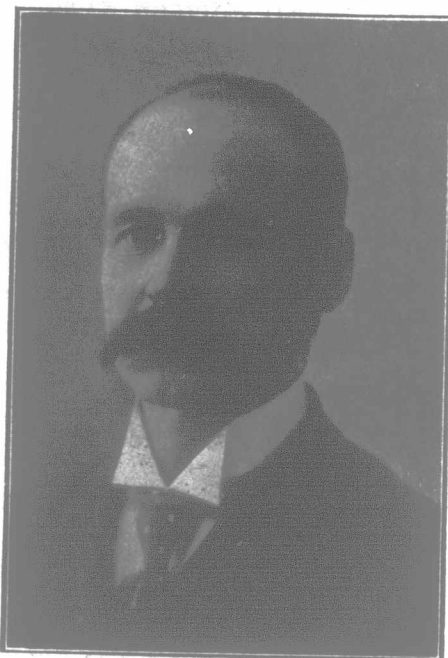
But if we are to be condemned on the White charge—*risum teneatis amici*—how are the other associations to escape the same censure? What have your old, wise and powerful institutions of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia to say? Our young New Brunswick sister must not be made to blush even by being mentioned. We find nowhere the record of preference in these old societies. Please go away back, then, to the consciousness of an ill-spent life and remodel. Misery likes company; and we are likely to have plenty of it.

True, we asked our critic to tell us himself the apple we should grow, and he answered not; true, we called on all the growers to speak out and name the sole desirable, but the answer, if any was, was safeguarded, varied with every tongue that spoke. In this perplexity of our interrogator and the profession, we were able to regain our own composure. We all admit that it would be, perhaps, of benefit if we were able to say so, but since choice in so many even more important matters in life depends upon individual taste, and every man is admitted to be a law unto himself in this respect, how are we to reach anything like agreement anyway? That wasn't the best ground to attack us on, Mr. Registrar White.

But a much more sweeping censure might possibly be preferred against the F.-G. A.'s of Canada, by simply enquiring what they are doing just at present to merit encouragement and support. No man or association can long trade on the past. It does appear to us, little as we like it, and it is to be taken home to ourselves as well as directed at others, that those associations are doing little more than meeting yearly now, listening to very agreeable talks or papers on familiar topics, if you like, and registering a flood of fugitive discussion. The activities of the associations are either becoming restricted or they cannot find expression in practical results. We want work in this

busy age, to justify existence. The instruction campaigns even must be aggressive. If there is anything to do we should be up and doing. Is there anything to do? Scan the Agenda Paper of the Council and see for yourself? But the means to do this with? It will be forthcoming, too, if the work be well considered and of a kind to impress the country. Governments of the day follow rather than mould public sentiment. The question is, what is Ontario doing, what is Nova Scotia doing, what is Quebec doing, to make their fruit-growers' associations a vital force in the land? And, as we said, we put the question primarily to ourselves.

A. E. BURKE.



A. C. Halman, Breslau, Ont.

President Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada.

Interested in "Amateur Farmer's" Accounts.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of February 7th I notice a balance sheet showing a net profit of \$1,251.01 from a 195-acre farm, signed "Amateur Farmer." Now, I have been keeping farm accounts for the past six years, and I was very much interested in that balance sheet, but there were some items upon which I would like more information, and since "Amateur Farmer" seems like a good fellow, perhaps he wouldn't mind giving a classified statement of his expense account, not in detail, but how much for wages, threshing, etc., also how many bushels of grain he threshed; also his receipts, what all he sold that went to make up that \$2,702.20.

I have been a reader of your paper for only three years, and will continue to be as long as I can make a profit out of farming.

Hastings Co., Ont.

INQUIRER.

[Note.—We hope to hear from "Amateur Farmer" again, as well as from others who have been keeping farm accounts. Let each correspondent describe his system of bookkeeping, and give a concise tabulated statement of receipts and disbursements, as set forth by his account books. The study of such statements is not only interesting, but suggestive. Our desire is to hear not merely from those who have had an exceptionally prosperous year or two, but from those who have kept books for several years. The value of such articles lies not in the size of the profits shown, so much as in the method of bookkeeping, in the clearness with which the writer's financial position is shown and the effect of his letter in stimulating others to emulate his example. By his close scrutiny of the contents of "The Farmer's Advocate," "Inquirer" displays one of those characteristics, the application of which usually result in making farming a profitable business.—Editor.]

Benefits of the O. A. C. Short Course.

The large and enthusiastic attendance at the short course in grain and stock judging, at the Ontario Agricultural College last month, is the subject of remark in a communication received upon its conclusion from one who signs himself Short-course Student. The writer gives an interesting description of the work in detail, day by day, but as the course had been reported by special arrangement with one of our contributors, we are scarcely warranted in covering the ground again. We are pleased, however, to make use of a few appreciative extracts, which, we are sure, voice the general feeling of the class:

"For farmers and farmers' sons throughout the Province this short-course is one of the most important branches of work taken up by the College, coming at a time when farmers are not busy. The practical work taken up by Professor Day and Dr. Reed in the judging-ring, and by Professor Zavitz and Mr. Howitt on seeds, with the objects of discussion before the class at all times, sinks facts into the minds

of all in such a manner that they cannot well be forgotten.

"As regards the work and mode of carrying it on: On Tuesday morning, January 8th, the students gathered in the new mechanical building, and every morning after met at the same place for one hour's study of seeds and seed-growing. From the seed building we always went to the judging pavilion—a round building, well heated and with abundance of light and seating space for about four hundred.

"Wednesday afternoon was devoted to the beef-cattle score-card, a great thing in the education of the mind for picking out points.

"The study of seeds, taken up from day to day by Professor Zavitz; there was great interest taken in this branch by all the class, and a lot of valuable information derived from the same, both as to the quality of seed to sow and the time of sowing.

"The lectures conducted each evening by different men on different subjects were also a very important part of the programme, dealing with the soil cultivation and the feeding of different stock.

"There were in the neighborhood of three hundred and fifty young men and old attending, and all any one could say was that it was one of the finest and most instructive courses or meetings they had ever attended. All wished the course to be longer, and thanked the Professors for their great and untiring interest."

S. J. Prouse's Clydesdale Sale.

The auction sale of imported Clydesdales belonging to Mr. S. J. Prouse, of Ingersoll, Ont., on February 13th, was fairly successful, in so far as the disposal of the mares and fillies was concerned, though Mr. Prouse expected far better prices for some of them. Stallion buyers were not present in any considerable number, and only two were sold, so Mr. Prouse has a number of useful stallions that were not put up, owing to the absence of demand, and these are held for sale privately at reasonable prices. Following is the sale list of mares and fillies:

MARES AND FILLIES.

Polly Homes, foaled 1902; Thos. Delaney, Ingersoll	\$510
Stately Step, foaled '05; Jas. Henderson, Belton	220
Cumberland Belle, '04; Walter Leonard, Craigville	295
Beauty, '04; A. Williamson, Ingersoll	295
Black Sall, '04; A. Williamson	230
Lady Lyndoch, '02; E. Dingman, Maplewood	355
Neilston Jess, '04; J. R. Johnson, Springfield	280
Bess Orr, '04; E. Nelyott, St. Mary's	255
Reverie, '04; A. Nelyott, St. Mary's	300
Hartland's Queen, '03; G. Coursey, Lucan	275
Rose of Hartland, '09; E. Sendrick, Ingersoll	310
Topsy of Hartland, '00; Wm. McGhee, Beachville	350

HACKNEYS.

Lady Lackford, '02; M. T. Buchanan, Ingersoll	240
Terrington Kitchenmaid, '01; J. O. Culter, Ingersoll	355
Knockenlaw Daisy, '03; R. Anderson, Salford	205

The Maritime Sale.

The Maritime auction sale of registered cattle was held in the Winter Fair building, at Amherst, N. S., on February 14th. There were some good Shorthorns offered, but several of the animals in the ring were not what should be desired. It was gratifying to notice how quickly the bidders appreciated anything good, while inferior animals often had to be led from the ring without a bid. As a rule prices were disappointingly low. Only the following reached \$70 or over:

Shorthorn bull, Minto of Riverside, contributed by Geo. T. Thompson, of Little River, N.S., to A. S. MacMillan, of Upper South River, Antigonish Co., N.S., \$75.00.

Dominus, from R. J. Messenger, Bridgetown, N.S., to David Withrow, Newport Landing, N.S., \$70.00.

Marcus, from C. A. Archibald, Truro, to Geo. L. Slipp, Sussex, N.B., \$135.00.

Females—Miss Albino, from Wm. Holmes, Amherst, to N. T. Blakney, Fort Lawrence, \$75. Rosabella, from C. A. Archibald to Geo. L. Slipp, \$100. Belle Bradley, from C. A. Archibald to Geo. L. Slipp, \$140.

Four-legged Milking Machine.

The New York Herald published the following from Louisville, Ky.: "Boyle Co. has an invention to do away with the milkmaid. It embraces a four-legged arrangement covered with the hide of a calf. The interior of the body is much like a water cooler, and is constructed of galvanized zinc. The mouth is lined with rubber and the jaws work on hinges. By the ingenious mechanical perfection of the device the caudal appendage of the dummy switches most vigorously during the milking act and the oldest cows are forthwith completely captured. The whole thing is operated with a gasoline engine, and the only attention required is the presence of a boy with a bucket to remove the milk.

"In the trial tests, even the mean kicking, fidgety milkers are said to succumb with reclining ears and benign complacence."