

## EDITORIAL.

## The Shire Mare Sapphire.

Our front page illustration represents as near a typical female of the English Shire breed as our country can show up at the present date. She commenced covering herself with glory in her first show ring contest, in 1890, at Halifax, England, as a yearling filly, where she was awarded second premium, being beaten by a filly which, at Crowther's sale, when both were put up at auction, fetched fifty pounds less than Sapphire. In 1891 she won first premium as a two-year-old, at the Toronto Industrial, where, in '92, she won first as a brood mare, also taking silver medal and diploma. In '93 she continued to lead, taking silver medal and diploma for best mare of any age, at Toronto, and bronze medal at Montreal Provincial Exhibition, for best mare of the breed. This year she again walked over all others at the Industrial, as a Shire female. Sapphire has a pedigree that is valued most by those best acquainted with it, she being sired by Northern King (2635), by What's Wanted (2332), by Bold Lincoln (231), etc.; her dam, Shaw's Jewel, by Master Tom (5202), tracing back to Honest Tom (1060), foaled in 1800. As a breeder she has proved her ability in the production of Pearl 89, C. S. H. S. B., that won first at Toronto, in 1892, as a foal, being the only time shown.

Sapphire, in color, is a light bay, white on face, hindlegs and a little on one front foot. She was bred by J. E. Shaw, Brookland's Farm, Halifax, England. Foaled in 1889. Imported in 1891 by her present owner, Horace N. Crossley, Sandy Bay Farm, Lake Rosseau, Muskoka. Mr. Crossley is engaged in importing and breeding Shires and Hackneys. His large exhibit at the Industrial this year stood well up among the winners in both breeds.

The Russian thistle has made its appearance in several places along the railway tracks in Ohio.

It is said that one result from the abolition of wool duties in the United States will be the use of far less shoddy than in the past.

During the first week in September wheat was selling in the Old Country at a lower average, observes our Scottish correspondent, than it had reached for two hundred years.

Early in September the first consignment of live cattle ever brought to Great Britain from Australia arrived at Gravesend. The animals numbered about twenty, and were in fairly good condition.

"There is no question but that our cheese is less nutritious than that made in Canada; it is not as valuable as an article of food."—The Farm and Dairy, Ames, Iowa. Open confession is good for the soul.

According to returns issued by the British Board of Agriculture for the week ending August 31st, there were two animals slaughtered for pleuropneumonia, 168 deaths from swine fever and 538 slaughtered, two outbreaks of anthrax, seventeen outbreaks of glanders and five animals died or killed with rabies. Canadian quarantine authorities cannot afford to relax in the slightest degree their vigilance in regard to importations of live stock.

A large English importing firm is experimenting with a process by which frozen meat is thawed in a warm, dry atmosphere, which also absorbs the moisture and leaves the meat not only sound in condition, but without that peculiar wetness so characteristic of the ordinary frozen meat. The cost of the process is estimated at not more than a farthing a pound, while the Smithfield experts believe that it will put an additional value of probably from one penny to three half-pence per pound on the meat.

The following swindling game is reported as being played on Minnesota farmers:—A tree agent comes along with a collection of trees, which he claims will make a "model orchard." The farmer is to plant these trees and keep them in good condition until they bear fruit—the agent agreeing to replace all that die. The farmer gives a note for the trees, thinking he can postpone its payment until the trees actually come into bearing. The tree agent secures all the notes he can, sells them for cash to some local banker, and then gets out of the country for good. The farmers are left to pay their notes as best they can. As a rule, the trees in the "model orchard" turn out to be a worthless lot, containing many crab apples.

## The Farm Paper.

In the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE one of our Manitoba readers wrote us on the above subject, to the following effect:—

"I hear of some people this year stopping their agricultural paper, on the plea of hard times. How many of these men will stop their partizan political paper, or their tobacco and liquor? Not one! But the only really useful paper they receive is to be banished forthwith. 'Never speak ill of the bridge that carries you over,' and it's shameless ingratitude to speak ill of the very paper that, by its practical teachings, has helped you to better methods of farming, and therefore to more comfort and independence. One man, through the influence of the ADVOCATE's teachings, was induced to buy a good bull; another a money-making implement; a third has improved his farm yield by better methods of cultivation, and so on. Let them show their appreciation of the farming papers by continuing their subscriptions. If you must drop some paper, drop that abusive political sheet, which only tends by its teachings to warp your feelings, and narrow and intensify your prejudices. Least of all, do not be so mean as to keep on receiving a paper that is not paid for; if the paper is good enough to read it is good enough to be paid for."

Notwithstanding the financial stringency alluded to, we are pleased to be able to say that it is very rare, indeed, to hear of a man trying the risky experiment of improving his financial outlook by cutting off a main source of his information. In the whole history of farming, there never was a time when changing conditions and other circumstances made accurate and timely knowledge such an essential to success as at present. And every indication points to the fact that this state of things will continue. Our readers all the way across the continent are not only continuing their support, but are showing their appreciation of the efforts we are putting forth on behalf of agriculture, by inducing others to share their advantages by becoming readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. We are more than gratified at the liberal response that is being made to our offer of the paper from now till the end of 1895 for \$1. It would indeed seem that times are on the mend. Time and again have our readers cheerfully testified to the help received through our columns, tiding them over difficulties and bringing special information just when most needed. We are thankful for this appreciation, and also for the efforts our friends are making by commending the ADVOCATE to neighbors or friends, and sending in their subscriptions. What helps one will help another. We are also pleased to note that our readers are feeling free in making use of the Questions and Answers department, as well as others, not only to secure, but to contribute practical information.

Surprise may be expressed that we are able to give a paper of such magnitude and quality at so small a cost, but we long ago realized that the best was none too good, and also just as there is no such thing as standing still in farming, or using the system of fifty years ago to-day, neither can we rest content with present achievements in the publication of an agricultural paper. There must always be a steady advance. Occasionally someone has imagined that we have set too high a standard for farming, but time has invariably justified us, and nowhere more so than in Manitoba and the Northwest.

To cover all the various branches of farming, such as stock rearing, feeding, cultivation, grain growing, dairying, fruit growing, poultry keeping, etc., as well as to keep a careful outlook regarding supply and demand in the world's markets, and expose the frauds that are continually cropping up, makes it necessary to give a large paper, dealing with each subject as though it were our only speciality. Issuing the paper twice a month has given the best of satisfaction. Another fact that has helped the ADVOCATE is its peculiar adaptability to the needs of our readers. Here and there men have experimented with cheap novelties in the way of farm papers devoted to this or that hobby, but very soon they were found wanting and had to be discarded.

In conclusion, we would again thank our agents and friends for what they are doing in extending the influence of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. An increasing circulation enables us to continue the work of improvement, and by giving a still better and more helpful paper, we can benefit them in return, thus making the advantage mutual.

As regards the home trade between America and Great Britain, the tables are now completely turned. During the eight months ending August 31st, Canada and the United States paid Great Britain £34,150 for horses and received in return for horses £219,081.

## What is Bimetallism?

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

I notice in a recent number of the ADVOCATE that bimetallism was one of the remedies suggested by some of the witnesses examined before the English Royal Commission, which is investigating the subject of agricultural depression. I must confess ignorance as to the meaning of bimetallism, and how it effects the financial condition of the farmer. An explanation would no doubt be appreciated by many beside myself. M. R.

Our correspondent has raised important and far-reaching questions that are engaging the thought of some of the keenest intellects in the world to-day, and concerning which controversy has been going on for years. We will simply outline bimetallism as we find it presented by its advocates. To begin with, money forms our common medium of exchange. At first commerce was carried on by a system of barter, so many sheep being given for so many cows, so much corn for so much wool, and so on. As civilization progressed, barter was displaced by the use of some common medium of exchange available in all cases of buying and selling. Various tribes and people used various mediums—some skins, some leather, and so on. Metals, such as iron, tin, lead and copper were employed as a higher stage of development was reached. But, finally, with practical universality, all other materials for standard money gave place to gold and silver. Money is therefore a commodity, selected first by custom and afterwards confirmed by law as a common measure of values—a something for which one thing can be sold and another thing bought. By the value of money all understand its "exchange value" or its purchasing power. Coinage is simply stamping or branding. Minting certifies that the coin is of a certain weight of gold or silver and that the gold or silver in a given coin is of a specified degree of purity. When law singles out gold or silver or both to be used as money, the demand for them is greatly increased, and as they are only of limited production, their value is increased accordingly. Now, when gold, for example, rises in value, a larger quantity of any other commodity, such as corn, hay, meat, cloth, etc., will have to be paid for a given quantity of gold, such as the quantity contained in a sovereign. In reply to the contention that the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar is also increased, the bimetalist replies that the farmer is the weakest of capitalists and has the least power of resistance, because he cannot suspend production. He is an isolated individual also. In like manner, farm labor is weaker than industrial labor, because it cannot combine. Furthermore, under certain fiscal conditions, the formation of trust combines, etc., on the part of manufacturers, is fostered. Monometallism is a system of currency in which gold is selected as the standard basis, and bimetallism is the system in which gold and silver, the two precious metals, are taken as standards of value at a fixed ratio of value between them—that is, between the mint value of a given weight of one and the mint value of the same weight of the other. Bimetallism was established in England by Sir Isaac Newton, Master of the English Mint, in 1717, but was abandoned in 1816. That policy was changed, according to a recent writer in the Fortnightly Review, because of the accumulation of capital in interest-bearing debts. It was in operation in France from 1803 till 1873. It was also in vogue in several other European nations. The ratio preserved between the two was as 15½ to 1; that is the say, 15½ ounces of silver and one ounce of gold were coined into an equal sum of money. Both were legal tender for debts; but now silver is not legal tender in England for sums over 40 shillings. The adoption of monometallism has tended to raise the value of gold (as has also its vastly increased use in the arts), and thereby to favor the interests of capitalists; in short, the interests of all who have the command of gold—money lenders and the like—who have a claim to receive fixed money payments, which, from the foregoing, represents a burden growing heavier and heavier from year to year. Mortgages and the like are drawn "payable in gold" or "payable in gold or its equivalent." Hon. A. J. Balfour, Chief Secretary of Ireland, under the late Salisbury Government, is a distinguished bimetalist, and foreseeing the increasing burden coming upon those whose "judicial rents" were fixed for a term of years, or those who had annual payments to make, say for 49 years, as under the Irish Land Purchase Act, he embraced an elaborate provision for the payment of an extra rate at first for a number of years, for the protection of the State against ultimate loss in the event of the pur-