

roots and garden vegetables at local fairs. Many exhibitors pay little or no attention to making their display attractive. What have you to suggest on collection of specimens and their preparation at the show table?

September 14.—Give suggestions on preparing poultry for market. Discuss specifically the fitting and marketing of old birds and this year's stock.

September 21.—What is the best means of tying cattle in the stable? Would you advise a man building a new stable to equip it with stanchions or chains?

September 28.—Do you consider that a duty on wool would be in the interests of sheep-raisers? Do you think that a reasonable import duty on wool would stimulate interest in the sheep industry?

### The Farm Library

Two letters are published below in answer to the question for discussion in this issue, viz.: "What do you consider the average farmer should have as a library, to which to refer from time to time?" The letters are printed in the order in which the prizes are awarded.

### Reading for Farmers

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I will state first what I consider constitutes a fair collection of books on agriculture and farm subjects generally. My own collection consists

board boxes arranged on a shelf, each box marked on the outside with the subject its contents deals with. The clippings cover such subjects as "farm contrivances," "buildings," "diseases of hogs," "bees," "buttermaking," "farm houses," "horses," "cattle," "poultry," "engines," "machinery," "grains," "crop data," etc. I find them convenient to refer to and handier to get at than if piles of all the papers were kept and the matter dug from them as required.

In general literature I have such books as I prefer to read. These need not be enumerated, as what I like to read may not be much of a guide to others. A man should gather about him some volumes on such subjects as he prefers to read in. What those are a man's own personal inclinations will decide.

More important than books in these days is the current literature that comes into the home. A farmer should subscribe to a good magazine or two, a woman's paper, a daily newspaper if he can reach the postoffice every day, a weekly or two and his local papers. These, without mentioning the farm papers, of which one at least should be taken and several if a man has time to read them, or if the members of his family find interest therein. I have yet to find the farmer who hasn't time to read a whole lot more than he does. The trouble with most of us is that we do not read enough.

Sask.

W. C. GRAHAM.

engineering, and one on physical science, will be read with interest by many farmers.

For the busy, practical, up-to-date farmer, the bulletins and reports issued from time to time by the government and by agricultural and horticultural societies, poultry associations and the breeding associations, will be found beneficial. These reports and bulletins read intelligently, and the information obtained from them used with an equal quantity of good, sound common (or uncommon) sense, applied to special individual cases, will help many a man to better things. In many cases information obtained from bulletins is more easily read and more practical, and therefore better suited to the average farmer's time and ability to assimilate than more exhaustive works.

Periodicals must not be neglected. As many good agricultural papers should be subscribed for as the farmer thinks he can afford and make use of. One or two newspapers, giving the news of the world and of the province in which he lives, should be taken. I would recommend the selection of some that do not fill all their space with a violent discussion of party politics. There is a vast difference between a statesmanlike discussion of the needs of a country and the back-biting and quarrelling between parties.

In conclusion, I would say that money spent in good books, whether scientific works, story books, poetical works, or good literature of any kind, is not money thrown away. A farmer cannot have too large a library, if that library is composed of books that are either useful in the various branches of farm work, or are selected for their standing amongst the good literature of the world.

Sask.

E. Dow.

### Advices Stacking Grain

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

It has been my practice to stack grain because it seems to be the most methodical way of doing things. I am able to have the fields cleared in reasonable time to get fall work done. I also have the crop comparatively safe from bad weather and am ready for the threshers at any time. In the past I have not been troubled with unfavorable weather in the fall, but it is well to be prepared in case broken weather comes when threshing is in progress. Then there is less delay than in stook threshing and one has the threshing outfit a shorter time to provide for. I have seen fields covered with stooks to be stook-threshed till near the freeze-up.

Moreover, I can see that if help is scarce, one might have to fall back on stook threshing working with neighbors in order to take off a large crop. I cannot speak from result of my own observation as to the improvement in the grade of the grain said to result from stook threshing. I frequently see wheat that takes prizes in strong competition from stook-threshed crop, but it is not cut until real ripe and generally also is the second crop in succession from the land. It may be that it had been cut on the green side; sweating in the stack would have improved the quality. The best barley produced then was stacked, but that may not have been due to the stacking.

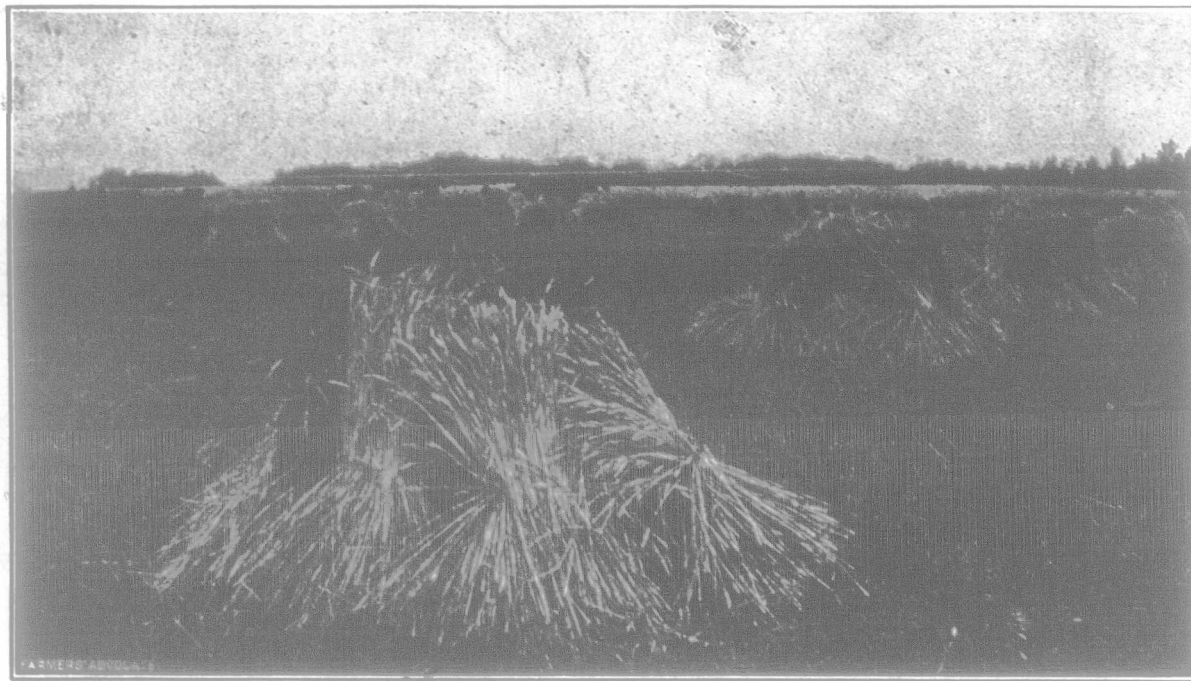
Alta.

A. D. SHORE.

### Wheat Yields

A reader asks for the wheat yields in the leading wheat-producing countries for the last two years. Here are figures given in a recent issue of *Census and Statistics Monthly*, published at Ottawa:

Country	1909 Bushels	1908 Bushels
Russia	786,472,363	568,713,494
United States	713,286,923	648,510,328
France	361,050,500	317,602,964
British India	253,592,377	204,065,358
Canada	166,744,000	112,434,000
Italy	155,711,230	154,199,584
Spain	144,511,581	120,316,725
Germany	138,309,277	138,742,214
Argentina	133,581,000	156,515,669



MANY PARTS OF THE CANADIAN WEST HAVE A BUMPER CROP OF WHEAT

of some bulletins issued by our own and the American department of agriculture, experimental farm reports and clippings from agricultural papers. In addition to these I have a few general works, first of which are the two excellent volumes *Cyclopedia of Agriculture* and *Cyclopedia of Livestock*, edited by Wilcox and Smith and compiled from experimental data gathered from the various stations of United States, Canada and Europe. Both I consider invaluable works. I have two very good veterinary works, one of them "The Farmer's Veterinarian," frequently advertised in your paper; a work dealing with the the breeds, history, management and training of the horse; King's *Physics of Agriculture*; Dondlinger's "Book on Wheat," Campbell's book on "Dry Farming," and an odd work or two dealing with general farm subjects. These general farm books, however, are not much use. From this on I intend, in adding to my collection, to get books dealing with special subjects, for in these days a man needs to know more about certain particular departments of his business than can be contained in a general work.

The most valuable part of my collection of printed matter bearing upon farm work, livestock and subjects pertaining thereto is made up of clippings taken from time to time from the agricultural papers. At first I kept these in large envelopes, on which was written the subject referred to. Latterly I have pasted the clippings onto sheets of paper about three columns wide and ten inches long. These are kept in paste-

### What to Read

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

If a young man, at the beginning of his independent life, finds that he has need of more education than he ever had an opportunity as a boy of obtaining, he need not despair. If he can read even a little, it is in his power, and will be greatly to his advantage to spend his spare time in mastering various branches of book-learning. He should have a fair understanding of the English language, so that he can read any book intelligently. He should have a thorough knowledge of elementary arithmetic, for that science is so useful in every branch of farming.

For books of reference he should have a good arithmetic, a book containing all common business forms, a book on mensuration, agricultural works, dealing with soils and their treatment, rotation of crops, conservation of moisture, and such subjects should be found in the library. Weeds need careful study.

Good stock books, also treating of the various breeds of farm animals, and their care in every way. Medical works, giving the simple home treatment of diseases of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, must not be forgotten, though they should not be allowed to usurp the place of a veterinary surgeon in severe cases. So much machinery is in use on every well-managed farm nowadays that a book of mechanics will not come amiss. Probably in this connection a book on