

EDITORIAL.

Among the questions that are most frequently asked is, What luck? This is applied to the lamb crop, the spring litters of pigs, and the well-doing of foals and calves; in fact, is the general manner of enquiry regarding all lines of production. But is it not often another name for care? Without carefully-laid plans things are apt to go astray. It is prompt attention to details that prevents the casualties that too often creep in and destroy the hope of success for the season, whether it be in stock breeding and feeding, or grain producing.

Among the dairy news of the day, Hoard's Dairyman remarks that "Prof. Robertson has sold the mammoth cheese the Canadians are to exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition to an European provision dealer, who proposes to exhibit it without charge in all the principal cities in Great Britain, as an advertisement of Canadian cheese. Everything is being done to build up Canadian dairy interests. No filled cheese, no skim cheese made there, and the best of cheese their ambition. Such a people, with such practice, can be advertised and their reputation built up, and they will finally possess the land, for they have not tried to cheat the consumer".

With clover seed worth \$10 per bushel, every effort should be put forth to make each separate seed grow. The high price will doubtless prevent many a field from being seeded, but if we could be assured of a good catch, it would be profitable to sow clover seed even at the highest figures it ever sells at. With good seed sown at the right time the chances of failure are very small; not once in twenty sowings, perhaps, do our best farmers miss getting a good stand when it is sown on wheat. When is the right time is a disputed point. Some sow early and seldom miss; while others sow late after the ground has dried enough to crack with the best results. In the meantime, proceed to sow \$10 clover seed upon your wheat field this spring, and by so doing you will find it a good investment. The purity as well as the germinating quality of the seed should be closely looked after, for all the old, stale seed in the country, besides much that is full of fowl seeds, weeds and trash, will be offered for sale.

When the question of the restriction placed upon Canadian cattle is brought before Mr. Gardner, President of the British Board of Agriculture, he still defends himself from the legal standpoint of the question. He is daily being questioned by the representatives of districts of Scotland that are equally interested with Canada. In reply to one of these he recently said:—"It would not be practicable for my department to conduct for itself on the spot any investigation into the sanitary condition of animals in Canada, but, as I have already stated, I shall give attentive consideration to any information on the subject which I may receive from the Canadian Government. I understand that the regulations at present in force in the Dominion require ninety days' quarantine in the case of cattle imported from the Eastern States of the United States, but some modification of this rule appears to be allowed in favor of settlers entering Manitoba and the Northwestern Territories," and further states that since last July 41 cases of pleuropneumonia, forming part of 18 different cargoes, have been discovered amongst cattle imported from the United States.

We are informed by Prof. Wm. Saunders that the work of testing the germinating power of grain and other agricultural seeds is now in active progress at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Up to the present over 1,600 samples have been tested and reported on this season, and on the whole with very gratifying results, showing a good percentage of vitality. There are, however, some districts in the Dominion from which samples have been received of very poor quality and quite unfit for seed. In some parts of Manitoba the harvest season of 1891 was very unfavorable, and considerable quantities of grain were left out in stook or stack all winter and threshed in the spring of 1892. A number of samples of such grain have been tested and they show a very low percentage of vitality, many of them ranging from 15 to 40 per cent. only, and are quite unfit for seed. In some other parts of the Dominion, and especially in some sections of Ontario and Quebec, the weather during the last harvest period was very wet, and the grain in the stook was subject to repeated wettings before it could be housed, and in the meantime some of it sprouted. A large proportion of such samples also show a low degree of germinating power, and if sown as seed will be likely to result in poor crops.

Any farmers desiring to send further samples for test should forward them without delay; the packages should contain about one ounce each, and they can be sent to the Experimental Farm free through the mail. The samples are tested and reports can usually be furnished in about ten days after the grain is received.

Agricultural Education.

The constant and increasing tendency of the youthful Canadian rural population to flock to the cities and towns of the Dominion and the United States, is to-day alarming. For this there are at least two reasons—one the apparently more congenial and attractive nature of town life, with more direct wages; and the other the expectation of getting where wealth can be more rapidly acquired. This subject is so important and presents so many aspects that we cannot now undertake to discuss more than one phase of it. The practical point is to seek out a remedy for the existing condition of things. Of course, as we have indicated, more than one cause has been at work, therefore a single specific will not be sufficient to effect a cure. For instance, the ADVOCATE quite concurs with the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Dryden, when he utterly protests against the notion that the farmers should be content without a comfortable and attractive home-life and surroundings. His occupation should provide this, and more than this, for himself and his family. Then, again, without going into other details, a word may be said especially for good roads, which would no doubt, make a host of people far more contented with rural life than they are at present.

A very great deal can be accomplished towards implanting a love for agricultural life in the youth of the country along educational lines. For this reason the bulletin recently prepared by Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, on the subject of "Agriculture in the Schools," was most timely. That the ADVOCATE believes in agricultural education goes without saying. What real mission would it have as a reason for existence if it did not? Its work is to educate towards the truth as it is in agriculture. If, as we believe, agriculture lies at the basis of the nation's progress and prosperity, it should be encouraged and improved, instead of being discouraged and hampered.

We have long entertained the conviction that the general tendency of our educational system has been too much towards the "professions," as they are called, and commercial life, for which special provision is made, while those agreeable subjects that agriculture would present are ignored. Need we wonder, then, that the boy sees nothing in plant and animal life, feels little but drudgery in horticultural and agricultural pursuits or live stock husbandry, and is naturally forced into the city, to the great loss and detriment of the business of farming? A vigorous protest should be entered against this condition of things, especially as such a system affects the rural schools. Agriculture must have recognition in the educational system of an agricultural country. The Farmers' Institute system was begotten largely of the recognized need for education along agricultural lines. It was believed, and rightly too, that a move along the line towards improvement in farming was needed. Governments recognized the utility of the institute system of education, and have liberally aided it. Why not, then, begin at the beginning—with the youth—laying the foundation where it ought to be laid? We must awaken a sentiment in favor of farm life, as was pointed out in a late issue of the ADVOCATE, and that will not be accomplished by merely crowding pupils through a text-book of technicalities. The Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario has done well to adopt a resolution in this direction. The announcement by Hon. Mr. Dryden that a summer course in agriculture would be opened at Guelph this season, for the benefit of public school teachers, indicates that the Minister of Agriculture fully recognizes the importance of this subject, and is losing no time in giving his convictions practical shape. Farmers' Institutes, Teachers' Associations, and other organizations where light can be obtained, should have this subject pressed upon their attention. That agriculture will ere long have recognition in the public school course there need be little doubt. The school garden, arbor day, illustrated charts for the school-room, familiar talks on plant life, etc., and other means, will readily present themselves as means by which the desired end can be reached. That there may be difficulties in the way is probably true, but they can and must be overcome.

Read what our correspondents from all parts of the country have to say in this, as well as our last, issue concerning new varieties of grain, corn and roots, and you will learn much from others' experience. It is quite easy to add ten bushels per acre in a crop of oats, and proportionately in peas or barley, while a wonderful increase may be made in the root or corn crop, if only a suitable variety that has been propagated with a view to increase in yield and suitability to soil and locality is selected.

Remedy for Hard Times.

There is at present a general complaint of hard times, which is not confined to one nation or one kind of business. This complaint has always been made by some at all times, but is now made by so many as to prove that it is well founded. If we discover the cause we may suggest the remedy. Peace has continued for a length of time, and adverse seasons have not prevented the earth from yielding a plentiful supply of food for its inhabitants; the sea still furnishes us with fish, and the great west and other recently stocked pasture grounds provide numberless cattle, and the improved modes of transportation carry these to the consumer, yet we hear the cry of widespread ruin from those who have more than enough of the necessities of life. Their produce they say will not sell for enough to pay cost, and they cannot pay for the advanced labor as they used to do; but why should the farmer complain who has enough to live on, because his surplus produce brings a low price? Then what is the name of the incubus that has paralyzed the energy of multitudes? It is debt—debt not necessarily incurred. It is not very consoling when we are in trouble to reflect that it is our own fault, but when it is the case it may be useful to know it, because that which we may have done ourselves we may possibly be able to undo by changing our practice. The remote course of difficulty may be placed to modern offices which enable every man, for the consideration of a heavy interest, to set his farm property afloat without the trouble of selling it. Most men wish to become rich, but neither the farmer nor the merchant will succeed in the wish without extraordinary industry and application, or without establishing a rule to spend less than he earns; and when this course has proved successful, many years of hard labor must elapse before wealth can be acquired. But when it was generally understood that a man could have nearly the value of what he owned in something that answers the purpose of cash, while at the same time he still retains all his real property, the spirit of speculation soon appeared on the scene. The manufacturer increased his work shops, the merchant doubled his importations, the farmer increased his business by purchasing more land than he could work without more help and more capital, and in too many instances left his own occupation for some other, by which he expected to acquire sudden wealth. For awhile every active man believed that he was growing rich, for it is perhaps more easy to gull half a nation than to impose upon one intelligent man. We are more frequently too lazy to think than to work, and when it is generally believed that wise men have done the thinking for them, we often follow their methods without reflection, as a flock of sheep follows the leader.

But these golden dreams ended and many awakened to discover they had involved themselves in debts which they have no prospects of paying, and all the value they have received was learning by sad experience what they might have previously learned by reflection—that the only way to become rich is to spend less than we earn. But during the time they believed they were going ahead, most of them had drawn upon their future wealth to introduce a more showy and expensive style of living—an evil which is never confined to those who begin it, for it always spreads till it reaches the lower classes. When men discover they are spending faster than they can make, few have the fortitude to retrench immediately, but in such cases the time soon arrives that gives an irresistible check to their career, and then the blame is laid to dull times, and it would be a pity to deprive people of the privilege of having something to blame for their mismanagement besides themselves. We all know that dull times cannot be mended by sitting down and grumbling; we must make use of our strength, both mentally and physically; let every one think before he acts, and calculate his projects so carefully as to ascertain whether they will be profitable. Let every one reduce his expenses below his income, if possible—and few farmers will find it impossible. Let strict economy be observed of permitting nothing to be lost for want of care or for neglect of doing work at the time it ought to be done. We have ourselves framed the regulations which compelled us to spend more than we have earned, and shall we not act as wise men in adopting a rule to earn more than we spend?

It is upon the proper preparation of the field that the well-doing of the crop depends. The field cannot be properly prepared unless the implements are in good working order. A careful inspection of these now before the busy season begins will save valuable time that cannot be spared later on. Therefore, do not delay in getting the outfit equipped for work when the season opens.