

The Establishment of Provincial Winter and Spring Shows.

We consider the establishment of a Spring Stallion Show for all breeds, as announced elsewhere, the greatest possible advance that has been made in the interest of agriculture for several years. The Clydesdale Association have, with the assistance of the Agriculture and Arts' Secretary, Mr. Henry Wade, who is Recording Secretary for the breed, held a number of most successful spring shows of both imported and Canadian bred stallions. This they have been enabled to accomplish on account of the Clydesdale Association being in a good position financially, as well as being composed of the most enterprising men amongst us.

After last spring's show the ADVOCATE suggested that the show should be made general; that all breeds should have classes allotted, and we feel that the present arrangement will give the greatest possible impetus to horse breeding in Ontario. In this work the old agriculture and arts boards will have found a sphere of usefulness that cannot be estimated in the amount of benefit to the country at large.

A spring stallion show and a fat stock show cannot be made self-sustaining, and we hope our Local Government will be enabled to see that these two institutions are worthy of their patronage. It is not much the farmers of Ontario receive in response to what they are contributing to Government support. We therefore hope this needful work will not be overlooked in the next Government estimate.

Farmers' Institutes.

As previously announced by us, every farmer in Ontario who becomes a member of a Farmers' Institute will receive all the bulletins and other publications issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. In a recent speech the Hon. Mr. Dryden said:—

"Farmers should come together and learn of each other. No matter how good a farmer you may be there are still things you can learn from your brother farmer that will make you a better one. Each farmer in Ontario should become a member of an Institute. The Government cannot make farmers rich, but they can help, if the farmers will only avail themselves of the opportunities by attending the Institutes and by scattering information, and the farmer who will not gain knowledge must fall behind. I have asked the various secretaries to send me the names of the members of every Institute, and all bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture, together with all reports that come into my hands, will be mailed to all the members free. When you become a member you take an interest in the Institute and in each other. There is nothing that I know that I would not tell to my brother farmer. I do not get a higher price for one bushel of superior wheat if it has to be mixed with an inferior lot. It has not been individual effort that has raised our cheese to its present proud position, but combined effort in the one direction, and if the same combined intelligent effort were made in the butter line we would not be in the unenviable position we are to-day. Farmers lose by not having their products up to the average—a better article means increased consumption. Farmers, by the very nature of their products and markets, are interested in each other, and by helping each other they help themselves. I believe in general husbandry, but all farmers are more or less adapted for one special line of farming, and they should follow that particular branch. As a rule farmers copy too much, a little more originality and thought makes success. Farmers' Institutes inspire enthusiasm. We have had hard times, and farmers are leaving for other callings, but let them first remember that farming is the

foundation, and if we fail others must also fail. Though farmers throughout America are not making the money they should for the amount of work they do and the capital they have invested, still it must be remembered all other classes are suffering severely. When farmers are not prosperous in Canada, all mercantile operations are more or less unprofitable and decidedly risky."

We would suggest to the Minister of Agriculture that he not only send all publications to the members of the various Farmers' Institutes, but that they should also be sent to each of the members of the various Live Stock, Dairymen's, Creamery, Horticultural, and other Societies. This would tend to swell the membership of these societies and render more remunerative to the country the various publications issued by the Department of Agriculture.

Webster's International Dictionary.

The book that defines the meaning of each new technical term, phrase, word, as well as common name, also is a vocabulary of, and an authority on the language we speak, is a luxury that becomes a necessity with those seeking to delve more deeply in the mode of expressions in use in our common tongue. Such is Webster's International Dictionary, issued in 1890, and published by G. & C. Merriam & Co., Springfield, Mass. From a second place position, a few short years since, the English language has taken first place throughout the civilized world, and is increasing at a faster ratio than any other tongue. The dictionary of the English language now required as a standard, is used by the people of Great Britain, India, South Africa, Australia, Canada and the United States, and now encircles the globe, hence the International. From the ranks of the agricultural classes in Canada are drawn a large share of the students aiming to fill the professions, and it is requisite that they should be thoroughly grounded in English, and a book containing every word that can properly be used in the language is indispensable. The International contains over 120,000 words placed upon 2,118 pages, and has over four thousand illustrations, making it at once interesting and instructive. This is undoubtedly the newest and most useful dictionary issued. Every farmer throughout Canada should possess one.

Seedsmen's Catalogues.

John S. Pearce & Co.'s Seed Catalogue for 1891 is before us, and for compactness and completeness would be hard to excel. This firm claim that it is useless and a waste of money to publish the elaborate and expensive catalogues that are issued by some seed houses, and that the money so spent would be much better invested in purchasing better stocks to sell to their customers. This catalogue describes and gives life like illustrations of a fine lot of important novelties, which are now being introduced by them. So confident are they of the merits of these that they say: "We recommend every variety we catalogue. What we cannot recommend we do not catalogue, and anything in this novelty list that does not prove satisfactory, the purchaser, by stating cause of complaint, will be allowed an amount equal to his purchase of anything in our catalogue for 1892 quoted by the packet, ounce or quart-pound only." The exceptional care and attention given to the growing and testing of all seeds sold by Messrs. Pearce & Co., has established for them an enviable reputation throughout the Dominion. Their Seed Catalogue for 1891 will be found in every respect a thoroughly reliable and trustworthy guide for both farmers, gardeners and amateurs who are in need of seeds. It is sent free to all who apply to John S. Pearce & Co., London, Ont.

Cattle Disease Controversy.

The bare allusion in our December issue to the fact that the Commission appointed by the American Government had thus far failed to gain the free admission of live cattle to British markets, or rather our culpable forgetfulness that the leader of which was the senior editor of the Gazette, has, indeed, excited the ire of those connected with that paper. At our first being brought to task, it would have been in order to doff our hats to this acknowledged heavy-weight wrestler with the truth, who finds it much easier to abuse the ADVOCATE and enlarge upon the shortcomings of our English contemporaries, than to answer for the sins of their own Government in the looseness they so long displayed in treating the dread scourge pleuro-pneumonia, and the long continued failure of that Government to make any provision by which disease of any infectious character could be eradicated. The slightest breath of rumor at this time that infectious disease still exists among them has brought down threats innumerable, doubtless thinking that endeavoring to cover up the traces of disease is a better policy in view of the work of the commission, than laying the ax at the root of the evil, thus killing the true cause of the difficulty. Bluster and buncombe, though couched in clever language, is of no avail when a thorough denial is required. And with the superior knowledge and memory of affairs which the Gazette people profess, it is slightly strange they do not give our Government policy the same credit for our cattle trade relations that they did a few years since, instead of which they now endeavor to ascribe the same to our state connection. A few years since they gladly quoted our Government's policy in eradicating disease and the advantage we gained thereby. The Gazette very well knows that we in Canada have as few friends in British cattle producers as they, and it is our absolute immunity from disease by which we hold the trade we now enjoy. We have quoted United States official returns collected for Washington authorities, and from this alone have we gained our information. If they are untrue the blame should not be laid at our door.

Canadian Live Stock Breeders' Meetings.

The Clydesdale Horse Society will hold its annual meeting on the 4th of February.

The Ayrshire Breeders will meet on the 5th. Both Associations will convene at the Albion Hotel, Toronto, at 2 o'clock on the days mentioned.

The Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association will meet in Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, on the 6th. The meeting will open at 1 o'clock.

On Wednesday, the 18th of February, the Holstein breeders will hold their annual meeting in the City Hall, Stratford, Ont.

On February the 24th the Shorthorn breeders will assemble in Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, to elect their officers and hear the annual report.

The Dominion Hog Breeders' Association will convene on the evening of March the 11th, at 7 o'clock, at the Albion Hotel, Toronto. The annual report will be presented and officers elected for the ensuing year.

Several of these Associations promise very interesting programmes.

The milk should be carefully strained immediately after the milking is completed.