

EDITORIAL.

There is a very marked uniformity in the way members of the Ontario Farmers' Institute delegations write us regarding the satisfactory condition and sentiment which appear to prevail in those localities where dairying is pushed as a leading branch of farming.

It has been decided by the Victorian Minister of Agriculture to reduce the amount of the bonus paid on cheese shipped from Melbourne to England which realizes 50s. or upwards per cwt., from £6 to £3 a ton. About 300 tons were exported last season, but it is expected, notwithstanding the reduction in the bonus, that the shipments during the coming season will exceed those of last year.

We devote a considerable portion of our space in this issue to reports from Ontario Farmers' Institute delegations. A great variety of practical subjects have been presented by various speakers, a synopsis of whose principal papers, together with salient points brought out in discussion, or observations made in passing from place to place, are given. We believe that this new feature of the ADVOCATE will be appreciated. Future issues will contain additional reports.

According to the New Zealand Gazette, under the new Dairy Industry Act, which came into force on November 20, the Government agree to provide, free of charge, cold storage for butter at Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, and Dunedin. The official experts for grading the butter for export have been appointed. The Government undertake no duties in connection with the shipping, for which owners must make their own arrangements, but strict attention is paid to inspection and branding.

It is very evident, from the various meetings we attended in January, that fruit culture is destined to receive more and better attention, as a feature of Canadian farming, than ever before. We are only waking up to the immense value of this too generally undeveloped asset of our agricultural resources. Next season will witness greater care in the selection of varieties, fruit tree planting, orchard cultivation, spraying, etc., as a means of resisting fungous diseases and insect pests.

In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for December 15th we give from the pen of Mr. James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, an admirable contribution, describing the San Jose scale, its ravages and remedies. Reference was made to the fact that it had appeared in various parts of the States, and also in British Columbia. A recent despatch from Albany, N. Y., reports that it has been found in nurseries on Long Island and Columbia County. State Entomologist Lintner has been investigating the ravages of the pest for several months, and reports that unless active measures are soon taken the fruit-growers of New York will feel disastrous results.

If Royal Commissions, and organizations *ad infinitum*, were a help to the oppressed British farmer, he ought soon to have relief. His latest would-be champion is a clergyman, one Rev. Lancaster McAually, who proposes to found an Agricultural Clergy Union to co-operate with the Central Chamber of Agriculture in securing "justice for the British agriculturists." The Mark Lane Express raps this gentleman sharply over the knuckles, reminding him that any society having the real interest of the farmer at heart must, sooner or later, begin an agitation against tithes, and demand a more equitable adjustment of that imposition, in which case the farmer would doubtless have to cry out to be saved from his new found friends, the "Agricultural Clergy Union."

A U. S. bill has been drafted, and is now under consideration at Washington, to substitute for the present wasteful and extravagant free distribution of seeds, a limited distribution of new and rare varieties through the agricultural experiment stations now in operation in all the States and Territories. These stations are in charge of trained experts, who are familiar with the needs of their respective localities. In co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the stations can easily ascertain what new and rare varieties are available, and can select such kinds of seed as will be most likely to give good results in their respective localities. They will be able to engage the service of competent farmers, who will make full tests of the seed under directions given by the stations. The results of these experiments will be made public through the press and otherwise.

Our Illustration.

On our first page, in this issue, we give a portrait of the Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Benton Bride 19,843, bred by Mr. Clement Stephenson, Sandyford Villa, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and exhibited by him at the last Birmingham Fat Stock Show. She was calved Jan. 11th, 1892; got by Albion 6,525; dam Bride 13,343, of the old Craigo family. She was a very perfect specimen of the breed, being considered by many to surpass any of the heifers with which, in former years, Mr. Stephenson gained championship prizes at the fat stock shows. The "block test" article in the English Live Stock Journal (from which our portrait is reproduced) contains the following details regarding her:—"No. 162. Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Benton Bride; first in class £20, winner of breed cup £25, cup as best heifer or cow £50, the champion plate £105, and first winner of the Queen's challenge cup £150; also, first prize £15, extra prize as best Scot £30, the President's prize £25, the Elkington challenge cup £105, and Thorley's challenge cup £105 at Birmingham; altogether £460, besides the Queen's challenge cup of £150, or £610 in all; bred and exhibited by Clement Stephenson; sire Albion, dam Bride by Sir Peter; age, 2 years 11 months and 3 days; live weight, 16 cwt. 2 qrs. 13 lb.; average daily gain of live weight, 1.77 lb.; weight of dressed carcass, 1,328 lbs.; percentage of carcass to gross live weight, 71.36."

We might say that Mr. Stephenson achieved a similar victory in 1893, so that the two valuable champion prizes (the Elkington Cup, value 100 gs., to the breeder of the best animal, and the Thorley Challenge Cup to the exhibitor of the best animal) have become his absolute property, this being the second time he has won the Elkington Cup outright.

"Queen of the May" and the old Warlaby Shorthorn Herd.

The portrait of the famous heifer, Queen of the May, which appeared a few issues ago in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, seems to have attracted a good deal of attention in breeding circles. Mr. G. McLellan Smales, of "Streonshath Farm," Victoria Plains, Regina, N. W. T., encloses us the following excerpt from Carr's "History of the Rise and Progress of the Killerby, Studley and Warlaby Herds of Shorthorns," published back in '67, in which allusion is made to her:—

"Queen of the May was in almost every respect a model of what a Shorthorn cow should be. Her loins and chine were very wide, flat, and deeply fleshed; her quarters long and level; her head sweet and feminine; her shoulders, girth and bosom magnificent. Her only failing point was a want of fullness in the thighs proportionate to the even massiveness of development displayed everywhere else. During her short career—for she was permanently injured in a railway journey, being then for the first time in calf—she won six prizes at the Royal, the Yorkshire, and the County of Durham shows, being awarded at one of the latter the 100-guinea challenge cup in 1857. It has been reported that Mr. Booth refused for Queen of the May an offer of 1,500 guineas, the highest price ever bidden (up to that date) for a Shorthorn. The circumstances—which are given on the late Mr. R. Booth's authority—are these:—Two gentlemen from America, apparently agents for an American company, came to see the herd, and when they saw Queen of the May were completely riveted by the fascination of her beauty. After dwelling for some time upon her perfections, they enquired of Mr. Booth whether he would part with her. He replied that he would not sell her for the highest price ever given for a Shorthorn. 'That, sir,' said one of them, 'was, I believe, 1,200 guineas?' Mr. Booth answered in the affirmative. They consulted together, and asked him whether he would take 1,500 guineas, which Mr. Booth declined to do, remarking that if she bred a living calf, and he had the luck to rear it, she was worth more to him to keep, and they relinquished her with regret, leaving on Mr. Booth's mind the impression that, if he had entertained the idea, even that large amount might possibly not have been their final offer."

In the January 1st ADVOCATE, in dealing with the subject of road improvement, we took this position in regard to one aspect of the case:—"With regard to the good roads campaign, we believe it will be found that educational work will, in the end, be found more beneficial than any attempt at sweeping or radical changes in the road law." We are inclined to think that this fairly represents the consensus of opinion on the question, after hearing a good deal of discussion at farmers' meetings this winter. Ontario has permissive legislation, of which municipalities can take advantage in respect to commuting statute labor, so that people can proceed to change their system of road management according to the advance of practical knowledge on the question. Unless we are obliged, up to a change, it will be found both expensive and unsatisfactory to embark in radical changes in the law."

Prospects for Manitoba Wheat.

BY INVICTA.

Most of the wheat in Manitoba and the N. W. T. was sold this past fall and winter under 45 cents, an average of 15 cents less per bushel compared with present prices. Now comes the announcement that the Ogilvie Company, the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., and the Northern Elevator Company, all intend building several more elevators each this year to handle the next crop. It seems to me there is evidently the hope on the part of these and other large dealers in wheat, that the farmers will again be forced to sell their wheat early in the season, and that they will be able to make a handsome profit by keeping it till February or March. It also implies that there is likely to be keener competition for our wheat, and consequent higher prices. I think for those who are able to hold their wheat till February or March, there is every encouragement to sow a good breadth of wheat this coming season.

PORTABLE GRAIN CAKES.

A gentleman, named Powell, writing in the Montreal Gazette, throws out the suggestion that if the coarse grains of Canada were crushed and then pressed into cakes, they would find a ready market. It would be necessary, as he points out, to mix the grain with some glutinous constituent, so as to make compact cakes. I would suggest that barley be mixed with one-tenth of its weight of linseed, the whole roughly crushed, and then pressed into cakes, after the shape of linseed oil cake;—oats would require about the same proportion. There is no question that to many consumers these barley and oat cakes would be far more convenient than either whole or crushed grain in sacks. They could be packed away anywhere, and in almost any quantity, and I think Mr. Powell is quite right in thinking the English consumers, especially the cartage and omnibus companies, would buy it freely. Who will try the experiment?

Chickens Coming Home to Roost.

We have all long contended that the British people, in their crusade against Canadian "stores" and the embargo upon Canadian beeves, were simply playing into the hands of the dressed meat magnates of the United States. Without reviving the question of the motives underlying this embargo, or the merits of the "discovery" by British "Vets." of contagious pleuro-pneumonia (which cannot be found in the Dominion from whence the cattle go), we have observed that, amid the clamour about the imperilled health of the British herds, American dressed beef has been steadily fastening its grip upon the English trade. Periodically, of late, there has been and outcry for the labelling of foreign meat, or some other restriction, in order that no innocent Britisher might be misled into consuming Texas steers under the delusion that his palate was being tickled with "Prime Scots." Still more recently, we observe that a great indignation meeting has been held by the Cattle Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, "to consider the combined action of the North American shippers, in relation to this recent breach of the trade customs, and their endeavor to obtain control over the meat trade." The chairman, Sir A. K. Rollit, M. P., remarked that the question before them was one not only for the trade, but also for the community. For a long time there had been what were called "trade allowances,"—in other words, an allowance of one pound to the retail dealer on every quarter of beef he purchased, originally given to cover shrinkage between the time he bought the meat and when he sold it. This is now rebelled against. The cessation of this allowance was calculated to mean a loss of £100,000 a year to the London trade, or £1,000,000 per annum to the trade of the whole country. He said the Americans already possessed the great advantage over the native producer of preferential rates of carriage to the country, and were seeking to control from Chicago the meat trade of Old London. He hoped they would "never see in England 'rings' and 'trust,' which, if they came to deal with the prime necessities of life, might become both economically and socially most dangerous monopolies." A resolution was unanimously adopted expressing "indignation" against the "retained action" in question.

These Old London butchers have suddenly awoken to the realization that the American shippers are endeavoring to seize complete control of the meat business, and the Agricultural Gazette, we notice, suggests an official inquiry into the condition of the Canadian cattle and meat trade. The same suggests that the shippers may open shops in London for the sale of American meat, and that it is well to watch the conflict, which may have far-reaching effects.