

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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usually included in the Toronto exhibits. Queen's Park, in which this great show is held, is a model fair ground, beautifully shaded by trees, and never gets muddy, no matter what the weather is like—and does anyone recall any but favorable weather for a fair week in London? The grounds are easily reached by steam or electric cars and a line of busses. The exhibition buildings are extensive, well arranged, and convenient, and the prize list is a liberal one. The judging of stock will commence on Monday, Sept. 11th, at 2 p. m., with the heavy draft, carriage and roadster horses, and on Tuesday at 9 a. m. judging will be in full swing in all the classes. London is one of the most attractive cities in Canada. It has good hotel accommodation, and visitors almost invariably cherish pleasant recollections of the city, its people, and its fair.

The Central Canada Exhibition at Ottawa is the third in the grand circuit of fairs, commencing Sept. 11th and closing on the 23rd. A visit to the Capital City is a genuine pleasure, and especially in the mild month of September. It is one of the most interesting cities in the Dominion, and the officers and directors of the Exhibition know how to conduct a fair so as to please and gratify visitors and exhibitors. The stock buildings on the Ottawa fair grounds are admittedly the most comfortable and convenient for the animals and their attendants found in any of the showyards in the country, and they are so arranged that visitors can see and inspect the animals to the best advantage. The railways give cheap excursion rates to Ottawa during the fair week, and those who avail themselves of the trip find it one of the most pleasurable outings of the season.

The Maritime Provinces have held very successful exhibitions in the last few years, and their Provincial fairs, which are to be held at St. John, N. B., Sept. 11th to 20th, and at Halifax, Sept. 23rd to 30th, promise to be more interesting and successful than those of past years.

We confidently anticipate more than usual interest in the fairs of 1899. Improved stock is in great demand, and the probability is that more business will be done in this line this fall season than for many years. There is a hopeful and buoyant feeling in business circles generally, and farmers and stockmen share in the general prosperity. No class of the community is better entitled to a holiday than are the farmers after the harvest home, and nowhere can they combine pleasure and education more advantageously than at these great exhibitions.

### Cultivation of Fall Wheat.

That winter wheat can yet be successfully grown in large areas of central Canada has been satisfactorily demonstrated in recent years on thousands of farms where it has been sown on suitable land, well prepared by judicious cultivation and in a reasonably good state of fertility. The comparative failure of the crop this year in many districts, owing to an exceptionally severe winter, need not discourage those who have usually had fair success in wheat-growing from continuing to give it a place in their list of farm crops. The point to be avoided is the sowing of wheat on land known to be unsuited to its successful growth from lack of drainage and fertility, or from improper or insufficient preparation of the soil for the seed. In the days when wheat was the leading crop, and summer-fallowing the principal preparation, most of the manure made on the farm was devoted to this crop, and the cultivation given was such as to leave the land in the best mechanical condition for giving the young plants a vigorous growth before winter set in. The soil exposed to the fructifying influences of sun and



MARCH PAST (Imp.)

First-prize Hackney stallion at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1899.

OWNED BY R. I. M. POWER, CARBERRY, MANITOBA.

air and shower was reduced to a fine tilth; the moisture had been retained in it by repeated cultivation. A large portion of it had received its last plowing some weeks before seeding, and had become compacted and firmed, and the wheat when sown received a good start, the rootlets spreading in the finely-prepared seed-bed, securing a good hold on the soil and preparing the plants to endure the rigors of the winter and early spring months, and ensuring a good crop in average seasons. Since the system of summer-fallowing has been generally abandoned there has been the temptation in many cases to sow wheat on stubble land with a single plowing in the dry days of August, the soil breaking up in lumps, and, as a rule, being left in the rough furrow without harrowing or rolling until the whole field is plowed, the action of the sun and wind having evaporated all the moisture from the land. Then when the work of preparing the seed-bed is undertaken the clods are found to be baked and hard, and by dint of much work enough loose soil is broken off them to form a somewhat smooth surface, but the lumps remain below and form a very uncongenial receptacle for the struggling young rootlets, which practically have to fight against odds for existence, instead of finding, as they ought, a friendly reception in a finely pulverized soil on which they can feed and grow strong. It goes without saying that to sow wheat under such conditions is to court failure, and if by reason of a continuation of favorable circumstances a half crop is reaped, it is more by good luck than good management.

While condemning the practice above described, we would not be understood as advising a general return to bare fallowing, which is an expensive

system, requiring two years to produce one crop, and need only be adopted in exceptional cases where a field may require extra cultivation to clean it of noxious weeds. A fair crop of wheat may be obtained from stubble ground if the land is in good heart, but to insure this a short fallow is almost a necessity, the plowing being done immediately after the harvesting of the crop, the roller and harrow following the plow the same or the following day, to facilitate the fining of the soil and to secure a suitable seed-bed. This is the season when nitrification goes on rapidly if the requisite moisture is present; and thorough tillage usually brings moisture to the surface by capillarity. Wheat may follow peas to good advantage, without plowing, if the land is clean, and especially if the peas have been grown on an inverted sod and thorough surface cultivation is given before sowing to wheat; but the ideal preparation for wheat, next to the fallow, assuming that the land is fairly fertile, is a clover sod, plowed in July, immediately after being cleared of the hay, or having been pastured, frequent surface cultivation being given, especially after showers of rain to conserve moisture and hasten decomposition of the sod and clover roots. The power of the clover plant to gather nitrogen (the principal element of plant food in a wheat crop) from the atmosphere and to store it in its roots and tissues, as well as its ability, by its deep-running roots, to bring up fertilizing mineral elements from the subsoil for the benefit of following crops, is universally acknowledged, making it one of the most valuable of all the farm crops, being at once a fertilizer of the soil and one of the most valuable of fodder plants. Though, as a rule, it is only necessary to add a nitrogenous manure, still, there are circumstances in which it is desirable to supplement these with a phosphatic or even a potassic manure. Owing to a greatly increased area of land being devoted to the cultivation of roots and corn throughout the whole wheat-growing districts, due to the more general adoption of stock-raising and dairying, and nearly if not quite all the manure made on the farm being used upon those crops, farmers who are disposed to give wheat a larger place in their rotation of crops are enquiring whether commercial fertilizers can be depended upon to supply the want, and whether they can use them to advantage in promoting the growth of wheat. This is a question requiring careful consideration, and one which will probably play a more important part in agriculture in Canada as the country goes older, and is one which we may reasonably look to our Experiment Stations to deal with, but to which we fancy less attention has been given than its importance demands.

### What Prof. Robertson Observed in Britain.

Professor Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture, has returned to Canada from Great Britain. To a representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE he said: "I found Canadian farm products gaining in relative place in the British markets.

#### CHEESE AND BUTTER.

"Canadian cheese are suiting the trade better this season than last year. All that is wanted now is to keep up the evenness of quality and get a milder, cool flavor by curing them at a temperature of 60 to 65 degrees. The butter trade is growing. I compared some Canadian creamery in the same warehouse with Danish butter. The finest Danish was still superior to the Canadian; but the Canadian was better than the second quality of Danish. In Denmark it is the general practice to pasteurize the cream before it is ripened for churning. In Canada few buttermakers do that in the summer months. The exports of butter from the port of Montreal from 1st May to week ending July 29th this year have been 128,256 packages, against 57,405 packages for the same time in 1898.

#### POULTRY AND PEARS.

"I learned that there is a good demand for well-fattened poultry. The trial shipments made by the Department last year are to be repeated this season. The prospects are good for a fair price and a greatly increased trade.

"All reports said the pear crops in England and France are small. That will leave a good opening for Canadian pears to be sent in cold storage.

#### SELECTING AND GRADING.

"Every year I observe that British buyers become more exacting in requiring that all the goods in any one lot under one brand shall be, without exception, precisely what they are represented to be. One large buyer of bacon said to the Canadian packer: 'You may think me too particular, but when I buy five or ten boxes of your No. 1 bacon, I want every side of it to be of No. 1 quality. If there is one side of No. 2 or one side soft, I don't want it, and there is sure to be trouble.'

"Of course the whole quantity of any class of produce in Canada, or in any district of it, is not likely to be all of one grade. Nobody's orchard yields fruit of only a No. 1 quality. The point is