

## EDITORIAL.

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Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Dairy and Agricultural Commissioner, will leave Ottawa about the middle of November for the Northwest, to inaugurate next season's dairy work there.

Madison Square Gardens, New York, from Nov. 23rd to 28th, will be the theatre of the second annual exhibition under the auspices of the National (U. S.) Association of Exhibitors of Live Stock. It will be a popular event.

The *English Live Stock Journal* states that the recently reported outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia in Argyshire is under careful investigation. We trust sincerely that this dreaded cattle disease has not now a foothold in Britain.

At the last show of the Royal Agricultural Society, at Flemington, Australia, one of the innovations was a small field-ambulance establishment, in charge of Dr. A. Lewellin, honorary surgeon of the Society, who was in attendance, to attend to any casualties that might occur in the high-jumping and other attractions.

The United States has authorized a trial of rural free delivery of mail, and the P. O. Department will establish the experimental service as rapidly as possible in thirty different counties, starting in Jefferson Co., W. Va., of which Charleston is the county seat. From that point mounted postmen will deliver mail to farmers residing within a radius of three and a half miles from the city limits.

We complete in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Mr. J. S. Larke's excellent review of the development of Australian butter dairying. He takes up several points of present practical interest to Canadian dairymen, such as the construction of the favorite package for shipment, methods of packing, the use of preservatives, etc. It will be an eye-opener to many to learn that Melbourne has a factory turning out about 17,000 pounds of butter per day, which they are enabled to do by means of the cream station system.

"The three R's" once constituted the ideal of common school education. An English M. P., Mr. Victor Cavendish, owner of the Holker estate, in an address at North Lonsdale recently, said that: "In these days when there was so much talk of agricultural depression, he felt it was the proper thing on his part to go in for the three S's—Short-horns, Shires, and Shropshires—and he hoped the farmers of that district would always find at Holker the best types of these animals as a means of improving the stock of the district."

The Duke of Westminster has opened the new agricultural and horticultural school established by the Cheshire (Eng.) County Council, at Holmes' Chapel, near Crewe, at a cost of nearly £10,000. The pupils are received from the age of fourteen years upwards, and the complete course extends over three years, no pupils being taken for less than one year. The work is arranged so that the mornings are devoted to school work and the afternoons to practical work on the farm or in the garden. Every student is compelled to take part in every operation and kind of work presenting itself in the course of the year.

## The Sussex Breed.

The Sussex breed of cattle, a representative of which is portrayed on our front page, is not as yet commonly known in Canada or the United States. Their first introduction into America was in 1884, by Mr. Overton Lee, of Tennessee. They have, however, for some five years been represented at the Ontario Agricultural College by a male and a few breeding cows. While some obscurity hangs over their origin, it is supposed that they are closely associated in ancestry with the Devon. The West Highland and Hereford breeds are also claimed to be allied to them in origin. The breed, as it now exists, bears a close resemblance to the Devon in color and conformation, the difference being a greater strength, size, and coarseness, especially in the limbs and horns. The size of the horns of the illustrated specimen is exaggerated by the position of the animal when being photographed. Their breeding is largely confined at present to the English counties of Sussex, Kent, Hants, and Surrey. It is only during recent years that much attention has been given to their improvement, although the Sussex herd book was established in England in 1800. As dairy cattle they have little or no value, but for beef production they hold a fairly creditable standing, as bullocks of the breed have scored well at the Smithfield shows for a number of years.

The bull represented is Saracen 2nd (1445), bred by and the property of Mr. P. F. R. Saillard, Buchan Hill, Sussex, Eng. He won first prize and championship at the Tunbridge Wells and S. Eastern Counties Show in 1896. Our illustration was reproduced from a supplement to the *Mark Lane Express*.

## Swine Disease -- A Warning!

A special feature of our Veterinary Department in this issue is a digest of the discussion on "Swine Fever—Its Nature and Suppression" before the British National Veterinary Association recently. As we understand it, swine fever is a germ disease caused by a microscopic bacillus, the general nature of which was presented in the Veterinary Department of our issue for October 15th; and, further, that it is analogous, if not identical, with the hog cholera of America. The English authorities have spent over \$800,000 trying to stop the disease and their efforts have been a failure, mainly because proper measures have not been rigorously enforced. During forty weeks of this year there were 4,431 outbreaks, as against 4,603 last year, and 65,077 pigs were slaughtered, as against 44,667 in 1895. The *Breeders' Gazette*, which speaks authoritatively of Western States live stock matters, says there may be States in the Central West where the disease is not rampant, but it does not know of them. Scarcely a State fair ground has escaped an outbreak this fall. The devastation is widespread. A bulletin from the Indiana Experiment Station states that that State lost 580,260 hogs, entailing a loss of over \$3,000,000, last year through hog cholera, and the disease is well disseminated in the State now. Multiply that by half a dozen States and the total is appalling.

Last year an outbreak appeared in one corner of Essex Co., Ont., where it was thought in some way the germs arrived via the State of Michigan. Lately several cases reappeared there again, and during the past season there was an outbreak near Toronto, believed to have originated with store hogs from the Essex seat of infection. Judging from the arraignment by the National Veterinary Association of the inefficiency of measures taken by the British authorities, and the terrible losses sustained by Britain and the United States, the question arises, Is Canada taking proper measures to nip this thing in the bud? Certainly what has been attempted has not yet been completely effective. Has veterinary supervision been sufficiently constant and vigilant? Have the movements of swine from the infected area been properly restricted? This is a most important point. What disposal has been made of the carcasses of slaughtered hogs, infected bedding, droppings, etc. The authorities could better afford at the outset to kill and destroy every infected hog and pigsty in the county than let the disease spread. Prof. McFadyean confessed his inability to say how long the germs might lie dormant. Slaughtering, disinfection, and isolation are all necessary. In England a pigsty repairer carried the disease germs a long distance, causing another outbreak. Our authorities cannot afford at this stage to permit any laxity. Incidentally, we would point out that any relaxation of international quarantine whereby U. S. hogs would have unrestricted access to Canada must be considered

entirely out of the question at present. Canada's swine industry is now in a most prosperous condition. Our breeding herds are among the finest in the world, farmers are becoming adepts in raising and feeding the modern bacon type of hog, and Canadian hog products rank high in England. To imperil this position by any sort of negligence would be a calamity to the farmer.

Every person who buys feeding or breeding hogs should see that they do not come from the infected area, and purchased pigs should be quarantined in some isolated part of the farm till all danger of the disease developing has passed. In case of an outbreak, an important measure in reducing the loss is to provide proper shelter, as all hogs with only a mild attack, or having apparently made a recovery, may take a relapse if exposed to a cold rain or a sudden change to rough weather, which is liable to set up pneumonia. Any shed which will keep off the rain and break the wind is sufficient. The floor should be dry, but little bedding is needed, and that renewed frequently. Burn all litter and bedding once a week. Keep the herd divided so that crowding is impossible. A straw-stack is the most unfavorable place that can be provided for sick hogs. The essentials in prevention are good food, pure water, and clean, dry quarters.

## Why Have We Low Prices?

This question has often been asked and endeavored to be answered during the last few years, but perhaps a more favorable opportunity of considering the cause than at the International Agricultural Congress held at Buda-Pesth, Hungary, from Sept. 17th to 20th inst., has never previously been presented. Upon this occasion some 210 delegates attended, representing practically every European country, and foreign agricultural societies, besides representatives from America, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, etc. The Congress was divided into three sections: 1st, Production; 2nd, Options and Futures; 3rd, Currency.

With regard to the subject of production, a few men claimed a belief in overproduction, but a large majority held that there is not at present an overproduction of wheat. In Section 2 there was an animated discussion of options and futures in wheat-selling, in which a large proportion of the delegates expressed a belief that the speculation on the wheat markets (stock exchanges) was injurious to the interests of producers, and that legislation should be invoked to check it. In Germany there has been already a law passed, to come into force next year, prohibiting speculation on the corn market. In Hungary this subject has been taken up vigorously by the "Agrarian party," who are now energetically pressing for legislation on the subject, and, indeed, it seems to be arousing a remarkable amount of attention in many parts of the Continent. It is asserted that the outcome will be that Hungary, and possibly Austria also, will issue a special commission upon the subject and have it fully threshed out.

In the Bimetallic Section there was a strong muster of bimetallicists, certainly possessing a majority of the members, who claimed that the opinion against the overproduction theory held by the majority of Congress is favorable to them, and further, that the advantages of an international system of bimetallicism, if it could be secured, are not denied.

Within certain limits, it would seem that the big operators in grain and other food products are able to manipulate prices, by their fictitious dealings, so that even when prices do go up the grain-growers get no advantage; but in the face of a general and unmistakable shortage, prices will rise, as has been the case with wheat during the past two months, while yet a considerable portion of the 1896 crop is still in the hands of the grower.

## The O. A. C.

We give space with pleasure to a letter received from an ex-student of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, in which he very fairly sets forth the merits of a course at that Institution, which, all points considered, ranks higher than any other institution of its kind, we might safely say, in the world. Especially is this so in the intensely practical bearing of its equipment and work. It is gratifying to know that its present prospects are most encouraging; the attendance now being considerably in advance of last year and above the average. There are some seventy new men taking the first year's course. Those who desire yet to begin the course for this season would do well to lose no time in communicating with President Mills. With the reviving spirit of farming, we would expect soon to hear of the College being overcrowded.