

Your correspondent can rest assured that the experience in these crossings has been anything but a bitter one, excepting, perhaps, by a poor fellow who has been seasick. Our success at these Exhibitions is too well known, both in the neighboring Provinces and at home, to go into particulars, any more than to say that out of the number of upwards of 250 animals we exhibited in Halifax and St. John, there was not more than ten per cent. unsuccessful as prize-takers, first and second prizes being chiefly awarded. Our success was much beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. These facts ought to convince anyone that it cannot be called "temerity" on our part to ask for the next Dominion Exhibition to be held in Charlottetown, and, that there is no great difficulty in crossing the Straits with live stock, or anything else, usually sent to such places. It would certainly be very unfair had we the means to compel the thirty-nine fortieths of the people, so-called "Common Sense" speaks of, to attend the Exhibition if held here. We would simply invite them as has been done on all occasions of a similar kind. If they all came we would not have *quite enough* hotel accommodation, but it is reasonable to suppose that we could do as they did in Halifax and St. John—get comfortable quarters for those the hotels could not accommodate, by having a committee to make arrangements with the private families who would have no objection to accommodate visitors for a few days at a reasonable charge. In the matter of suitable buildings, if we got the Dominion and Provincial grants, as they have had in other places, our mechanics can build them.

Yours truly,
C. C. GARDNER.

SIR,—When in August last I had the honor—as a delegate from the Advisory Board of this Province—of conferring with the Dominion Exhibition Board at St. John, one of the many arguments I made use of to point out the desirability of so amending the prize list as to induce our people to take part in the exhibition, was the benefits that would accrue from the bringing together the people of the different provinces, both in a social and agricultural point of view—the interchange of ideas and of information and experience in matters relating to farming, and more especially the probability that the prospects of an Agricultural Union of the Maritime Provinces would be advanced thereby. This question of Agricultural Union is one in which I have long taken a deep interest. Several years ago I broached the subject in both the adjoining Provinces. The New Brunswickers seemed disposed to look favorably on it, but the Nova Scotians were decidedly

adverse. They seemed to be under the impression that they could not compete successfully with the Island. I endeavored to point out that if they wished to achieve excellence, it was a great advantage to compete with those who excelled, supposing they were correct in the opinion that we did so; but I could make no impression. Now, I have reason to think it would be different, and that in Nova Scotia the project would be looked upon with favor as well as in New Brunswick.

I am strongly of opinion that the best, if not the only, way to obtain a grant for a Dominion Exhibition will be by uniting with the adjoining Provinces.

The Upper Provinces are so far off as to be practically inaccessible to the people of the lower provinces, for the purpose of live stock exhibitions. Therefore I consider we are entitled to a grant from the general government for an exhibition to be held in each of the three Maritime Provinces alternately, open of course to the whole Dominion, if any choose to avail themselves of the privilege.

Union is strength. This trite saying will I think prove specially true in this case. I suggest as the first step towards getting a Dominion grant, that we go to work with energy to bring about an agricultural union of the Maritime Provinces. In the first place we must have what we have long wanted, a permanent Board of Agriculture appointed by the Local Government, who would at all times be on hand to take up this or any other question in the interests of agriculture. Let them use every means to bring about the contemplated union, and with our strength joined with that of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and with the aid of their Ministers, I am satisfied there will be no difficulty in obtaining a grant for a Dominion Exhibition in Charlottetown in the autumn of 1884.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are interested quite as much as, if not more than, ourselves in this matter. While we have, at great risk and considerable cost, taken part, to some extent, in an Upper Province Exhibition, they, as I believe, have taken part in none; therefore they will be at least as ready as ourselves to claim a separate grant for the Lower Provinces.

The difficulties suggested by "Common Sense," though formidable, are, by no means, prohibitory—they are simply obstacles to be overcome. That they will be overcome, if we go the right way to work, and that we shall have a Dominion Exhibition in 1884,—one that will redound to the credit of our Island farmers and be a source of much pleasure and profit to all,—is the fervent wish and firm belief of

Yours, etc.,
J. T. JENKINS.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* is publishing some interesting details of the working of Experimental Stations in Germany. In introducing his papers he well observes that the Prussian and Saxon governments support the most perfect system of agricultural education to be found in the world. The first agricultural academy was founded by Thaer at Moeglin in 1806, and since that time the schools, stations, associations and public farms have so increased that a gigantic system has been established. There are now in Germany 2,000 associations, and to the great credit of the father of German scientific agriculture, Thaer, stands the fact that his books are still read amid the flood of valuable works yearly appearing.

The net of associations now existing in Prussia and Saxony publish half popular and half scientific papers in cheap form; establish agricultural libraries, winter schools, model farms, stations, credit institutions (for the exclusive use of farmers,) collections and fairs. These associations invite university specialists in agriculture to lecture before them at stated times during the winter, and thus their discoveries are brought before the rather conservative and practical farmers. Travelling lecturers are also employed to go from one association to another, and inculcate the new teachings. Their audiences consist of the tenants, independent owners of land and Bauern—peasants who may own or rent land, or may be mere farm laborers. In Saxony all the associations are under a general secretary, who may bring the needs of the farmer to the attention of the government. We see why such an exact system is necessary when we consider that every farmer, as a matter of course, uses artificial fertilizers, and this is necessary in a land not originally very fertile (excepting parts of Saxony and South Germany), and which has been closely cultivated for centuries. Yet as you ride down from Hanover, by way of Magdeburg and Halle to Leipsic, you see year after year, with slight variations due to drouth or excess of rain, the same rich fields of wheat, rye, potatoes and sugar beets.

During a recent visit to Saxony, I took occasion to study some of the methods of farming in that province, and to visit the oldest experiment station in Germany—the institution located at Moeckern, a village near the ancient and busy city of Leipsic. There are three thoroughly equipped stations in this small kingdom of Saxony, at Tharand, Pommeritz and Moeckern. The great University of Leipsic, with its 3,000 students, also has an agricultural department, and each year books based on actual experiment and practice are published. In 1878, Prussia had for agriculture alone nine higher in-