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EDITORIAL.

Thanksgiving Day Date Unsatisfactory.

From the articles and correspondence published recently in the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," it must be apparent that even this year's Thanksgiving Day date was too early, and is unsatisfactory to the farming community. A considerable portion of the produce of the year, especially in some districts, had not then been gathered in. The day is supposed to be one of national acknowledgment and thanksgiving to Divine Providence for the bounties of another year, and should be placed at a sufficiently late date, say in November, to have passed the time of all field operations. The idea that it should be fixed to suit the railways, or the mercantile interests, sportsmen or revellers, is contrary to the whole spirit and purpose of the day, and should be abandoned forthwith.

The Government, also, ought to understand that the periodical changing of the observance from one date to another, is most unsatisfactory. The present uncertainty results in endless trouble and disturbance to other events and arrangements. This year, for example, in the Province of Ontario, no little annoyance was caused to the Provincial Sabbath-School Association, one of the largest, most useful and commendable organization of the country, on finding that Thanksgiving Day was fixed upon one of the days of its great annual convention, which had been arranged for months before. Let the date be made a fixture, the same as other days of national observance and respite from toil, and at a later time. This will be a sensible step, entitling our beneficent Government to the gratitude of the agriculturists of Canada.

Now for the Winter Fairs.

The long list of fall fairs for this year having reached an end, intending exhibitors are now giving the finishing touches to the feeding of stock intended for competition for the fairly liberal prizes hung up at the winter fairs, and doubtless many young farmers and older ones are planning their work to be free to take in these interesting events, and to profit by the lessons in methods and types they teach.

The fall fairs have their place, and where well conducted are doing good work, but the special attractions, not of an agricultural character, generally found on their programme, tend to draw the attention of the people away from the practical teachings of the show to such an extent that benefit of an educational nature is minimized, and the echoes are too largely those of the speeding ring or the side-show, rather than of the judging or the dairy demonstrations.

The winter fairs, so far, have been free from such counter attractions, and afford time and opportunity for the observance and study of desirable types of breeding and commercial animals, as well as the placing of these in the order of merit by experienced judges. In addition to these privileges, the lectures and discussions by practical farmers and breeders and learned scientists, on subjects of interest to all agriculturists, furnish a bill of fare which, properly received and digested, may prove a liberal education, at a small cost of time and money.

These fairs are held at a season when farm work is not pressing, and absence from home for a few days may be arranged for without much inconvenience. The Chicago International, the first on the list, fixed for December 2 to 9, sets the standard high as a live-stock exhibition, by common consent the greatest in the world, and in its new Coliseum, with a horse show, in addition to that of breeding and fat stock, will constitute an exposition of unequalled importance, in which Canadian stockmen will doubtless share as exhibitors in some of its divisions. The Maritime Provinces' show at Amherst, Nova Scotia, Dec. 4 to 7, and the Ontario Provincial Fair, at Guelph, Dec. 11 to 15, while less imposing as stock shows than the Chicago event, will be good, as usual, in that respect, and much better in regard to educational features generally than their big rival across the lines.

The poultry show in connection with the Guelph fair is an education in itself in its line, and is the grandest display of its kind on the continent, to see which is alone worth all the cost of attending the fair. This is the season when birds are in full feather and flesh, looking their very best, and the great number and variety of utility and fancy poultry here gathered makes a splendid exhibit of this now most profitable of farm stock, which brings millions of dollars annually into the coffers of country people.

Besides all the features mentioned in the foregoing, there is on the programme of the week at Guelph the annual meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union, to be held at the Agricultural College, where addresses by leading members and by distinguished visitors are arranged for which will be of special interest to young farmers. There should be a larger attendance and greater interest than ever in the winter fairs this year.

A New Serial.

"GLENGARRY SCHOOL DAYS."

The management of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" take pleasure in announcing that they have secured serial rights for the publication of "Glengarry School Days," conceded by many to be the choicest literary production from the pen of Ralph Connor (Rev. C. W. Gordon), the famous author, of whom Canada is justly proud. We might say that we have been urgently requested by readers to publish this remarkable book, which reproduces with most realistic vividness the old school life of Canada. Everybody likes to live again the days of school time. Probably no class of writing is so generally popular, and in this class of portrayal Ralph Connor is easily without a peer on this continent. "Glengarry School Days" is perhaps more nearly like Ian Maclaren's "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" in style than any book we know of. It has never been published in paper or magazine before, and sold only in expensive book form. Now it will be within reach of all in the pages of our Home Magazine. Should any, perchance, have read it before, they will be delighted to peruse it once more. A good book is always worth reading twice. In fact, the second reading is the most satisfying in many respects. We congratulate our readers upon the treat in store for them during the coming winter. New subscribers now coming in will desire the story complete, and should advise us at once, so that extra copies containing the initial chapters will be secured for them. Watch for the first installment this week.

What the Irish Farmer is Doing.

People have fallen into the way of associating Ireland with a variety of things more sensational in character than the pursuit of farming and its various industries, and our English and Scottish correspondents seldom look across the little sea that separates them from the Emerald Isle. But Ireland is not just a standing joke. It is a land of very decided realities and agricultural conditions, possibilities and tendencies well worth studying. Thousands of Irishmen in Canada, and sons of Irishmen, being among our most successful farmers, are enjoying the weekly visits of the "Farmer's Advocate," and they, with others, will appreciate the fact that we begin in this issue a special series of letters, written by one of the best-posted authorities in the Island, on subjects of interest to farmers. The Irish farmer on the "Old Sod" is not only our compatriot, but he is our competitor, and on general principles it always does one good to look about and see what our neighbors are doing, and how they are doing it. The initial letter discloses that Irish agriculture is "going to grass," somewhat in the way that many localities in Canada are drifting, because of the scarcity of sufficient help to farm properly under a system of tillage, but we apprehend the reasons for it in Ireland are different. Irish farmers are making decided progress in many ways, and it will interest the Canadian to know what they are about. Read the letter from Ireland.

Good Outlook for Sheep Industry.

The high prices ruling for sheep and lambs in the United States, which is our best market for that class of stock, and the active demand at advancing prices for Canadian sheep for breeding purposes, should serve to stimulate our farmers to giving attention to raising more sheep, and thus to hold that market. The Province of Ontario and large sections of the other Eastern Provinces are admirably adapted to successful flock-raising, and no class of farm stock is less expensive to raise or to keep, nor gives better returns for the time and labor required for their attention. The Live-stock World, of Chicago, in a late issue, says: "Well-posted sheepmen about the yards are of the opinion that the demand for sheep and lambs is going to keep up for the balance of the year. There are practically no native sheep available, especially in the East, and the whole country east of the Mississippi is largely dependent upon the output from Chicago. Buyers say there are not enough good native sheep coming to this market to supply the Chicago trade alone, and if it were not for the big receipts from the West prices would be even higher than they are. Of course, the price of wool is a great factor in booming up the sheep market, and may be largely blamed for the buoyancy that has characterized the market during the whole year. Dealers have confidence in the future, and it is evident that there are also lots of feeders who have."

The demand for breeding stock continues active, and though large numbers have been taken by Western States breeders and dealers, the requirements of ranchers and feeders have not yet been nearly satisfied.