

first conflagration. So completely did this fire do its work, that three men and a team could go almost anywhere and clear up and stump from one acre to an acre and a-half a day. People at a distance who wished to buy new land were afraid to come here for fear of a recurrence of the terrible fires; but, now this danger is past—they cannot again occur. Many men with but little means bought farms; when industrious and did not go too far into debt, they have done well. Others, with more means, have made themselves beautiful homes, surrounded by fine farms, orchards and buildings. In some parts nearly all the settlers are Canadians, and by the Michiganders this section is called Canada. Old residents of New York who have settled here declare the land better and the climate healthier than in their native State. The railroad from Port Huron to Palms runs about eight miles from the lake shore, most of the distance following the valley of the Black river, which is about a mile wide. Judging the country by this, the traveller would think it flat and wet. Outside of this narrow strip it assumes a vastly better appearance."

Sheep in Australia—More Attention Needed in Canada.

Though wool has been for several years unusually cheap the world over, the size of the Australian flocks is steadily increasing. The gain has not been so marked since 1881 as it was in the preceding decade, but yet has been considerable. Australasia now contains about twice as many sheep as any other region save the Argentine Republic, being credited with 86,352,020 last year, as against 75,000,000 in the Argentine Republic in 1885, 47,508,960 in European Russia in 1882, 44,759,314 in the United States in 1887, and 28,955,240 in the United Kingdom in 1886. The sheep of the Australasian colonies have increased in number 73 per cent. within sixteen years. The flocks aggregated 49,773,584 in 1871; 78,063,426 in 1881; 82,169,364 in 1886, and 86,352,020, as above, in 1887. The gain last year was 5 per cent.

The colony of New South Wales has a long lead in the industry, its sheep numbering over 39,000,000, or toward one-half of the aggregate in Australasia. New Zealand comes second with about 16,700,000, and Victoria third with 10,700,000. Almost all of the flocks of New South Wales are Merino sheep, and 27,915,000 out of the total of 38,067,000 of this breed are set down as producers of the combing wool.

The Standard (England) says:—From information supplied by one of the most extensive of New Zealand landowners and farmers, we learn that there is great rejoicing among his class at the improved prospect for the sale of frozen meat in England, owing to the reduction of expenses and the rise in prices. If the meat sells in London at 4½d. to 5½d. per lb. throughout the year, he says the price of land in New Zealand will be restored from its depreciated value to the extent of 20 to 30 per cent. Already he has sold three farms at £10 10s., £15, and £16 an acre respectively, after having failed to obtain a satisfactory offer during seven years. So strong is the faith in the future of the frozen mutton trade, that he has 14,000 sheep on turnips, while a neighbor has 36,000 so being fed, 15,000 of them being fat wethers. Our informant has reason for exultation, for since the beginning of year he has shipped 34,000 carcasses of sheep and lambs, and he will get the advantage of the rise in price on a considerable proportion of that great number. Beef, of which he has shipped about 200 carcasses, appears to have paid him

well, as he has realized 19s. 6d. to 20s. 10d. per 100 lbs. on what he has sent, and dealers have been buying numbers of cattle in the North Island at 12s. 6d. per 100 lbs.

The large shipments of frozen meat from these colonies will doubtless affect the price received by Canadian farmers for the animals sent over to England alive. Yet the conditions of our country are such, that with intelligent farming and breeding, we can successfully compete with any other country in the world. One drawback is, so few of our farmers make a specialty in producing any one class, only a few of them make a special study of an individual department in agriculture or stock raising. This must be done before our separate departments will be developed as they should be. In Europe and Australia, generally speaking, men who breed sheep make every department of their farms contribute toward the success of the flock. The producers of other classes of stock treat their specialties in the same way. It is by this course that our dairymen have been able to place Canadian cheese where it is to-day—among the best in the world. Many of our farmers say sheep do not pay. They would pay abundantly if properly handled. There is no profit in anything that is neglected, and everybody knows that Canadian sheep are neglected. It is time a change was made in this matter.

Changes Made in Provincial Prize List for 1889.

At a meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association, held in London on Thursday, 2nd of May, the following changes were made:—

Section for brood mares, in all classes changed to read: brood mare, with foal by her side, or evidence produced that she has had a foal this season.

Prince of Wales' prize of \$50.00 is to be given this year as a sweepstakes, to the best stallion of any age, either Clydesdale, Shire or Canadian Draught, registered in any one of the three Herd Books of the Association.

The Clydesdale Horse Association also give a special prize of \$40.00 for the best mare and one of her progeny, both to be recorded in the Clydesdale Stud Book of Canada.

In Suffolk Punch class, the list has been enlarged to admit a brood mare, yearling filly, and colt of 1889.

Cattle classes have not been materially changed until you come to the milch cows. Here a special prize of a service of plate is being offered by W. Weld, Esq., of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, for the best three milch cows of any breed, to be tested by Prof. Robertson, for three days, under a set of rules drawn up (see rules in another column).

Also, additional prizes are to be given for fat cattle, viz.:—Fat steer, three years and under four; fat steer, two years old and under three; fat cow, three years and over; heifer, under three years; pure bred steer calf; grade steer calf.

SHEEP.—No changes, with the exception of making the prizes for single sheep instead of two, in the fat class; and a sweepstakes, through the Sheep Breeders' Association, given by Mr. John S. Pearce, seedsman, London.

PIGS.—No change, with the exception of dropping off the Prince of Wales' prize.

POULTRY.—White Plymouth Rocks, White and Black Wyandottes, Black and White Minorcas, are added to the list.

In the dairy list, a sweepstake prize of a gold medal is added; also a special prize for creamery butter is to be given by Mr. Pearce.

Garden vegetables, and plants and cut flowers have been largely added to, by request of the Forest City Garden Club.

FINE CUTS.—Mr. W. Weld offers \$35 in prizes for the best original pencil drawings of rural Canadian life.

The Council have also concluded to carry out the scheme inaugurated by the Western Board, in giving prizes for Indian work.

Plants for Naming.

Correspondents in sending us weeds, honey-plants, grasses, or other native plants to be named and described, should, if they send more than one, number each with a different number and retain a duplicate of each bearing the same number, as the counterpart sent to us. Those who wish a personal answer should enclose a stamp for reply.

Specimens should, if possible, be taken when in flower; and it is desirable to have the whole plant, or, when that would be too large, representative parts of leaf, stem and root, and always the flower.

Specimens of economic plants or weeds affected with parasitic fungi, will always be welcome; of such, mark correctly the place and date of collection.

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the second Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, F. W. HODSON, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc.; Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, and notes on how to organize a club. These will, on application to the Secretary, be sent free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

Office of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
London, Ontario, May 16, 1889.

Council met, according to notice, Vice President Little in the Chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

The committee appointed to revise the Constitution, recommended that the following changes be made:—The name to be "Dominion Farmers' Council and London Live Stock Association." To be added to the constitution:—"To hold spring fairs, auction sales, &c., &c., when deemed wise and for the general good, by the executive. All such decision: of the executive must be sanctioned by a two-thirds vote of the members present, before the said objects shall be supported by the funds of the Council."

To be added to clause I., section III.:—"or stock raising."

To the Rules of Membership, and numbered IV. and V. (IV.):—"Each of the Provincial Live Stock Associations, the Agricultural and Arts Association, and the Western Fair Board, are hereby allowed and requested to each year elect one of their Board as a delegate to this Council; said delegates shall be honorary members, and shall have all the privileges and powers enjoyed by other members, and may be elected to any office in this association; and that the following names be accepted as delegates from the various associations:—Francis Green, Jr., Innerkip, President Shire Horse Association; E. W. Charlton, from the Clydesdale Association; F. T. Coleman, Arthur, President Dominion Draft Horse Association; H. Wade, Toronto, Secretary Agricultural and Arts Association; George McBroom, Western Fair Board; Prof. J. W. Robertson, Ontario Agricultural College; and that the Secretary notify them of their appointment."

The report of the committee was adopted.

Moved by Robert McEwan, seconded by F. W. Hodson, that the following be a committee to further the holding of a spring stallion show in the month of March, 1890, in London, Ont., and whose duty shall be to raise funds, procure estimates of costs, &c., and report at our next meeting, to be held on the 10th of October next; said date may be changed to any other in October, if deemed advisable by the committee:—President O'Brien, Vice-president Little, and all other regular and honorary members of the Council; also, Messrs. George Moore, Waterloo; T. D. Hodgins, D. Ferguson, Samuel Grigg, Col. Leys, and Andrew McCormick, London, with power to add to their number. Carried.

Moved by Henry Anderson, and seconded, that we now adjourn. Carried.