

OUR INSTITUTE.

YES, neighbor, I've been to the ins'tute,
Been there for two whole days.
An' I tell you, I'm mighty pleased, sir,
With some of their new faugled ways.

Their speakers are rather peart fellers,
They know exact where to hit;
An' they strike right out from the shoulder
An' don't mince matters a bit.

They told us all about butter
From the time it comes out of the land,
How to feed, an' to churn, an' to handle,
Till you get the cash in your hand.

An' how to feed pigs at a profit,
Was told in a mighty neat way;
The pig's a machine for consumin'
The surplus, an' makin' it pay.

The sheep with its wool an' its mutton,
Has a duty to do, an' to pay
T'wards keepin' the farm an' the farmer,
Whate'er politicians may say.

Even the hen, that pesky old critter,
That scratches creation all o'er
Might be made to pay for her keepin'
An' perhaps a little bit more.

The farm's a machine for producin'
The products that all of us eat;
An' the farmer that don't feed his farm, sir,
Will find in the end that he's beat.

To be sure, I have made some money
Out of my old farm, that's so.
But dame Nature gives rather grudin',
An' dollars piled up mighty slow.

But these fellers' ways are more whinnin';
They flatter the old dame, some way,
An' she yields up her treasures more handsome,
An' that's what makes farmin' pay.

Yes, there are drawbacks in farmin',
An' some things that don't seem quite fair;
But then we have freedom and sunshine,
An' oceans of pure fresh air.

All trades an' professions have drawbacks,
Every business takes watchin' an' care;
An' it's labor, push an' endurance
That gets to the front every where.

The cities are teemin' with lab'ers
Who are beggin' for work in the street,
While the farmer has work in abundance,
With a home an' plenty to eat.

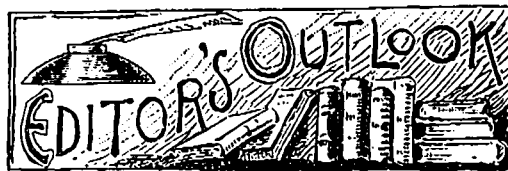
Of course our towns an' our cities
Are centres of wealth an' of trade,
But it's on the farm, after all, sir,
That the wealth of the nation is made.

Than the singin' was fine, now I tell ye,
It just riz me out of my seat;
An' then there was girls that spoke pieces
In a way that was hard fur to beat.

Yes, indeed! I think that the ins'tute
Was worth much more than it cost;
But, of course, if a man hasn't been there,
He don't know just what he has lost.

—Ohio Farmer.

OUR lives are songs; God writes the words,
And we set them to music at pleasure;
And the song grows glad, or sweet, or sad,
As we choose to fashion the measure.
We must write the music, whatever the song,
Whatever the rhyme or meter,
And if it is sad, we can make it glad;
Or, if sweet, we can make it sweeter.



HON. JOHN DRYDEN, Minister of Agriculture, has been unwearied in his efforts during the past month to reach the various organizations which grow around his department. At Gananoque he made one of his most effective speeches. It was to the Eastern Dairymen. Among other good things to come which he announced, he said:—"The Ontario government has decided to ask the Legislature at its next session for a small grant with which to establish what I shall call a Pioneer Dairy Farm, in one of the districts of North-Western Ontario that is not now settled. We shall choose a location on the line of the Canadian Pacific railway, where we shall find in one block sufficient good land to make two or three townships. Here it is proposed to demonstrate by actual test what are the possibilities of that district in the dairying industry. A country that grows naturally white and red clover, that will grow immense crops of timothy, and also produce good crops of ensilage, heavy crops of oats, and the very finest of roots, must be, in my judgment, suitable for this purpose. The roads used in the construction of the C.P.R. fifteen years ago are now found covered with a rank growth of clover. It is not proposed to put up expensive buildings, but such as may be taken as models by any farmer coming into the district. They will be built of the timber found there, and pains will be taken to make them comfortable and convenient. They will be such that anyone looking at and examining them will be able to say that they can go and do likewise. I have already had samples of the soil from some of these points sent to Toronto. I find it to be of great depth, and composed of very rich clay, free from stone. I also find that this northern country is extremely well watered, abounding in rivers and lakes in every direction. As a further encouragement to those who desire to settle in that part of Ontario, I may say that these lakes are full of fish, and that the industries carried on in that connection will eventually be very large. In 1894 there were three and a half million pounds of fish shipped from Rat Portage alone. It is not, however, proposed to locate this pioneer farm quite as far west as Rat Portage, but somewhere between Port Arthur and that point, probably near the crossing of the C.P.R. at Wabigoon river. Besides Wabigoon lake, which is near at hand, there are other large lakes in the district, some of them ninety miles in length, and others from ten to twenty. Various scale fish abound in these lakes, notably lake trout, whitefish, pickerel, etc. I mention this because these things will be helpful to the settler who may be induced to locate in the district. Portions of the district have been burned over, and the large timber burned off. It is now growing up with smaller timber, but this is not of sufficient size to interfere seriously with clearing operations. I am told by those acquainted with the district that after the underbrush is cleared off there is no difficulty in ploughing considerable portions. Green standing timber is to be found within easy reach, which can be utilized for fencing and building.

On all sides an agitation is setting in against the barbed wire fence, that expensive and dangerous expedient, which ought never to have been extensively adopted.

In Bulletin No. 36 issued by the Illinois Experiment Station, are reports from 108 live stockmen, describing their methods of feeding. The bulletin makes interesting reading and may be profitably perused by breeders.

THE Atlantic steamers encountered exceptionally severe weather last month from beginning to end, and in one case in particular, that of the *Dominion*, great loss of live stock was sustained. She experienced rough weather and lost thereby 22 bullocks, 5 horses and 11 sheep, and her cattle pens were greatly damaged. She was compelled to lie to for sixteen hours, during which time she labored and rolled heavily.

In many respects the Australians can claim to be a progressive people. They value well-bred animals, and a strong desire is publicly expressed to tax stallions so as to discourage the keeping of inferior animals. How such a tax would work if imposed, it would be difficult to predict, but it seems that the law of supply and demand ought to be powerful enough to regulate the quality of breed in antipodean horseflesh.

THE German government has closed its ports to United States' cattle, probably not any too soon. There is little doubt that the immunity from strict enforcement of live stock regulations prevailing beyond the border has had a good deal to do with the British restrictions on Canadian cattle, and it is well that the United States should be dealt sharply with by the European powers in this matter. When the great Republic can show a clean sheet, Mr. Gardner's statements against Canadian live stock will lose much of their force, and the political bias of the schedule will be the more easily exposed.

In a letter dated Cape Town, Cape Colony, South Africa, from Mr. J. D. Patterson, who has gone to that distant land in the interests of MASSEY-HARRIS CO., he writes:—"I saw yesterday the field upon which Massey binders first worked in Africa, and saw also the first old 4B pioneer cutting its seventh harvest. It looks good for another two or three seasons." This speaks well for the lasting qualities of the machine to stand its work so well in so hot a country and without a skilled operator. Since this machine was built, however, many improvements have been made which greatly add to the life of the machine and the latest Massey-Harris Wide-Open Binder should outlast two of the old style machines.

THE Christmas Examinations at the Experimental Farm and College at Guelph have been very successful, and the results are most creditable to the students and professors. The honor lists in Agriculture, Dairying and Live Stock are as follows:—First year.—Agriculture.—Class I.—1, Pollard. Class II.—1, Devitt, A. W. Macdonald, Oakville, Ont., and Parker; 4, Higginson; 5, Cunningham; 6, Ratcliffe and Hodgetts; 8, Christy, Kennedy, and Wilson; 11, Gadd; 12, Reinke; 13, J. E. B. Leiman, New Lowell, Ont.; McKenzie, M. Ross, and W. D. Steele, Toronto, Ont.; 17, Bard and Oastler; 19, Leavitt; 20, Bell, Brickwell, and A. R. Evans, Newmarket, Ont.; 23, Benning, E. Pierheller, Mount Elgin, Ont.; R. Fyfe, Laurel, Ont.; Harris, G. W. Morgan, Kerwood, Ont., Nasmith, and Roblin. Dairying.—Class I.—1, Hodgetts; 2, Devitt; 3, Hutton; 4, Higginson; 5, Shields, Steele and Wilson. Class II.—1, Gadd; 2, Leavitt; 3, McKenzie and Oastler; 5, Cunningham; 6, Yuill and Bard; 8, Ratcliffe; 9, Christy and Nasmith; 10, Charlton; 12, Harris, Kennedy, and M. Ross. Second Year.—Live Stock.—Class I.—1, Clark; 2, Patterson; 3, Lang; 4, Butler. Class II.—1, Campbell and Knight; 3, McCallum; 4, Chadsley and G. A. Smith; 6, E. A. Ponting, Moweaqua, Illinois; 7, Kipp; 8, Payne and Thompson; 10, Edelman. Dairying.—Class I.—1, Clark. Class II.—1, Paterson; 2, Lang; 3, Campbell; 4, Butler.