

the same as last year, or perhaps a trifle more. Some authorities place the yield at a very much less and some at a higher figure than in 1903. The U. S. Government crop report for September 1st gave a 7 per cent. better promise than last year, which means a total yield of 2,400,000,000 bushels. But the quality of the crop when harvested has something to do with the cattle feeding question. Last year there was considerable soft corn which could only be marketed by feeding to cattle or hogs. So far this season there has been comparatively little of the American crop seriously injured by frost. In not a few districts, however, the wind blew the standing corn down, thus preventing it from maturing properly. This means that there will be some soft corn, and it may be considerable when the whole crop is harvested, which will undoubtedly have some effect upon the cattle situation.

But there are other factors to be considered. The price at which feeders can be bought in the fall is one of them. An experienced Iowa feeder stated recently that he made it a rule that when a good class of steers, weighing from 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. would bring four cents per pound off grass he would let the other fellow feed them. A great many western States feeders got badly bitten last year in buying feeders at too high a price, and not a few in Canada had the same experience. These may be wary about going into the business this year, unless they are compelled to, because of unmarketable corn. Should there, however, be any holding back this year by western feeders it may mean such a curtailing of the supply that will affect the market later. But there is said to be a good supply of cattle in the Western States, and these will have to be marketed somehow and somewhere. Then, as shown by our English correspondent last issue, the number of cattle in Great Britain shows some increase over a year ago. All these things have to be considered in determining the outlook.

Whatever conclusion the feeder may come to, we can assure him that the only safe plan is to feed cattle that will produce the very best quality of beef. In our opinion first-class cattle that will make AI exporters or butchers' stock will be a profitable investment, as they have been for some time. Anything less than this quality comes into competition with so much inferior stuff from other countries that it is questionable whether feeding and fitting it for market is a paying investment. Of course if a farmer is loaded up with a lot of inferior stuff the best way to get rid of it is to feed and fit it for the block in the best way possible. He can do it better than anyone else. It rarely pays to buy inferior cattle for feeding purposes.

In Ontario at least there will be abundance of feed, and owing to the wet season a considerable quantity of grain that must perform find a market

through cattle or other live stock. Farmers so situated should aim to get the very best cattle for feeding purposes. This quality, however, is none too plentiful in this country, and which, by the way, is another factor to be considered in estimating market possibilities later on.

#### Dean of Macdonald Institute Dead

Dr. W. H. Muldrew, Dean of the Macdonald Institute, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, died on October 7th after a very brief illness. Dr. Muldrew was appointed Dean in July, 1903, and assumed his duties at the beginning of the fall term. He was formerly principal of the Gravenhurst High School, and was a graduate of Queen's University. He had made a specialty of nature study, and was well equipped for the work begun under such favorable auspices at the Macdonald Institute.

#### The Wool Situation

The Pastoralists' Review of August 16 last, has the following to say on the wool situation in Australia:

"In dealing with the subject of the wool market at the present time it is more than ever necessary to discriminate between the different descriptions of the staple, for remarks of a general character will no longer fit the bill. The strong-fibred wools—crossbreds and coarse sorts—continue to easily hold the splendid position they have lately taken; the demand for these qualities is exceptionally brisk, and although prices now current are a long way higher than they have been for upwards of thirteen years, manufacturers are far keener to buy crossbreds at the existing level than they were to touch them when they could be bought at 100 per cent. less money. Thus from the point of view of the New Zealand grower, or the English farmer, who is now being offered 3d. per lb. more for this year's clip than he was able to realize last year, and 5d. per lb. more than he obtained in 1902, the condition of things in the wool market leaves nothing to be desired. But Australia woolgrowers are mainly interested in fine wools, and so far as these latter descriptions are concerned, there is certainly cause for some disappointment. The course of prices in the case of Merino since the date of our last issue has scarcely come up to expectations. In spite of the fact that prospects for this class of wool seemed to be amply secured by the circumstances of supply, there has been a total absence of buoyancy in the markets throughout the past month, and latterly sellers have found it a difficult matter to maintain values."

The ascendancy of crossbred and coarse wools, and the increasing demand for these varieties should interest wool-growers here. Evidently the Merino and other fine wools have not the hold upon woollen manufacturers they once had. The pre-eminence of the coarser kinds at the present time looks to be of a permanent character. But however this may be, the outlook for wool has not been brighter for some years past than it is just now. Truly things are coming the sheep-raisers way. Some authorities claim that there are

10,000,000 fewer sheep in the United States this year than last. This means a greatly decreased supply of both wool and mutton, which means higher prices for both commodities.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

We have pleasure in announcing that beginning shortly, Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, will contribute to THE FARMING WORLD a series of articles upon the rearing, feeding and fitting of beef cattle for market. Coming from the pen of so safe and able a teacher as Prof. Day a series on this topic cannot but be of very great value to the farmers of Canada.

In this issue appears the first of Mr. Ferguson's articles on "The Commerce of Live Stock," which as previously announced will appear only in THE FARMING WORLD. Others will follow each month during the fall and winter. This one is more or less introductory to the others which are to follow, and deals with the world's meat. It will bear careful reading.

When this issue reaches our readers the large majority of the fall fairs will be over. As a rule they have been fairly successful, and on the whole more potent for good than previous ones. The educational idea is becoming more popular, and fair managers are giving features of this nature more attention.

The Farmers' Institutes will soon be in operation. Already meetings are being held in some of the outlying districts, notably in New Ontario and in some parts of New Brunswick. The institute has become a necessity to the farmer. The aim of those at the back of it should be to make the meetings of as great value as possible.

The Canadian display at the Agricultural Hall, London, England, is attracting much attention. The exhibit is of most varied character and of general excellence. It is seen daily by thousands, and is warmly commended by the press.

Canada's exhibit at the World's Fair, St. Louis, is not one of which any resident of the Dominion need be ashamed. Those who have visited the great fair, pronounce Canada's display to be the best on exhibition. It consists chiefly of agricultural products, fruit, and other commodities likely to attract settlers. It is in every sense a business display.

The sheep and swine at the World's Fair were judged from October 1-15. A number of Canada's best flocks and herds were represented, and made an excellent showing. Full reports of this branch will appear next issue.

#### Hereford Sale at St. Louis

At the World's Fair 27 Hereford cattle sold at a general average of \$233.70. The highest priced bull sold for \$730, and the highest priced female for \$400. The ten bulls averaged \$206.50 each, and the seventeen females \$106.76 each.