

EDITORIAL.

Publishers' Announcement.

The present is a critical period in Canadian farming. Men realize, as never before, the need for reliable, practical and seasonable information on all branches of agriculture—general farm management, the growing of crops, the rearing of live stock, and the preparation and marketing of farm products. To keep posted, read the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Intelligent, wide-awake farmers everywhere appreciate the ADVOCATE because they find reading it pays them. To succeed, men must read about their own business. One dollar (\$1) for the ADVOCATE from now till the end of 1895 is a small but paying investment. Next year it will be made better than ever before.

We thank our readers for their appreciation, and ask them to induce others to give it a trial for one year. By so doing you will benefit them, and help us to improve the paper. Renew promptly and send us the names and post-office addresses of any persons not taking it, and we will mail them a sample copy free. Our circulation may thus be easily doubled.

Those subscribing now will receive the remainder of this year free. Thrifty, enterprising men quickly recognize its merits, and our agents are doing well.

Read the premium page elsewhere, and secure the advantage of an early start.

An Outspoken Reader.

DISCARDS A BATCH OF WORTHLESS PAPERS, BUT RETAINS THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

DEAR SIR,—I have been looking over my list of papers, with a view to economy, and culling out the useless ones, for the majority are worthless for any purpose but waste paper; but I cannot afford to be without yours, for I consider it can stand by the side of any agricultural paper printed on the American continent. Furthermore, I consider myself mean for running behind in my subscription. You will find enclosed \$2 for the balance of this year and next year's subscription.

I remain, yours truly,

W. D. CAVAN, Dunmore.

P. S.—You are at liberty to publish this.—W. D. C.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union will be held at Guelph on Dec. 20 and 21.

Even full-grown hogs can be killed by an overfeed of wheat. It is very toothsome to swine, and in their greed they swallow a lot of imperfectly masticated grain, that causes a derangement often fatal. Wheat should be ground or rolled coarsely. If ground finely it forms into a doughy mass (unless made very sloppy) in the animal's stomach, which is very hard indeed to digest, and is very liable to produce colic. Even ground wheat is better to be soaked before feeding. Commence feeding it in conjunction with other food, and in accordance with suggestions thrown out in the last issue of the ADVOCATE.

Generally speaking, the best time to sell winter apples is as soon as they are picked, as it saves the cost and loss in storing, rotting, extra handling, etc. We have no hesitation in saying that the above rule may safely be departed from this season, provided a suitable storing place can be secured. Reports of the world's apple crop look like a shortage, which must, according to the law of supply and demand, raise the present price to a considerably advanced one before long. The price being paid at present in many Ontario sections is from \$1 to \$1.50 per bbl. for first quality winter fruit. This price is not enough, as will be seen before three months have gone round.

Says the English "Chronicle":—"This year British farmers are blessed with a bounteous crop of roots and hay, which they are unable to consume profitably, owing to the high price of store stock, and yet the Ministry of Agriculture still keeps our ports closed to Canadian cattle, which make beef very quickly in England when fed by English graziers. Deputations without end have waited upon Mr. Gardner, from the Scotch farmers, asking him to remove the embargo, but hitherto in vain, and now these, reinforced by the feeders of Lincolnshire and Norfolk, in their demand are becoming very angry. We have 'Free Trade' to compete with, they say, and we are prepared to contend against the world, but surely, while you insist upon Free Trade, you cannot expect us to quietly submit to the total exclusion of one of the most valuable of our raw materials."

Our First Page Portrait.

On the first page in this issue appears a portrait of the champion English Hackney stallion Ganymede 2076, the property of Mr. Tom Mitchell, The Park, Eccleshill, Bradford. This portrait was from the original picture by Mr. Palfrey in the possession of the Hackney Horse Society, and reproduced by permission in the London (Eng.) Live Stock Journal. Ganymede was got by Sir Walter Gilbey's Danegelt 174, his dam having been Patience 491 by Phenomenon 534. He was first and champion at the Hackney Society's London Show this year, and previous to that occasion had won the following prizes:—First Pocklington, 1890; second Hackney Horse Society's Show, and reserve number for champion cup, London, 1891 (182 entries). 1892: Third Hackney Horse Society's Show, London; first Yorkshire Agricultural Society; first Otley; first Bradford; first Doncaster; first Royal Manchester and Liverpool; first Peterborough; first Keighley; first Skipton; first Harrogate; first Halifax; first Bingley. His son Goodmanham Squire was winner of the first prize in the three-year-old class at London, and of the cup as the best young stallion; while other animals got by him are of high promise, and have distinguished themselves.

Agriculture in British Columbia.

Notwithstanding the fact that British Columbia is in some respects a new country, farming has been enabled, by the aid of the Department of Agriculture of that country, to make very rapid strides during the last few years. We are in receipt of the third annual volume issued by that department. Reports from many centres give a general impression that British Columbia is fast becoming an important agricultural province. All sorts of cereals that grow well in Ontario do well there. In some districts drouth calls for irrigation, which is extensively carried on. Summer frosts rarely if ever do any appreciable damage. In most sections roots and potatoes find conditions extremely suitable to their growth and development. The size often obtained under ordinary conditions exceed Ontario's most pampered produce. Ordinary fruits do well in many sections. Apple trees that have been set out a few years are now bearing well, which fact is inducing the planting of many large orchards. Dairying, hog-raising and poultry-keeping are not as yet receiving much attention, but the tendency is a marked increase in those directions in the near future. Unfortunately diseases of both animals and plants are there doing deadly work whenever neglected. Weeds and insect pests require about the same attention as in Ontario. Coyotes or prairie wolves hinder sheep-raising considerably, as they are very destructive on young lambs. The \$2.50 bounty now being paid for their brush is having a decreasing effect on their numbers. There is still a serious lack of good roads, many of them crossing streams without bridges, so that fording is necessary. In times of freshets, which often occur from the mountains, transit is entirely shut off. Much is being done at present to improve these conditions. The exports from British Columbia to countries outside of Canada from June 30, 1892, to the same date in 1893, are:

Horses to the value of.....	\$ 2,955.00
Horned cattle.....	200.00
Swine.....	10.00
Poultry and other animals.....	8,568.00
Meats, etc.....	71,722.00
Grain, seeds, etc., and produce of..	21,880.00
Fruit and vegetables.....	3,502.00
Dairy produce.....	3,210.00
Hay.....	60.00
Trees and bushes.....	112.00

Total.....\$112,219.00

"Half Fat" Hogs.

Reports in the daily papers lately contained a great outcry against the number of "half fat" hogs that were going into the Toronto market. From the excessively fat extreme, feeders have been going to another, stimulated by the demand for "lean" bacon. Packers have asked for what used to be called "half fat" hogs, but we do not think they meant store hogs or poorly fed hogs. To get a good, edible quality of meat, we believe hogs, as well as, for example, beef cattle, must be well fed. What could be less inviting than a piece of roast or steak from a skinny, half-finished beeve. By a proper system of breeding and feeding, pork can be produced which, while not excessively fat, is at the same time toothsome and nutritious. For other reasons as well, it is a great mistake to flood the market with animals that should have a month or two more of good feeding before going there.

A Glance Abroad.

We sometimes flatter ourselves that Canada has devised exceedingly liberal things for the advancement of agriculture. During recent years, it is true, Dominion and Provincial Governments have vied with each other in setting agencies at work for the purpose of increasing the sum total of agricultural knowledge and placing it within access of the people. As the country grows older improved methods and new lines of farming become more and more necessary. Great Britain realized this long ago. Many of us have but a faint idea of the high standard of agriculture very commonly maintained in the motherland. Agricultural education is constantly receiving more and more attention there, but across the channel, in France, technical instruction in this department of human industry is far in advance of what is attempted in Great Britain. In fact, one of our British exchanges frankly states that in comparison with France, what Britain is doing is hardly worth naming.

In Great Britain the Board of Agriculture has the sum of £8,000 placed at its disposal, and when this is added to what county councils and semi-private organizations provide the sum total is really very small. In France £1,047,600 is set aside annually to encourage agriculture, and of this sum £131,320 is devoted exclusively to what we understand by technical education, while no inconsiderable proportion of the balance of £906,281 is in one form or another made subservient to the same end. This very large amount is voted even in the excitable arena of the French Chamber of Deputies without a cavil, all parties being agreed that no money is more profitably expended from the national exchequer.

The whole system is so graduated that every department of agriculture is given due consideration. At the top stands the highly scientific Agronomic Institute, a nursery for professors and men of study and research. Then comes three great national schools of agriculture, in which twenty-six professors and large staffs of demonstrators and lecturers are bending their energies to the training of land-owners and extensive farmers. In connection with these are numerous dairy institutes. There are horse-breeding schools, as well as institutions that give their entire attention to poultry rearing, and others to the teaching of the principles of draining and irrigation. In the same grade are what are called apprentice schools, in which the children of the peasants are taught how to become efficient farm servants; and after all this, the State devotes £4,000 per annum to the subsidizing of private dairy schools, and defrays the expense of a limited number of pupils attending the chief Poultry Rearing Schools. Under this head parties of young people are sent to study the systems of butter-making followed in Holland, Denmark and Switzerland. And for the benefit of those who are too old or too stubborn to attend some of the numerous places of instruction, are sent 90 travelling professors and 114 assistant professors itinerating the country, lecturing, experimenting and advising in countless ways and forms. Last year these gentlemen delivered 3,500 lectures, which were listened to by something like 300,000 persons engaged in the cultivation of the soil. France does even more than this, but enough has been said to indicate the littleness, comparatively, of what Great Britain and our own country are doing to promote technical instruction in agriculture.

It is not surprising to find that the agricultural exports of France are largely increasing.

We have received from Isaac Usher & Son, the cement manufacturers, Thorold, Ont., a vigorous specimen of the Russian thistle, picked up near one of their warehouses, where the seed is supposed to have been brought in a car, the cleanings of which were probably dumped alongside the track. We are under the impression that this pest has secured a lodgment in more places than is generally suspected. The description and illustrations which have appeared in the ADVOCATE will enable our readers to recognize it at once, and then take the necessary precautions to prevent its spread. Too great vigilance cannot be exercised at the outset, otherwise the country will be overrun with it. The Manitoba Government is to be commended for the energetic measures they have taken to root it out of that Province. Municipal councils would do well to issue special instructions to their "thistle" or "weed inspectors" to make a careful inspection, particularly all along all railway lines, in order that the very first encroachments may be checked. Every farmer living along a railway line should watch for it in his own interests.