

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday (52 issues per year.) It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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ish on consideration of the subject. A market under cover is certainly better than Nature's face, exposed to the weather, and there are many purposes to which a covered area could be advantageously devoted. We believe Hon. Nelson Montteith, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, would be disposed to deal generously with the city in providing for the needs of the Winter Fair, and all well-wishers will join in hoping that a foresighted and liberal attitude towards this question will prevail.

The Making of a Steer.

With the increasing population and industrial activity of northern climes like Canada and Great Britain, and the application of perfected cold storage, it is generally believed that the consumption of high-class fresh meat will increase. At the same time, the increased value of farm lands and other items in the cost of production make it necessary to consider carefully the rearing or securing of good feeding cattle at an outlay that will leave the feeder a fair margin of profit, or else, as he has done before now, he will turn to other specialties. The prospects for future cattle supplies will depend very largely upon the type of the coming cow and the sires that are used—a subject introduced for the consideration of breeders in the last issue of "The Farmer's Advocate." What does it cost to raise a stocker or feeder up to, say, two and a half years, and of finishing him in the stable or on grass, and in what ways can the outgo be so reduced as to enlarge with more certainty the margin of profit? These and other questions involved are of vital import, and this is the season of special opportunities for consideration, discussion and research, so that we may get down to facts and principles. Elsewhere in this issue we publish a number of timely contributions on this subject, upon which further correspondence from experienced cattle raisers and feeders, as well as investigators, will doubtless shed much-needed light.

Our Maritime Letter.

Whilst the severest of winter weather, precipitated without a word of warning, and therefore felt with excessive keenness, attended the Maritime Winter Fair at Amherst this year; and whilst on this account and also on account of the presence of smallpox in adjacent mining centers, the attendance very considerably diminished, there was a sufficient patronage to gauge the public sentiment of the moment agriculturally, and, of course, the exhibits in the various departments, as might be expected, being annually improved in quality and in quantity, from this standpoint, at least, could it be called successful. Some day we may reach the Ultima Thule in the matter of quality, but that day is far ahead of us; not that we are showing inferior stock, but because the standard in all this range of animal husbandry will assuredly, in the future as in the past, with the concentrated thought and effort of men of genius in their calling upon it, evade, like the Will o' the Wisp, the pursuit of even the most ardent breeders and pastoralists. And it were well thus. Effort, a striving after perfection in any direction, is the only upward tendency in humanity. Agriculture, too, has more mysteries to be solved, more heights to be scaled by the daring than any other science, commonplace as the unthinking may regard it. It is well, then, to be reasonably aggressive.

There is, or has been, in Maritime Canada a feeling of unrest agriculturally—a bad feature in any country of life and activities. It is now somewhat familiar to most people within our borders, and, therefore, not so much to be apprehended. The glamor of the Western adventure early caught the fancy of young and old alike, the young in the early years, and latterly the staid and substantial yeomanry of the country. Population decreased; old methods even failed, profits diminished, labor became doubly onerous for the few, and discontent and dissatisfaction ran a riotous course. Then, face to face with new conditions, new energies were called into play. The farmer who sowed and reaped from mere force of habit, and left matters to attend to themselves pretty much in the interval, was surprised to awaken one fine day to a new order of things, exacting new effort, or at least something that at least might really be called effort, side by side with what he had all along put forth; he, too, lamented his lot, but in many cases because he could not go hence and to stay, even, had to arouse himself to energy, began to find that, after all, there is no ordinary obstacle in the field allotted by the Creator for our support and benefit that we cannot readily overcome and turn to immediate advantage. We have, then, fewer farmers in Maritime Canada than in 1880, fewer than in 1890, fewer than the census of 1900 gives us, but we have a new class of men entirely looming up—men who, for the most part, have put the antiquated methods and implements of the past behind them and determinedly set their faces towards the sun of surest success, which is visible in the eastern horizon.

The speeches of the public men at fairs like that at Amherst are not, as a general thing, to be too seriously considered. With them, the desire of bringing water to their own mills is ever manifest. And, sometimes in their haste to elevate, they seriously offend against the fitness of things, and are as much in place as rioters in a house of mourning. For successful assemblage, there must be a bond of sympathy between speaker and hearer, and in what he says no great disproportion of verisimilitude on either side. Then the electric circuit is complete, and flashes its cheering current all through its human content. With such conditions verified, the meeting may be called successful—the speaker is happy, and his auditors are happy to acknowledge agreeable sentiments.

We have heard the platitudes fall flatly enough before on such audiences as fill a fair auditorium. This year, it must be said that there was no overpowering feeling of disproportion. The speakers from the local Governments were assuring and hopeful in tone; the people accepted their assurances, and beheld the dawn of brighter days already before them. All admitted that the transition stage had been distressing enough, but all, or about all, saw its ending and the beginning of a fixed and satisfactory state of rural prosperity for the Eastern Provinces. Happily, there was nothing out of focus with this view introduced, and we are confident that for once public men have interpreted feeling well, and used

discernment. Governor Fraser is a clever speaker—no mere functionary, as are so many Governors, but a man who has given thought and study to the agricultural as well as the industrial side of his country's calling, and can not only note the changes going on about him, but points the way effectually to the acquisition of better things. He is not satisfied with sharing the conviction that there is a good time coming, either; he feels it as surely as if it were a reality, and communicates his feeling to his hearers. Agriculture will have in him a friend. Governors, as patrons, can do more than most democrats are ready to admit to help the good cause forward. The other politician speakers we might pass by, but Premier Murray, also of Nova Scotia, which is perhaps the least dependent on and best supporter of agriculture in these three divisions, came out flat-footedly in support not only of the ordinary departmental largesses to that interest, but also in the more ambitious work of a central directory of higher education at Truro. He said that there might be differences of opinion as to the political union of the Provinces; to his mind, there could be none of the necessity of one good strong and efficient educational center for agriculture, and his hand was therefore extended to the other divisions to participate in Truro's present advantages, and his lips formed constantly the piercing Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us to make these greater." The perfect agreement of all present seemed to stamp this sentiment as thoroughly Maritime. We have always been friendly to it, for our own part; and whilst the Federal Department is now contemplating the establishment of an Experimental Station in our own Province, at a considerable cost, we think that this will only assist Truro, and not at all, as some contend, supplant it in our regard. Experimentation may be everywhere made; the educational centers can only be successful where properly equipped, administered and patronized.

This much of the general note of hopefulness pervading the public utterances at the fair; of its special features, and the lessons to be carried home and applied to every farmer's work, we may have a word later.

A. E. BURKE.

Farmers the Salt of the Earth.

After all, there is no place like the farm, and no people like farmers. The more intimate one's acquaintance with city folk, their ways, their humdrum work, the unwholesome slavishness of shop life, their fettered existence, their sordid, frivolous and hollow ambitions, and their more or less brilliant but often superficial mentality, the more exalted is his opinion of the genuine, simpler but nobler traits of rural character, born of natural environment, and strengthened by a wholesome, self-reliant occupation which demands the best that is in us. Country people may lack gloss and versatility, but for sound moral fiber, general capability and practical common sense, commend us to the product of the Canadian farm.

Advance.

The gospel of agriculture must be progressive. It is not enough to disseminate the best methods in vogue and the best ideas now held. This must be done, but we must also do more. We must seek better methods than any yet practiced, a more advanced philosophy than any now extant, while still striving to make the exception of today the level of to-morrow's average achievement. An individual or an industry which fails to keep pace with the quick-march of the times is relatively falling back. Agriculture cannot afford to fall behind other industries. Let us press ever strongly to the fore.

A Piratical License Denied.

To the victors belong the spoils, is an old slogan with which conquerors in war and politics have ever defended indulgence of their greed. But in the clearer light of this age the public is strongly asserting the principle that to the victors belong not a vestige of the spoils, and he who would appropriate them is a robber of the people and a traitor to his trust.

Likes It Better than Ever.

I enclose a post-office order for \$1.50, my renewal subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate." I have been a subscriber for almost thirty years, and feel less inclined than ever to do without "The Farmer's Advocate."

M. J. GIBSON, N. B.

ANDREW GIBSON.

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