

tural college for purposes of instruction and the prosecution of local research.

We presume any reader in Canada or elsewhere who writes to Halifax or Truro, requesting a copy of the Secretary for Agriculture's annual report, will be cheerfully favored. Every Nova Scotia farmer should have it.

#### OUR MARITIME LETTER.

It is expedient that we make an end of the Director's vindication of the establishment and maintenance of the Experimental Farms as having done immensely for Canadian agriculture. We were quoting, April 25th, from this Interim Report, and must resume where we left off—the consideration of improved seeds. It is asserted that from the earliest days of the Farms the Principal himself carried on the experiments of the cerealist, with the success before claimed; now, a regular cerealist, in the person of Dr. C. E. Saunders, whose scholarship and scientific instincts all recognize, is at work not only attempting to breed new and valuable Canadian strains, but as an expert miller and baker, to demonstrate to the commercial side of our national life, the economic advantages of these newly-introduced grains. After careful and prolonged experiment has demonstrated the value of any particular cereal it is distributed by the Director in a way to bring the farmers of the locality best adapted to its growth into new seed quickly. This will be a great advantage. Indeed, almost every corner of the country has been benefited already by the Federal seed distribution which takes place every year.

For the Agricultural Department of the Farms, Dr. Saunders claims the credit of having given the dairy industry its stimulus by the demonstrations made and published on fodder crops, the hay of which was converted into ensilage, to the great benefit of the buttermaking industry especially. Experiments of immense value to Canada have been made, also in the selection of all kinds of cattle, sheep, and swine, their economic feeding, and the turning of them into the best quality of meat. The other farm divisions are credited with many advances. For instance, the important department of horticulture is said to have determined the varieties of small and large fruits which the various sections of the Dominion can grow with advantage. Thus fruit-growing has been extended and promoted. Orchard treatment has been reduced to a science, too, and something done in originating new varieties of fruits and vegetables. Everyone is aware of the splendid services of Dr. Fletcher to the entomological and botanical concerns of the land. The Director thus summarizes them:

"The practical help which has been rendered by the Division of Entomology and Botany has been a source of much satisfaction to the public. The information given by the officers of this division as to the best remedies for the destruction of noxious insects which often rob the farmer of a large part of his profits has been most useful in lessening the loss which would otherwise have occurred. The benefit derived by treatment recommended for the various fungous diseases from which grain, fruit and other crops occasionally suffer has been much appreciated by farmers and fruit-growers. The subject of noxious weeds has also been fully investigated, and the best measures to adopt for their control and subjugation pointed out. Large collections of Canadian insects and plants have been brought together by the officers of this division, and these collections are turned to good account by entomologists and botanists in different parts of the country who desire to name their specimens. Many native and foreign grasses have been tested in the large series of plots in charge of this division, and their relative usefulness for fodder, pasturage and lawns ascertained."

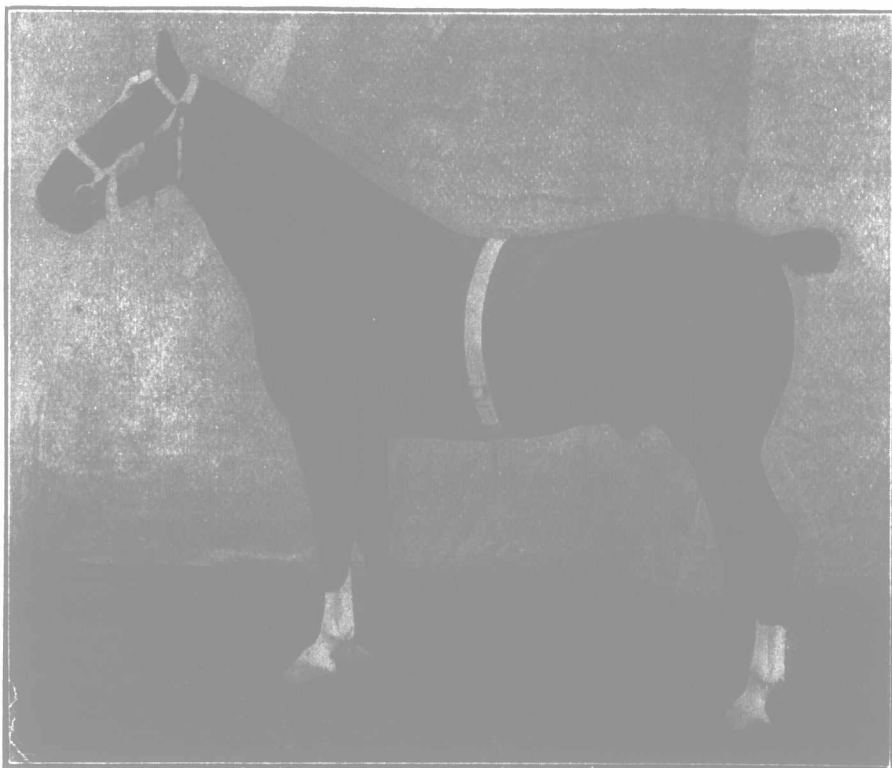
To the patient labors of the efficient National Chemist, Prof. Shutt, many benefits are ascribed. He has analyzed fodder plants and determined their nutrition, constituents and the proper period of their harvest. He determined the value of our weeds and the feeding properties of their straw. He has given valued information on sugar beets, clover, manures, and much good has he done unobtrusively, by the analysis of the potable waters of the Dominion from P. E. Island to British Columbia.

In the quondam despised poultry section of

farm economy a great change is noticeable, and much of it is attributed to the Poultry Department at Ottawa:

"In the Poultry Division of the Farms, much useful work has also been done. The relative value of the different breeds of fowls has been tested, and the superiority shown for farmers' use of the best of the utility breeds. The best methods to adopt in connection with the raising of poultry have been demonstrated, and the best rations for the promotion of egg-laying, also for the fattening of chickens, made known. Recent experiments with trap nests have shown great variations in the number of eggs laid by individual fowls of the same age and breed, and it is hoped that by raising chickens from the eggs of the best layers, superior laying strains may be established. There is no doubt that the business in eggs and in dressed fowls for the table has been materially advanced by the publication of the results obtained from experiments conducted in the Poultry Division."

The report then turns to the results from the Branch Farms, and claims for them a large share in the work of sane agricultural extension—the introduction of new trees, plants and seeds; the encouragement of profitable animal husbandry, the adoption of a proper system of agronomy, and, above and beyond all, the spread of agricultural information to the limits of their respective jurisdictions. No doubt some of those branches have produced the results claimed for them, but, so far as we are concerned here in Maritime Canada, we will be excused, we hope, for holding the firm belief that our institution has been but a mill-



Copmanthorpe Performer (9670).

Hackney stallion; chestnut; foaled 1904. Sire Garton Duke of Connaught. Champion in young stallion class, London Hackney Show, 1907.

stone about the neck of intelligent husbandry. Let those who know of the other farms' achievements speak of them as they deserve.

It will thus be seen that in a general way the distinguished Director of the Experimental Farms has made out a strong case for them. We owe him this vindication in his own words, and the encouragement and support which the formal representative of Canada's greatest interest merits when he labors to lift it up to its loftiest plane. We share with him, too, the optimistic sentiments with which he closes his report, and know that they will find a willing echo in every Maritime heart:

"With the rapid settlement of the large areas of rich lands now open to settlers in all parts of the country, the food products available for home use and export will rapidly increase in volume, and some of the wealth laid up in the soil will find its way into commerce and enrich the community. There is no pursuit more noble than that of the advanced agriculturist, who endeavors, by the exercise of skill, to improve the condition of his fellow men and add to their happiness, by making the earth to yield bountifully and to produce food in larger quantity and of better quality, to sustain the teeming millions now occupying the surface of our globe."

A. E. BURKE.

#### A STORY OF FARM LIFE.

"Carmichael," a story of Canadian rural life, by Anison North. Three hundred and thirty-eight pages, 8 full-page pen-and-ink etchings, also many marginal decorations. Price \$1.25. The William Weld Co., Publishers, London, Ont.

"Carmichael" is the name of a new book by a Canadian author, Anison North. It is the story of a family feud arising from that frequent source of trouble—a line fence. These Capulets and Montagues of modern days interfere with the course of true love. The interest is absorbing and well sustained throughout the story, and the characters are drawn with distinctness and fidelity. Any person who understands life on a Canadian farm will appreciate the local coloring of the scene and the naturalness and vividness of the incidents. The language is intense, without the exaggeration of dialect which disfigures so many tales. This book has so many excellent qualities that we can predict a wide sale, which will increase the longer the book is known.

S. J. RADCLIFFE,

Principal Collegiate Institute, London, Ont.

#### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE CHANGING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There are more irrational things in our school system than you have dared to mention. The subject is too large for me to attempt to discuss at present, for I am on the point of departure for Europe for two or three months. I can say in

the meantime, however, that I believe you are substantially correct in maintaining that our systems should be better adapted to the activities of modern life. As winter lingers in the lap of spring, so subjects once deemed suitable for the few continue to be pressed now on the multitude under the mistaken idea of their general mental discipline. It is but another illustration of the general law of inertia. The habit outlasts its usefulness. Educational administrations can do what is reasonable, instead of what has come to be habitual, when there are enough active, reasonable men to back them up. I therefore welcome your discussions as one of the most promising means of getting the masses, who are the most interested, to think. The well-to-do men who already have exploited

the advantages which the customs of the past offer, are not, as a rule, disposed to like change. But the democracy will rule as soon as it obtains exact knowledge and learns to reason out how things really do move on.

Halifax, N. S.

A. H. MACKAY.

#### LATITUDE AND QUALITY.

We certainly appreciate the value of "The Farmer's Advocate," and keep it on the shelves of our reading room in the library, to which a thousand students, besides the faculty and other employees of the college, have access. No man can claim to be conversant with the agriculture of to-day who does not know what the Canadians are doing. It is said of sugar beets that the farther north you go up to the limit of their possible production, the sweeter they are. It is said of apples that for high quality you must approach the limit northward of their possible production. I am wondering whether quality in humanity varies with the latitude in the same way.

Michigan Agricultural College.

Director.

I am more than ever impressed, writes F. L. Fuller, Agriculturist, of the Agricultural College, Truro, N. S., with the advantage of drilling the turnip field two or three weeks before the seed is to be sown. It is not only a means of destroying weeds, but a safeguard in getting a "catch" in dry weather.