

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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take more to build up a successful sheep industry in Nova Scotia. The conditions of pasturage; the class of animal to breed; the markets and marketing, and so many other important conditions, make or mar the enterprise. The small holder can doubtlessly raise a few sheep profitably enough where there is any chance of a "run," provided the dogs are held in check. There is need of many things when the industry is attempted on a large scale. It takes not only a wide area of grazing ground, but the grass must be really something adequate in quality and quantity to raise good mutton or gather wool that will fetch profitable prices. Then, the ranch system in vogue in Montana cannot, for obvious reasons, be operated here. They tell—those who have had experience with both—that Cape Breton mutton is as good as Island mutton, and everybody knows that Island mutton is equal to any in the world. There are many good ranges in Cape Breton—areas which are neither subjected to the plow nor kept in forest—and, possibly, in these portions of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, for that matter, but, in general, the beneficial sheep-raising of the country will have to be done by the mixed farmers in it. It is so here; it will be equally so over-Straits.

What can Governments do, then, to better the sheep outlook? That is a question which requires serious thought, and nobody seems to have given it, as yet, to the matter. Somebody read a letter, from Principal Cumming, at Amherst, saying this subject would come up at the agricultural conventions shortly to be held. We will see what comes of it. Meantime, as a mere lumbering of the Board's record, the following was passed, nobody caring to say "aye" or "nay":

"Whereas the sheep-raising industry of the Maritime Provinces is one that gives promise of a very considerable development, provided such protection as is necessary against sheep-killing dogs be given by the various Governments; and,

whereas the present statutes of the different Provinces relating to the protection of sheep from the ravages of dogs are, in the opinion of this Board, quite inadequate, and, until amended, give no assurance of the industry increasing or becoming permanently profitable.

"Therefore, resolved that the Maritime Board records its vote in favor of legislation which will meet the needs of the situation; and that it also urges the enactment of some legislation at the earliest possible date."

Sheep-raising, the world over, is just now a money-making proposition. The commercial agents of Canada in the far-away portions of the Empire, are discussing it exhaustively. There is much to be learned from each colony's experience, and as the matter is of especial interest to this constituency, we shall collate the information afforded for our next.

A. E. BURKE.

The Macdonald College.

Twenty miles westward from Montreal, on a beautiful site, in Jacques Cartier County, sloping down towards an arm of the River Ottawa, the walls are now majestically rising of an institution the opening of which in September, 1907, is designed to mark an era in the progress of agriculture and of Protestant public-school education in the Province of Quebec. Directly, as well as indirectly, its advantages will doubtless accrue in large measure to the progressive French people of the Province, as well as to the English-speaking folk, because educational influences are contagious and stimulating, and its doors will be open to men and women, irrespective of their particular faith. Made possible through means provided by Sir William Macdonald, it is to be affiliated with McGill University, and under general direction of its Board of Governors. The conception and execution of the project in its detail is with the masterful mind of Dr. Jas. W. Robertson. It has a three-fold purpose: First, demonstration, experiment and instruction in agriculture for men; second, training in domestic science for women; third, Normal and nature-study training for teachers, both men and women. With the facilities to be furnished, we should deem it likely that the Normal training of all the Protestant public-school teachers of Quebec would concentrate here. There will be immediate capacity for 175 men or boys, and 225 women, which, as the need arises, can be very largely increased.

As a nucleus, the magnificent farm and pure-



Avenue of Maples, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P. Q.

Home of the new Macdonald College.

bred Ayrshire herd of Mr. Robert Reford were secured, and other land purchased brought the area up to 550 acres, 170 acres overlooking the river for the general group of nine or ten main buildings, campus, agronomy, horticulture, and poultry; then, behind the line of the C. P. R. and G. T. R., which run side and side, the farm proper of 380 acres, stock and dairy barns, pigeries, and silos. The main structures include the Administration Building, 288 feet long; the residence, women's residence, Chemistry and Physics, Biology, Library, Reading-room and Assembly, Agriculture, Horticulture and Agronomy, Poultry, and the Power-house. The foundations are of stone and concrete, the walls of Milton-

red pressed brick, and the roofs of cherry-red tile—a color scheme that will be very effective either in summer or winter. The buildings, now being roofed, will be fireproof throughout, and the best obtainable experts in America have been laid under service to perfect the heating, ventilation and lighting, while the interior finishing and equipment will be in keeping with the entire design. The contracts have all been let on the unit plan, instead of lump sums. The walls are all laid in cement mortar, except the carrying partitions, and, throughout, the aim is perfection in service and permanence. A farm drainage system is being laid, and a great deal of planting done in the horticultural department.

The staff thus far completed consists of Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, General Manager; Prof. F. C. Harrison, Bacteriologist; Prof. W. Lochhead, Biologist; W. S. Blair, Assistant Horticulturist; E. C. Drury, B. S. A., Agriculturist; L. S. Klinck, B. S. A., Agronomist; and F. C. Elford, Poultry Manager. Dr. John Britton, the eminent New Brunswick educationist, has been chosen as head of the Normal Department. It will thus be apparent that many of the most important chairs remain to be filled, the presence of those chosen being essential during the structural or fundamental stages of the institution. As our readers are already aware, it is to have an endowment of a couple of million dollars, and, without having any official figure before us, after looking over the work, as we did recently, we would approximate the outlay for land, buildings and equipment at considerably in excess of a million, which will put it easily within the front rank with the great educational facilities of Canada.

HORSES.

Shoeing of Draft Horses.

The motto, "no hoof, no horse," is one that is absolutely insisted upon by the buyers for all the large town contractors. Good horn, shapely, wide at heel and deep, says a writer in the London Live-stock Journal, is what the shoeing farriers like to get to work upon, and when any animal is found to exceed the stud limit of about six years by two or three years more, it will generally be found the excellence lies in the feet. When farriers begin to find between their knees little to work upon with rasp or knife, and nothing to hold nails with, it is generally concluded that the horse, though he may feed well and possess plenty of vitality, is not fit for much town work. Some such horses might do well enough if sent back to the plow, but they would scarcely thrive on an ordinary farm ration, and so are humanely put down, the stud owners preferring to take knacker's prices for them rather than let them run the chance of falling into the hands of the low-class dealers who pass them into a sliding scale of misery. A study of hoofs at any of the large knackers' yards would well prove that the early growth and treatment of the hoof, either fore or hind, cannot receive too much attention. The chief shoeing smith of one of the London breweries, which handles only the best draft geldings, a very intelligent man, informed the writer that half the difficulties he had to contend with in shoeing horses in their later days might have been avoided by carefulness and attention at the early period of shoeing. It may be held, therefore, as an axiom, that as the colt wears his first shoes, so will he wear his last.

Shoeing or non-shoeing, a frequent subject of discussion, is one of the very last to be taken up by those who have followed the foot from the foal dropping to the knacker's yard. Professor Cossar Ewart goes far enough to say—and the story is no doubt true from a natural-history point of view—that the young colt or filly practically walks many miles in its dam's inside, and thus converts the horn from a soft liquid condition into a padding of some actual consistency. Practical breeders will be inclined to accept the