

it is a cold, barren, bleak country. Their impressions have been largely received from pictures of ice palaces and fur clad individuals. When they see our fruit exhibit it will show them and make them understand that we grow in great quantities delicate and delicious plums. Canada has peach orchards where the luscious fruit can be had for the picking. Our vineyards cover broad acres, the fruit being unequalled on the face of the earth. This will teach the people of Europe that here in Canada is the very spot where they should, and will, pour the thousands from their over-crowded borders. Here we have room where these can win for themselves homes, which will not only be pleasant, but where the land will produce that which will make them contented and happy. We in Ontario have

#### TWO THOUSAND JARS

of fruit, holding from a quart to a bushel and a half, some of them so large that we can insert a branch of a pear tree with the fruit on it, where the foliage is kept in its natural color and where the bloom is retained on the fruit. We purpose to show them that, from the earliest strawberry up to the hardest apple, we have in Ontario lands where the tenderest fruits can be grown, and other places where the most valuable fruits for exportation can be easily produced almost without limit. I think this will be the best immigration agent that we can send out. Then let me tell you what you will have to compete against. There is not a state in the American Union, as I told you before, but has determined to outdo this fair land of ours. If we wish to hold our own, we must prosecute this work with vigor. Every Canadian should lend a hand. I hope when the history of this Exposition comes to be written, it will be said of Canada that she has borne herself well. I have great faith in my country. I believe we all have. One of the ablest American writers, in describing this province, said, "She is blessed by Providence with the finest climate and most magnificent scenery, and the richest soil to be found on the American continent. In fact, she is a country that has not only the finest stock, but produces the finest men and most beautiful women." Such a country, described by such a writer, is one that we should not fear for its future, and I want to say a word here. The farmers are

#### SAID TO BE THE GRUMBLERS.

I know that it is a subject of remark "that the farmer always grumbles; that he grumbles with the sunshine, and when it does not; and when the land is very fruitful, and when it is not." We are called the grumblers of the earth; but the future of our country depends upon us, because, after all, we are the foundation upon which must be built the success of all other callings—the manufacturer, the lawyer, in fact, every man living is dependent upon us for his success. The keeping of our country is entirely in our hands; do not let it be said, if the historian ever has to write of dissatisfaction in this land, that farmers were the ones who became dissatisfied with the country. Be true to your land and its form of government. Punish the men who rule it, if they do wrong—if they wreck the country's interests. Blame them, but do not blame your country or your country's constitution, because we have the finest constitution; we have the noblest form of government; we are partakers in the greatest blessings on the face of the earth, and our country is an heritage that we ought to love and protect.

#### Encourage Local Men.

Your admirable account of the Fat Stock Show, of Guelph, published in your issue of 1st inst., prompts me—in the interest of ordinary farmers—to offer a suggestion regarding the regular fall shows held throughout the province, instancing, as an example, the one held at Ottawa, in September last (which is by no means an exception to the general rule). The custom followed last year was the same as in previous years, i. e., fat stock from different parts of the province, made a regular circuit and carried off all the prizes, and which in every instance was more on account of the amount of fat, the fine lines of breeding being overlooked when the animal was only in prime condition for service. There are few ordinary farmers who can afford to breed and feed purposely for exhibitions, and if those fall shows are intended to stimulate and encourage farmers to improve their stock, I would suggest that the classification be altered, so as to have one class for FAT cattle, and another for fine breeding independent of the fat, which would be an encouragement to the farmers, and would, I feel sure, materially increase the entries.

JAN. 9th, 1893.

CARLETON.

The columns of the "ADVOCATE" are open to those who wish to discuss agricultural or live stock subjects. We invite correspondence and discussion. This is the farmer's organ; if they do not use its columns, it is their own fault. We wish farmers to realize that their's is the calling *par excellence*, that their interests are the chief and of greatest national importance. If they will, and we wish to encourage them to do so, they can control the country and shape her destinies. It seems a hard task to get farmers to realize and act upon these great truths.

#### Advanced Agriculture and the Connection of Sheep Therewith.

[Prepared for last meeting of Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association by Richard Gibson.]

On this continent we know but little of the difficulties experienced by the farmers of the Old World. Here we have a virgin soil, and in many localities we have not yet been compelled to study how to renovate worn-out, or bring into successful cultivation naturally barren soils; and as long as we have that "Mecca" for the restless and dissatisfied, the Northwest, to resort to, so long shall we put off the time, as it is cheaper to "pull up stakes" and move West than to endeavor to do the best we can with what we have, if naturally poor. But I don't think it would be time unprofitably spent to look abroad at what has been done, and see if there are no lessons that may be utilized in some portions of our province from the examples set forth.

In England many thousands of acres of wild and barren wastes, like Lincoln Heath, which formerly was a huge rabbit warren and a home for vermin—so desolate and solitary was it that a column was erected and lighted up at night to guide any belated traveller—this heath land was let for 2s. 6d. per acre, or a couple of rabbits a year.

Where the column stood at Dunstan Pillar is now one of the best cultivated and most noted farms in Britain; from under its shadow Royal winners innumerable have been bred and fed, and the name of Cartwright is known in every British colony.

Again, on the Wolds, those high table-lands running east and west across the County of Lincoln, are farms which formerly rented for five shillings (English) an acre, and now for \$7.00 to \$10.00.

Then take the County of Norfolk, the eastern portion of which is probably the poorest, naturally, of any part of England, having been nothing but a pure white, blow-away sand, piled up in little mounds. Those who have traveled between Detroit and Chicago by the Michigan Central Railway will remember Michigan city, which nearly resembles that portion of Norfolk of which I am speaking, and where now we find large farms well tilled, and as prosperous a class of farmers as any in Britain.

I need not go to the counties in the South of England to illustrate my point, but would merely remark that I know of farms of from 1,000 to 2,000 acres that have not over from five to ten acres of permanent pasture immediately surrounding the dwelling, and on which only sufficient cows are kept to supply the family with milk and butter.

The question naturally will be asked, How to farm 1,000 acres successfully without cattle? The practical answer, as exhibited on the sheep farms of Britain, would be, Grow green crops and feed them off with sheep.

Let us look at the means adopted, not to keep up a naturally fertile soil, but to reclaim and bring into cultivation the waste places of the earth; and a word here of encouragement may not be thrown away, if we enquire, in passing, Who accomplished this work, and to whom are we indebted for this object lesson? Was it some rich landed proprietor? Or perhaps a syndicate of wealthy capitalists? Or a well-endowed agricultural college? No; it was wrought out by the tenant farmer, who, having obtained leases and a liberal tenant right, was content to risk his capital in the venture; and when I say on these same farms are to be found the wealthiest farmers in England, that it is on these farms the English maling barley is grown in its greatest perfection, and that it can only be grown on sheep farms successfully has been so often demonstrated that any conversant with the question would not try to make one believe it can be grown elsewhere as successfully.

The means at first adopted were large applications of artificial manures, generally bone dust, then by encouraging the growth of clover and other green crops, followed by turnips, all eaten on the land by sheep, so that by the constant treading the soil became consolidated sufficiently, and by the return of all green crops it became rich enough to grow grain. Though these soils are now rich in plant food, they could not be kept up without sheep, and to-day without them they must go out of cultivation.

The rotation was the ordinary four-course—quarter roots, quarter barley, quarter clover, quarter wheat—the roots and clover consumed by sheep. Can we not apply this lesson to advantage in some portions of our Dominion? What the tenant farmers in parts of England have done, might not in a modified way the landowners of Canada do? While I would say that it is not absolutely necessary to keep sheep on every farm, I do say there are but very few on which they cannot be kept to advantage. There are vast tracts in the eastern part of this province where I am satisfied they could be kept very successfully, and with profit to the farmer and to the benefit of the farm. While the soil is thin, it is not like the white sand hills of Norfolk; while it may be covered with scrub brush, it is naturally richer than the Lincoln Heath, which only produced furze or gorse and heather. No lighthouses are required to direct travellers. I have not entered into the subject minutely, but sufficient has been said to draw attention to the matter, and if the hints presented should induce one to try the experiment, I trust it will be intelligently carried out; and so sanguine am I of the result, that I feel sure the experimenter will not regret the venture, and that he will agree with the philosopher of old, who declared that "Sheep have a Golden Hoof."

#### The Cattle Trade.

##### AN ABRIDGED REPORT.

Ald. Frankland, of Toronto, made a racy speech, which was interspersed with much laughter. His idea, he said, in the inception of the export trade, was to benefit the farmers of Canada and supply cheap animal food to the workmen of Lancashire and Yorkshire, in England, where he was born, and where he had no meat but liver to eat in his boyhood days. Now there were cheaper animal foods there than in any part of the world. He paid a high tribute to Secretary Wade in connection with the A. and A. Association. He believed that this show was doing far more good for agriculture than the Toronto Show, with all its circuses and dancing—the two things did not mix. He spoke entertainingly of the early days of the cattle export trade, when he had purchased ten head of cattle from Mr. J. S. Armstrong, father of the sweepstakes winner of this year, paying nearly \$2,000 for them, and, with other cattle and a lot of sheep, had taken them across the Atlantic at his own risk, because the insurance was prohibitory. After arriving in Britain, with a banner and a band these Canadian cattle were marched to their destination in Liverpool, and though the returns were not high, still the English people saw what Canada could do. He advised the closer drawing of commercial relations with the Mother Land; in Britain and Europe was the place to get up their reputation, not over the line, before whom they would not stultify themselves, and where they could not get reciprocity on honest and fair conditions. He characterized the cattle scheduling as a dirty, cowardly trick, the act of a man, Gardner, who knew as little about agriculture as the new incumbent at Ottawa. The Canadian cattle get fifty per cent. more care than the American cattle. On the ranches they do not care; if they had forty per cent. die, they could make enough on the sixty per cent. to pay them. The wanton destruction of animal life there was awful, there is nothing like it in Ontario, and little in the Northwest. He asked from Mr. Dryden the assistance of the Ontario Government, to press upon the Dominion Government, if the order for scheduling is not cancelled, the necessity of preparing slaughter houses, etc., for the Canadian cattle, distinct from those used by the Americans, which were fully occupied. He thought that Canadians were entitled to more favored conditions than the others. From February to August 60,000 cattle were purchased for export in Ontario, and \$4,500,000 paid to the farmers. It can be seen what it means if the trade with England ceases. A cattle beast of 1,400, of high quality, early matured, to dress 800 pounds, would sell in competition with any cattle on earth. He drew a comparison between the past and present, to show the progress of Canada; she lived well. The export trade would go on. The Americans could ship their cattle, but the pluck and determination of Canada would cause her to more than hold her own.

#### Enquiries re Shropshire Sheep.

A subscriber from Cartwright, Man., sends in the following enquiry, which we submitted to Mr. Wm. Wallace, Niverville, Man., to answer:

"Would you be good enough to give a general description of the Shropshire Sheep? If it is a suitable breed for this country? If a prolific sheep, and if the wool is of more value than the Leicester. Also please inform me what you would consider a fair bargain in taking sheep on shares for say a three years' term?"

The Shropshire is a medium woolled sheep, with dark brown face and legs; a thick, compact, well-shaped body, set on short legs; head and legs well covered with wool. It comes early to maturity, and at any age its weight compares favorably with other breeds. The mutton is more highly esteemed than that of the Leicester or Cotswold, the fat and lean being well mixed. The wool is shorter, finer, and with a closer habit of growth than that of the other two breeds, and it is worth two or three cents more per pound. The Shropshire is very prolific, and the ewes are good mothers. This breed is well adapted for Manitoba, either pure or for crossing.

We have not heard of sheep being rented in Manitoba on shares, but know of cases over the boundary in North Dakota where this has been done; the farmer getting one-half of the wool, and on -half of the increase.

We take the following clippings from the Breeders' Gazette, which shows that choice beef is still in demand at paying figures:—

"One of the largest droves of choice beeves ever received here was brought in on Wednesday last, by J. Evans, from his Emerson, Ia., farm. There were seventeen car loads, and every animal was about as near perfection as they make them. They were Polled-Angus, averaged 1,400 lbs., and brought \$6. Mr. Evans has about 1,000 head of young cattle on his Emerson farm, 400 of which are pure-breds." "Among the very prime Shorthorn cattle here recently were seventy-two head belonging to J. D. Waters, of Mechanicsburg, Ill. They were two-year-olds, averaged 1,508 lbs., and sold at \$6.10." "Another bunch of thirty-eight head of Angus cattle, from Missouri, that averaged in Chicago 1,816 lbs., were good enough to fetch \$7 per 100 lbs., and were pronounced the choicest cattle for the number ever marketed in Chicago."