

**Agricultural Elections.**

The annual elections of officers of the agricultural societies will soon be here again. We should look about us and see if everything has been going right with the society in which we are most interested. There are always some improvements that could be suggested. Perhaps they might be carried out; if not at the present time, it is well to look ahead. Introduce the ideas and have them discussed. Every friend to agriculture will encourage discussion. It is well to go to the foundation of past events and see what has succeeded and what has failed. It does much good to all to hold discussions on such subjects, and the annual meetings should be patronized to encourage them. Long, tedious and dry addresses should be cut short; a limited time should be given to each. As considerable party feeling often exists, care should be taken to give each party an equal chance. Not that politics ought to interfere, but it is to be regretted that in some localities the very best men have often been rejected for party causes. When such has happened, it has invariably acted injuriously on the societies and sometimes ruined them.

In selecting men or listening to those who seek for office, or are aiding others to obtain an office, a very good way to judge of their fitness is to ascertain how many agricultural papers they take. Those who take the most are apt to be most correct in their conclusions; those who take none are more apt to be in error in their views, because if they do not expend a little of their money in obtaining information about their own business, they are not apt to be liberal or successful as directors of your exhibitions.

In some places they have farmers' clubs, and devote an afternoon once a month. Surely you can devote a full afternoon once a year. In some places a dinner or supper is arranged, and a long, pleasant and enlightening evening is often spent and much good is done in this way. A trifle expended in this manner is often well and profitably expended.

A question you should decide on is whether Townships Exhibitions should be sustained or abolished. A very real influence has been at work with the intent of abolishing them and throwing all the funds into a County or united County Exhibition. You should enquire of the candidates for office in what way they will vote in this matter. In some localities it might act advantageously, but in the majority it is our opinion it would be injurious to abolish them. We look on them as on the Section school-house; they are the farmers' school. When the cities and towns get the control the exhibitions are too often conducted more for the interest and profit of a few manipulators in the cities and towns than for the farmers. You can easily see that is the case by the two-week exhibitions. Tavern and other influences brought that about, because farmers must expend more money in two weeks than in one. Real, live farmers would not consent to attempt the two-week exhibition of live stock as the Provincial Board did this year. The power is now almost entirely taken out of your hands to elect members to the Board of Agriculture, but you may use a little influence by enquiring who your officers will support. It would be well to have the names out early of parties who would be the best to represent your interest. Do not think of electing men because they have already been appointed to some office. Select good, practical, intelligent farmers who hold no other office. There are plenty of good, suitable young men. There is one thing you may be pretty safe in saying, that is, that they cannot do worse than the old members have done.

**Stock Sale.**

Perhaps the most important auction sale of really choice breeding stock that has taken place this year in Canada, was the joint sale of Messrs. Beattie, Holderness and Miller. This sale took place in Markham, Ont., on the 3rd day of October. The stock sold consisted of a very choice lot of imported Clydesdale mares and stallions. On the whole we never have seen so many really choice Clydesdales before offered for sale; a very superior blood stallion was also offered. Pure imported Jerseys, imported Shropshires, a lot of good imported Oxford and some good Cotswold sheep comprised the stock.

The sale was but poorly attended by purchasers. Perhaps the inconvenience of railroad communication may have debarred some, as these branch lines do not run often and are rather more expensive than main lines. For instance, to attend a sale at such a place it must take the greater portion of three days for passengers to go and return from Guelph, Brant or other stock centres in the west. The sale was conducted in a very honorable manner. There were no puffers or by-bidders, as we have too often seen. Everything set up was either sold or honorably withdrawn. The prices ruled low considering the choice quality of the stock, as really choice stock of this kind is dear in England or in Jersey. In saying the stock sold low, this was the opinion of all the really good judges of stock we spoke to. Most farmers would look with astonishment to see a sucking Clyde colt sell at \$350, that being the price, and it was considered well worth the money. But what would astonish you more would be to see a little, tiny Jersey heifer, such as no common farmer would think of giving \$10 for, judging from the size or symmetry of the animal, knocked down at \$200 and \$300. One young cow brought \$400; at a common farmer's sale she would not have brought \$15. Yet at these prices they were considered cheap, and we believe they were cheap, considering what they cost and the prices they sell for in the States. When in Toronto the day after the sale, and conversing about it, we said such an animal brought \$1.50 per lb. live weight. A gentleman that had seen the beast, said he would give \$2.50 per lb. for her. Surely some people must be making money to sell horned cattle at \$2.50 per lb. live weight; but such is the demand that fashion has set on animals, that the wealthy ladies and gentlemen in the States who can afford to keep a villa residence, now prefer the Jerseys for two reasons. One is because their fawn color and fine canary-like legs more resemble the deer than any other of the bovine race; secondly, their butter is of the finest color and quality, and as to the cream, some claim that they can take the cream off a pan of milk, throw it over their arm, and leave no grease mark on the dress; and further that you will not find dead mice in the milk pan, as in other kinds of milk, the cream being so thick that a mouse will not drop through it. We have not kept Jerseys, and therefore will not vouch for all we hear, but that they have the name, command the prices and are dearer now than ever before, we firmly believe. And further, as long as such is the opinion and such the prosperity of the Americans, the best will be in increasing demand, and the demand for good Jerseys is now so much in excess of the supply, that although high prices are now being paid, the prospects are that they are more likely to increase for the next ten or twenty years than decrease.

**Ayrshires.**

Many years ago Mr. W. Crawford, of Malvern, purchased a one-year old Ayrshire heifer from the late Col. R. L. Denison, for which he paid \$50. He only keeps a small herd, but he says from three Ayrshire cows he made and sold this summer 40 lbs. of butter per week for several weeks in succession, and this besides supplying his house with milk and butter. He has sold a great many head, some bringing him from \$75 to \$100 per head. Question—Does it pay to give \$50 for a good Ayrshire heifer?

**From the United States.**

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Washington, D. C., Nov. 17, 1881.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the past year, which is yet in the hands of the Government printer and will not be out of press for several months yet, devotes a large space to the culture of sorghum and the manufacture of sugar. Not less than seventy pages are taken up by the Chemist alone in his tables of the analysis of the juices of sorghum cane and corn stalks, in which is given the percentage of glucose, sucrose, etc., etc., and the condition of each at different stages, the period of maturity and the length of time each will remain in condition to work into sugar after maturing. From this great volume of tables, and these extended experiments, the following conclusions are drawn, which are sufficient for all practical purposes to farmers who are not scientists. Those varieties which mature quickest, and also have a long working period, are the ones especially adapted for cultivation in more northern latitudes. Judged by this rule, says the Chemist, the following are best suited to a northern climate where the season is short: Early Amber, Early Golden, Golden Syrup, White Liberian, Black-top Sorghum and African Sorghum.

Among the essential points worthy of consideration are the following:

1. Select a cane that matures quickly, and has as long a working period as possible.
2. Do not work the cane too early; the seed should be well matured and quite hard, and the juice should have a specific gravity of 1.066 or higher.
3. After cutting the canes, work them up without great delay. It is best to draw directly from the field to the mill as may be needed.

His concluding suggestions concerning the utilization of waste products in sugar-making are as follows: "The baggasse (crushed stalks after expressing the juice) is a valuable fodder, being sweeter than ordinary grasses, and sufficiently nutritious. A good article of paper pulp has been made from this baggasse by the usual methods employed by paper makers. The leaves, which are removed in stripping the stalk, make excellent green fodder, and the seeds furnish good food for farm animals."

The Chemist has made an analysis of a "Farm Stock Powder," advertised as being beneficial in Pleuro-pneumonia and other diseases. While he does not express any opinion as to its merits, he gives the result of his analysis in the following recipe for the benefit of those who prefer to purchase the ingredients for a few cents, rather than give a dollar for the advertised article:

Common salt	6 parts.
Sulphur	4 parts.
Spent cloves	4 parts.
Ammonium carbonate	1 part.
Wood charcoal	1 part.

The Commissioner, in his report upon grasses, says: "It is apparent that the time of bloom or thereabout is the fittest for cutting grasses in order to obtain the most nourishment and the largest relatively profitable crop, and for the following reasons: The amount of water in the grass has diminished, and the shrinkage will therefore be less. The weight of the crop cut will be largest in proportion to the nutritive value of the constituents. The amount of nitrogen not present as albuminoids will be at its lowest point; fibre will not be so excessive as to prevent digestion, and the nutritive ratio will be more advantageous. If cut earlier the shrinkage is larger, although the fibre is less and albumen a little larger. The hay may be more palatable, but the total nutrients to