

EDITORIAL.

Do not put off preparations for winter till the snow flies.

A proposal is made in Ireland to establish a "dead meat" trade with England.

The farmer and his wife require a vacation just as much as the school teacher or the merchant.

It is of interest to note that 36 of the leading district and county fairs of Wisconsin have utilized the services of students who had taken the short course at the State School of Agriculture to judge all classes of stock on exhibition.

The Chamber of Agriculture journal, of London, Eng., states that advices from India, Australia, and the Argentine, as well as certain parts of Russia, report short supplies of grain, and therefore counsels farmers to hold their wheat in order to take full advantage of the prospective recovery in prices.

Our readers are well aware of the active personal interest taken in pure-bred live stock rearing by the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The former is also very successful as a fruit grower. At the fortnightly show of the Royal Horticultural Society, in Westminster lately, she was awarded the silver gilt medal for over 50 dishes of fruit from the Royal Gardens at Frogmore, including 10 of nectarines, 19 of peaches, and 23 of plums of different varieties.

"Pleuro-pneumonia in Canada" was the great bugbear raised during the agitation in Britain for the embargo on Canadian cattle. That it was a fictitious cry made but little difference. It now seems, however, that the Old Country is not yet free from this disorder. A leading agricultural journal in Scotland reports that a number of cattle belonging to the stock of Mr. David McGibbon, Ardnacraig, chamberlain to the Duke of Argyll at Campbelltown, have been found affected with this disease. The animals were all young, having been brought from Ireland about a year ago, and were grazing on the meadows in close proximity to Campbelltown.

Finish the Stock on the Farm.

Our special report from Montreal, published elsewhere, shows how that market has lately been overrun with half-finished heaves—not fat enough to be called really good butchers' cattle. The legitimate outlet for them would be the British market, but for which, without a couple of months' feeding, they were not fit. It is most unfortunate if their owners found it necessary to sacrifice excellent feeding stock in this way, especially during a season when, in most sections, feed is much more plentiful than a year ago. Why should not our winter export trade in fat stock (sheep as well as cattle) be developed more than it has been, now that the privilege of shipping has been extended to the port of Boston, Mass., as well as Portland, Me., and St. John, N. B.? Will it not be better to spread our trade over the year, rather than crowding everything forward in the summer months, causing glutted markets? Some still entertain the hope that the embargo may be raised, so that Canadian stockers can again have access to the British markets, but we see little to warrant that view. Ample accommodation of excellent character is now provided at the ports of landing in Britain for the care and feeding of heaves till slaughtered. Some of our readers who last spring did not receive what they considered a fair offer from dealers took their stall-fed cattle across themselves and were well satisfied with their experience and the extra amount obtained. It would therefore seem that trade has settled into a fairly satisfactory condition under present arrangements, and we should make the best of it by planning to do more feeding on the Canadian farm. What is wanted is not great quantities, but quality, quality, QUALITY!

Saving the Root Crop.

It is just as important to save a crop properly as to raise it. The man who knows how to grow a good crop of turnips or other field roots usually has a good plan of harvesting them. The ADVOCATE presents as one seasonable and practical feature of this issue the experience of several of our best root-growers, who have written us on the subject. In many places the work will be done earlier than usual this season.

Keewaydin.

The photo-engraving which occupies our front page this issue is a fair representation of that well-known Standard-bred stallion, Keewaydin, and two of his get, the property of Mr. William Lindsay, Wemyss Park Farm, Stonewall, Man. As noted in our report of the Winnipeg Industrial, this horse has proved himself a valuable stockgetter, and his progeny were well to the fore in many rings. In our limited space we are unable to publish all the details that go to make up the complete pedigree of a Standard-bred of high breeding, but briefly he may be described as follows:—

Keewaydin, registered No. 14491 (record at four years old, 2.28½), is a brown horse, foaled in 1889. He was bred by C. F. Emery, at Forest City Farm, Cleveland, Ohio, and was imported "in utero" into Manitoba by Messrs. Paulen & Chambers, of Winnipeg, from whom he was purchased by his present owner as a fifteen months' old colt. Of his breeding it is impossible to speak too highly on his sire's side. He is not only fashionably, but well bred. His sire is Brown Wilkes, No. 2040, record 2.21½, and sire of a great many standard performers; son of George Wilkes, the greatest of all trotting horse progenitors. Brown Wilkes' dam is by Henry B. Patchen, a son of the famous George M. Patchen 30, the only horse of his day who could successfully compete with the great and speedy Goldsmith Maid.

On the dam's side Keewaydin is equally well bred, his dam, Idlewild, being a daughter of Nugget, No. 1398, record 2.26½. Idlewild, besides being the dam of Keewaydin, 2.28½, is also the dam of Pilotena, who produced to the cover of Sphinx the horse Altoneer, who at two years old trotted to a race record of 2.24½. Nugget, in blood lines, is also especially strong through the very best representatives of the blood of Hambletonian, Pilot Jr., and Mambrino Chief. The sire of Nugget is Wedgewood, No. 692, record 2.19, who made an enviable reputation as a turf performer. On the dam's side Nugget is no less ably represented, his dam being that famous brood mare Minerva, daughter of Pilot Jr. (sire of the dams of Maud S., 2.08½, and Jay-Eye-See, 2.06). Minerva, besides Nugget, is also the dam of Meander, sire of Pamlico, 2.10, and Egmont, sire of Lobasco, 2.10½. The dam of Idlewild is Lulu K., public trial 2.22, by Blue Bull 75, the sire of sixty-four standard performers.

It is impossible in a small space to give but the bare outlines of Keewaydin's blood lines, and consequently many of the most salient points have to be left out. But to a student of pedigrees a perusal of the extended pedigree on the lines as given would disclose the great speed-producing and richness of the blood to which Keewaydin traces.

As an individual and a stock horse Keewaydin is all that could be desired: a rich seal-brown in color, standing 15½ hands high and weighing 1,300 lbs. He has plenty of clean, hard bone, and lots of substance, and is smoothly finished; has very fine action, and is a very impressive horse in harness, and of gentle disposition. His good qualities he imparts in a marked degree to his colts. Such a horse, when mated with farm mares, will produce a good, handsome, and useful animal, suitable for almost any work, and active enough to be good drivers; and mated with roadster mares, the produce will be handsome, stylish horses. Keewaydin has been exhibited at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition three times, winning first prize in his class in 1894, defeating such good ones as Sharper, 2.19, and Bourbonnais (winner at Toronto). In 1895 he again defeated Sharper and Wildmont for first place, and also carried off the gold medal, a sweepstakes for the best horse in the ring, defeating in this class Knight of the Vale. This year he again, for the third time, captured first place, and only failed on account of the youth of his colts to obtain the herd prize, though his herd went into the ring with three red and three blue tickets.

Rockwood Prince, registered No. 28806, a bay colt, foaled 1896; sire, Keewaydin. His dam is Una Young, record 2.29½, by Gen. Stanton, son of Hambletonian; obtained second prize at the Industrial Exhibition, 1896. This is a very handsome and smoothly-turned colt, and as both his sire and dam are standard, both by breeding and performance, he should be both speedy himself and a producer of speed.

Stonewall Maid, bay filly, foaled 1895; sire, Keewaydin; first dam, No-Ne, record 2.41½; by Plumstone 3269, a son of Harry Plummer, by Harry Clay 45, and her dam is by Freeman, son of Woodford Abdallah, by Woodford Mambrino. No-Ne is one of a lot of richly-bred mares imported from Kentucky, and many good colts from them can be seen in the pastures at the farm. Stonewall Maid won first prize at last year's exhibition as a suckling, and again this year as a yearling.

Swine Fever in Britain.

The efforts of the British Board of Agriculture up to this time to cope with swine fever have been an admitted failure, though they have cost the country no less a sum than £165,000. The trouble appears to lie partly in the inherent difficulties of the undertaking and partly in the inefficient way in which the means available were applied. The British National Veterinary Association, after a thoroughgoing discussion of the subject, approves of the use of four weapons by the Board of Agriculture, viz., slaughter, isolation, disinfection, and restriction (to infected areas), and the Board must go about it as though they meant to succeed, which Mr. Clement Stevenson roundly asserted they had not done in the past.

The Western Fair.

It is gratifying to observe that this old exhibition, established in 1838, still presents its outstanding feature as an agricultural show, though, in common with other big Canadian fairs, a good deal of attention is paid to grand stand entertainment. A year ago we entered a vigorous protest against the character of the accommodations for live stock, and, as our readers are aware, the Association, together with the generous aid of the City, furnished an entirely new set of commodious buildings for horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. The first named were more than sufficient for the exhibit, but a herd or two of cattle were crowded out of their department, several flocks of sheep ditto, while some 50 or 60 extra pens for swine had to be hastily erected at the last moment. Exhibitors should take the hint, and hereafter make their entries in good time. Before next show the Association will require to put up a new building entirely for swine, and we would suggest that it be distinct from the quarters for sheep and cattle, all being under one roof at present. Quarters rather more convenient for getting swine in and out for judging, etc., can doubtless be devised. Judging from the immense display of agricultural machinery, additional accommodation will also be needed for that department. The new building is a vast improvement over the old one for the comfort both of exhibitors and visitors, and is located directly opposite the main portion of the grounds. It certainly speaks well for the progress of the show, and for Western Ontario live stock interests, when already additional room for another year is necessary. The Association is desirous of meeting the wishes of the live stock exhibitors, and are open for any practicable suggestions in the direction of improvement. We understand that very material increases in the live stock prize list may be looked for next year, the heavy outlay for new buildings this season precluding the former during 1896. It is gratifying to record that the show of 1896 (from Sept. 10 to Sept. 19) was, as predicted, a complete success—in the number and quality of exhibits in nearly every department, in the attendance, and financially, the Board having on hand a very comfortable cash surplus for the operations of 1897. The Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen visited the exhibition, and received an enthusiastic reception.

HORSES.

The exhibit of horses at the Western Fair for the last three years has been such a disappointing one in most of the classes that it is with pleasure we are able to record a considerable improvement in quality, and especially in numbers, this year. There is still, however, a good deal of leeway to be made up before the exhibit of horses can be called a good representative one. It is strange that in a fine section such as that which surrounds London, where there are so many facilities for horse-breeding, a better class of horses is not produced. The stabling at the show, too, is now ample for that department.

CARRIAGE HORSES.

Carriage horses come first on the list here. There were two judges in this class. G. Charlton, Duncrief, judged the females and younger stallions shown on the line, while J. S. Coppin, Mitchell, judged those shown in harness; both judges acting together, however, on the pairs and sweepstakes. Aged stallions were five in number and were shown in harness. Here J. B. McCartney, Thamesford, had an outstanding winner in his German Coacher, Graf Bremer, a winner at previous shows, which also won the diploma for stallions. Next to him came David Carrol's (Ealing) Mambrino Hatchet, a black which won 1st and the diploma here last year; with Wm. Golding, of Birr, in 3rd place. There were no three-year-old or two-year-old stallions, and only one yearling. G. W. Kennedy, Ilderton, and H. W. Guest, Ballymote, were 1st and 2nd with two good brood mares. There was a nice class of two-year-old geldings and fillies, where P. Farrell, Woodstock, showed his 1st prize Toronto winner,