

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXIV. LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., AUGUST 15, 1899. No. 484

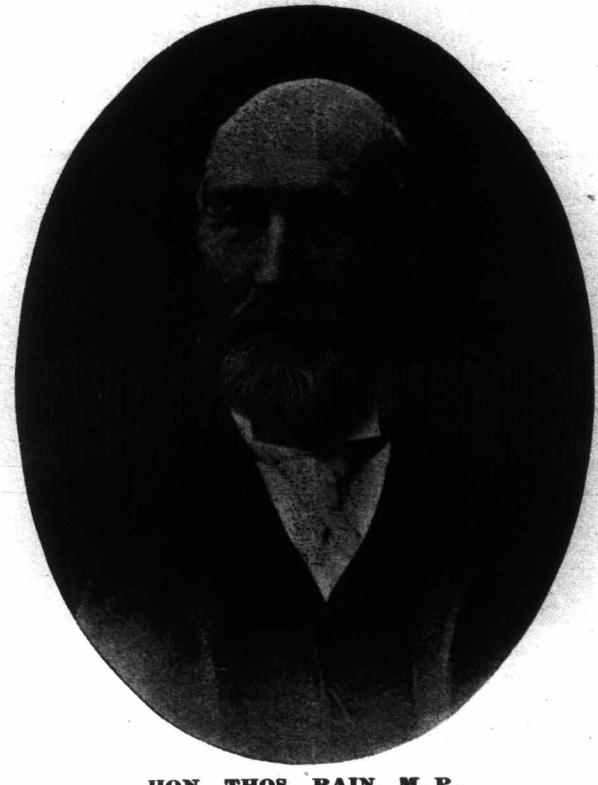
EDITORIAL.

Dominion Agricultural Appropriations.

A perusal of the official Hansard report of the discussion on the agricultural appropriations before the House of Commons at Ottawa indicates that a majority of the members were disposed to sit down quite vigorously upon Prof. Robertson's plan for "illustration stations," as they are called. An item of \$20,000 was included originally for this purpose, but the opposition from both parties in the House was so decided that it was dropped altogether. The expected benefits to be derived were thought to be visionary, but in the main the scheme (which as originally suggested proposed a station for every county) was deemed unnecessary; and, as we pointed out when first announced, a year or more ago, doubtless could not be carried on for the outlay contemplated. It would prove, Mr. Gilmour, M. P., pointed out, a very costly way of imparting information, the natural and inexpensive vehicle for which is the agricultural press. In most localities there are farms conducted after a model fashion which are already an illustration of good farming to the neighborhood, and it is just a question if their present advantage as object lessons to the neighbors would not be reduced if they were made state-aided affairs, supervised in part by travelling Government inspectors. To a considerable extent they would do experimental work, and for this purpose we already have established, and carry on at considerable expense, the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, serving for Ontario and Quebec, besides four large branch farms for the other Provinces, covering 3,200 acres all told. Besides these, Ontario has the College Experimental Farm at Guelph, and Nova Scotia the School of Agriculture Farm at Truro. Now, we submit, in all reasonableness, the present experimental farms should suffice for a host of additional practical experiments and demonstrations. If not, we should like to know the reason why? It is not at all necessary to establish an illustration station or two to feed a bunch of hogs on clover or other foods to determine the cause of soft pork, or to fatten a flock of chickens for the English market. This can be done just as well at Ottawa as anywhere else. It is quite true, as the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has repeatedly pointed out, that live-stock husbandry has been lamentably neglected at these institutions, compared with other branches of work, but an agriculturist and live-stock experimentalist, Mr. Grisdale, was some time ago appointed for the Ottawa farm, and we believe that Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, is determined to develop this branch of the experimental farm service. Fresh stock is being quietly secured to replace those killed off on account of tuberculosis, and we notice he told the House that a number of sheep are being added to the stock at the Central Farm, for the first time in its history.

While no money was voted for the Illustration Stations, an additional \$10,000 was appropriated for the work of the Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, Prof. Robertson, of which probably about \$5,000 is designed by the Minister for work in connection with live stock, such as spreading information, by lecturing, etc., regarding the use of improved pure-bred stock, methods of breeding, feeding and marketing. The complaint has frequently been made, by those specially interested in the beef breeds, that these had been almost totally ignored, while the Dominion Dairy Department was doing everything to promote dairying, and incidentally the dairy breeds of cattle. Certainly dairying has had, and is still having, its innings; hence it has been asked, why should not Prof. Robertson devote his energies to the beef interests, though it cannot be said that, even as it is, they are at present in a languishing condition. Thoroughbred animals of all classes, in fact, are in great demand, and as Hon.

Mr. Fisher himself stated to the House when debating this matter, we are now constantly importing them from abroad. The Minister intimated that a portion of the \$5,000 might be used as salary for an assistant to Prof. Robertson. Our Ottawa correspondence, published in another column, deals with this subject. The estimates also provide \$80,000, or an increase of \$5,000, for the Experimental Farms. It is sometimes said that no one should question the agricultural estimates, as that department spends little, compared with others, and that "the money will go anyhow." We do not subscribe to this doctrine, nor do we think it will commend itself to the intelligence of Canadian farmers. If funds are required for legitimate and necessary purposes, let there be ample provision, but no waste, in the Agricultural or any other department, no needless expenditures.



HON. THOS. BAIN, M. P.,
Newly-chosen Speaker of the Canadian Parliament.

An Object Lesson from a Farmer's Life.

The recent advancement of a lifelong farmer to the highest position in the gift of the Canadian Parliament is an object lesson to every young farmer and farmer's son in the Dominion. It discloses the possibilities that are within reach of any worthy young man in this truly democratic country, and proves that no youth need leave the ranks of agriculture to find the path to eminence in public life, if his ambitions run in that direction. A few days ago, Mr. Thos. Bain, M. P. (now Hon.), was the unanimous choice of the House of Commons for the position of Speaker, left vacant by the death of that distinguished parliamentarian and literary man, Sir J. D. Edgar. The leader of the Government, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in proposing Mr. Bain for this responsible office, pronounced a eulogium upon his character, his attainments, his special qualifications for the office, and his experience that would have been "elevating" to a less modest man, particularly when that old statesman, Sir Charles Tupper, in approving the choice, said he desired heartily to endorse every word the Premier had uttered. On both sides of the House the selection was received in the most kindly manner. Truly we may say in these days, as the old song puts it, that "the farmer is the man." The son of a Scotch Presbyterian farmer (Walter Bain, of Stirlingshire), Hon. Mr. Bain has followed farming as his business all his life, and never lived anywhere else till about twelve years ago, when he

retired to the town of Dundas, Wentworth Co., Ont., within two miles of his old home farm he had lived on from 1837 to 1854, his later farm being in the same township (West Flamboro), but a few miles further off. He was but three years old when he came with his father to this country, so that he encountered nearly all the circumstances of the pioneer farmer's life. From early years he was an omnivorous reader of good books, acquiring a sound education and a ready command of pure and forceful English. The father served as a municipal councillor, and the son followed in his footsteps, finally becoming Warden of Wentworth County, entering Parliament in 1872. There his gifts naturally brought him to the front. He was identified with the Agricultural Committee since 1873, and Chairman of it since 1896. Its labors for the session just closed were practically concluded when Mr. Bain was chosen Speaker, so that his final report was handed over to Mr. John McMillan, M. P., to present to the House. A prudent but progressive statesman, his practical knowledge of farming has been of very great service upon that committee to the agricultural interests of the Dominion. A man of capacity and resource, with reserve power, self-possessed and impartial, his face, as shown in the engraving which graces the place of honor on this page, discloses the frank and genial gentleman that he is. It affords the FARMER'S ADVOCATE much pleasure to extend, on behalf of our farmers and stockmen, hearty congratulations to Mr. Bain upon his well-deserved advancement.

The 1899 Exhibitions.

The leading agricultural and industrial exhibitions this year promise to excel the splendid records of former years. The Toronto Industrial, as usual, leads the van in Central and Eastern Canada, claiming the dates Aug. 28th to Sept. 9th, and all indications point to a record event. The buildings on their beautiful fair grounds on the lake shore have been enlarged and improved, and are now unequalled on the continent. Their prize list is unsurpassed in the variety of its classification and the liberality of the prizes offered. The live stock department will be of greater interest than ever before, large special prizes having been added to the list in many classes. The stock buildings and showring accommodations have been made more complete than heretofore, and the arrangements for public comfort have been improved and extended in order to meet the necessities of the ever-increasing crowds of people who from year to year congregate at this great holiday event. Some of the best trials of trotting and pacing will take place on the last three days of August—the first week of the show. The judging of all the dairy breeds of cattle, and Thoroughbred and roadster horses, will commence on Friday morning, Sept. 1st. Grade and fat cattle, and Standard-bred trotters and dog-cart and cob horses and ponies, will be judged on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, and some of the best running races will also come off on that day. On Monday, Sept. 4th, all the beef breeds of cattle, and the Clydesdale and Shire horses, will come before the judges in the open rings designed for their examination for prizes. The Hackneys and harness horses will parade for prizes on the following days, and speeding in the ring will be continued each day.

The Western Fair at London will open on the 7th and close on the 16th Sept. This is one of the best managed and most successful exhibitions in America, and annually draws large masses of visitors from all over Western Canada and from many of the States. The live stock show at London is second to none, as the cream of the stock at the Toronto Exhibition goes on to the Western Fair, and is supplemented by a large contingent from the great stock-raising counties contiguous to the Forest City, and which is not