

is doing for agriculturists; in addition to all the new machinery used to save labor, they furnish employment for 450 hands in and out of the factory.

The Governor-General and our Agricultural Exhibitions.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, our Governor-General, is the Queen's representative in Canada. At the Provincial and Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa he expressed himself to the following effect: That he considered the name agricultural exhibitions was inappropriate; that he approved of the name of fairs; that fairs admitted amusements, and that he was in favor of giving the amusements. From his remarks it is plainly evident that he has been well posted in the opinions of the managers of our large exhibitions, and that he endorses the popular American plan which we are following.

Our readers are well aware that we have for years opposed the introduction of the race course or other extraneous attractions in connection with our agricultural interests at exhibitions. We cannot say that our opinions have changed or that our views have been adverse to the best interests of the farmer; but we must admit that our views do not accord with those that tend to dwarf the exertions of the plain farmer, or make him subservient to the more exciting attractions that can be introduced at agricultural exhibitions. Those that introduce the most amusements will most probably draw the largest concourse of people. The door is now apparently wide open for almost anything, and the people clamor for amusements. If there should be one or more receiving pay under the name of agricultural advancement who can devise any plan for the advancement of the agricultural interest in preference to amusements, or in what way they might be or should be separated, we should be pleased to afford a column to their views on the subject.

The Provincial Exhibition.

At a recent meeting of the Board of the Agricultural and Arts Association held in London, it was stated that the East Middlesex Agricultural Association had not been consulted in regard to the holding of the exhibition in London this year—that they did not want it here; but through the manipulation of citizens and some officials, the Exhibition is to be held here.

There is a growing feeling among the farmers that they have been ignored, and that this and some of the other large exhibitions are not being conducted mainly for the advancement of the agricultural interest, but are made subservient to other interests and other organizations, using the lever of agriculture only to further other objects. By this means it is considered that the honor of holding positions, and even the carrying off of prizes, is very materially reduced.

The City Council granted but very little pecuniary aid to the institution this year, as the old buildings are to be demolished and grounds disposed of after this Exhibition is over. It was suggested by one member of the Board of the Agricultural and Arts Association that no Exhibition be held this year. Another of the members moved and filed a

resolution to that effect. Despite these deplorable, and to some extent demoralizing effects, the location and prestige gained by the Western Fair association in former years should secure a large attendance; and no doubt it will be largely attended, as the Governor-General will visit it, and as he approves of making these exhibitions a time for all kinds of amusements, there may be some unusual attraction in the programme; probably greater exertions will be made to add to the interest of the race-course, or to get up military displays and other demonstrations, and a grand ball. There are times for all things, and perhaps some may consider that we have for years been laboring under a mistake in attempting to keep up the agricultural exhibitions solely for the advancement of farmers.

Cutting Timothy in the "Second Blossom."

Most farmers lay down the rule that timothy should be cut during the "second blossom." The assertion is about as correct as to say that the sun rises in the east; but as long as everybody knows that the sun does not rise at all, no charge of wilful falsehood can be laid against anybody. With regard to the "second blossom," however, most farmers regard it as a practical reality.

It will be observed that the yellow "blows" which are found on the heads of timothy are the stamens, and the powdery substance which fall off during bloom is the pollen. As the pollen ripens it falls out of the anthers, or small sacks, which contain it. When the anthers thus become empty, they turn purple, and remain attached to the head for some time after the pollen dust is discharged. New blossoms keep forming for about a week—longer when the weather is cool, and shorter when it is hot. Now, when the pollen falls out of a majority of the anthers, the blossoms then present a bluish appearance, and it is thought that this condition is a second blossoming. These facts prove that when it is said that hay should be cut in the "second blossom," the period is somewhat indefinite, and if cut at any time during this indefinite period, the cutting is too late.

Laborers vs. Machinery.

The enormous quantity of self-binders and hay tedders manufactured this season will tend to solve the expensive labor problem during haying and harvesting. The high wages of harvest hands have eaten up a large percentage of the profits of the crops. Farm laborers may regard this as detrimental to their interests, but it will be not really so in the end; for farmers will be in a position to engage hands by the year at more remunerative rates for the laborers, instead of spending most of their earnings in the harvest time. The farm work will be more evenly distributed throughout the year, and farmers will soon find it advantageous to spend more money on farm operations which have hitherto been too much neglected. If grain were the best paying crops raised on the farm there would be some sense in spending so much money in their preservation; but there are many other better paying operations which can be done in slack seasons,

Special Contributors.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

The "early maturity" idea only developed into a craze about two years ago; but it is raging now with undiminished vigor. It is only about one year ago when Col. Gillett, the great Illinois Shorthorn breeder and feeder, announced his intention of raising no more beeves to the age of three years. The Colonel had not taken the lead in this movement, but when he put himself on record as an advocate of baby beef, an immense impetus was thus given to the whole movement. Since then, nearly all feeders have been making a great effort to excel one another in getting young cattle to market.

Some man with a "head for figures" recently calculated that the population of meat-eaters was increasing in greater ratio than was the supply of meat-producing animals. This might have been true five years ago, when it was the fashion to keep the best beeves until at least four years old. But now that feeders can and do turn over their cattle at two to three years of age, they can handle a great many more in a given length of time. They use more bulls, do more breeding, and consequently more corn and other feed is converted into beef, and more beef is crowded upon the market. What effect will this have upon the stock business of, say, half a decade hence? It will surely result in a very much larger *per capita* production of meat animals. In that case, what is gained in one way will probably be lost in another by the early maturity idea.

However, the country can be better served by having a large production and small or fair prices, than to have scant production and "war prices." This, at least, is looking at the interests of the largest number of people.

In Western America, the stockmen are having a terrible time over their quarantine laws. All sorts of complications have arisen, and the channels of trade are being very seriously interfered with. The States of Kansas and Colorado have quarantined against Texas cattle on account of the so-called Texas or Spanish fever. In former years, vast herds of young Texas cattle have been driven north, and grazed along on the road to the north-western grazing fields. Now, the laws say that this channel shall be entirely cut off during the spring, summer and fall, the only months when it could be used. The effect is that the Texas raisers are somewhat demoralized.

It is popularly supposed that it is the coast cattle, and not those of the northern part of the State of Texas, that communicate the insidious fever to other cattle not native of the State. This has led the stockmen in the northern part of the State to declare that those in the Gulf counties shall not be allowed to drive their cattle north. Here is a State seriously divided against itself, and there is a great deal of trouble brewing. The lands upon which the southern men wish to drive are public, belonging to the State, and so long as that is the case it seems that the Governor will support those who are being shut off.

There are about 7,000,000 cattle in the State of Texas. I do not know how large is the