

held on this continent. It was feared by many that when the Provincial Exhibition had passed away the Industrial Association authorities would relax their efforts and reduce their prize list, but that there is no reason for such fears is clearly apparent from the large and valuable list of prizes offered for competition at the coming exhibition. The directors of the Industrial Association are determined that theirs shall be the greatest agricultural show of the Dominion, both in name and reality, and it is particularly gratifying to note that more than *three-fourths* of the prize money goes to the farming community through prizes for live stock, dairy, and agricultural products.

We shall briefly refer to a few of the special features of this year, feeling sure that everyone interested will not fail to drop a card to the manager, H. J. Hill, Toronto, for one of their very tastefully and neatly gotten up prize lists. Many additions have been made to the list since last year. In the horse department two extra prizes have been added for Hackney stallions, and the prizes for yearling fillies and geldings and foals of '90 have been increased in every class, and several special prizes are offered by the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada, the Queens' Hotel, Toronto, the Walker House, Toronto, John Holderness, Esq., of the Albion Hotel, and others. A new class has been added for high jumping tests for hunters to be exhibited each day of the fair, over two hundred dollars in prizes being offered.

In the cattle department \$500.00 has been added to the regular prizes in the various classes, and \$100.00 in special prizes is offered by the American Hereford Association, and \$100.00 by the American Holstein Association. The prize for the dairy test has been increased to the extent of \$50 by the Industrial Association, and the entrance to the competition is free. The rules governing this competition have been prepared by Professor Robertson, Dominion Commissioner, assisted by a committee from the various breeders' associations, and may be obtained by applying to the secretary of the exhibition. Two extra sections have also been added to the class of fat cattle.

Special prizes in addition to the regular list are offered in the sheep department by the English Shropshire Association, and the American Oxford Down Association, and a new class has been added for Farnham Horned Sheep. In the class for fat sheep the long woolled breeds have been separated from the short woolled, which adds two new sections. A new class has been added in the swine department for Improved Yorkshires.

The poultry department has received an addition of \$30.00 to the list, and special prizes are offered for races by Homing Pigeons, which is decidedly a new feature. A pigeon loft with about thirty pigeons owned by different parties has been formed on the Toronto exhibition grounds, and it is intended to have races by these pigeons during the exhibition.

The regular prizes in the dairy department have been largely augmented by a grant of \$100.00 from the Western Dairymen's Association, and \$75.00 by the Ontario Creameries Association, whilst the prizes for grain, and roots and horticultural exhibits have been added to considerably.

Large additions have been made to the fruit and floral hall, and in connection with the exhibition there will be held a grand International Dog Show.

All entries for his exhibition have to be made before the 16th of August, and we would impress upon our readers the importance and necessity of bearing this in mind, as many who were dilatory in sending in their entries last year in proper time were greatly disappointed when they had them returned by the secretary.

Toronto's Exhibition might be fittingly termed a World's Fair, for large exhibits will be shown from all countries of the world—from the West Indies, Spain, England, United States, Manitoba, British Columbia, and many other distant points, valuable and curious productions will be put on exhibition.

The Ontario Agricultural College.

As the reader will doubtless have noticed there is sketch of a group of imported Yorkshire pigs on the first page of this present issue. These we believe are the only animals which the College has imported during recent years, and we are pleased to see that the authorities there are again going to the fountain head in securing their supplies. It always did appear to us

to be a questionable policy on the part of the college to purchase stock at home, or, to put the matter in its true light, to play a part *second* to that of many of our own breeders. In all these matters an institution of this kind should be head and shoulders in advance of all the people.

There are several breeds of considerable popularity in Britain that have not yet been tried at all in this country. Why should not the College introduce these, and demonstrate their value in a manner such as can only be accomplished by an institution of this kind?

The work of the Experimental Farm is being pushed on at the present time with unusual vigor. There are several hundreds of grain plots this year again, and experiments both in the live stock and grain growing department are receiving a very large share of attention.

The roads around and through the farm are becoming rapidly improved, and the most persistent efforts are being made to remove all noxious weeds from the farm. An idea of the labor expended in this direction will be obtained when we mention that more than one hundred acres are in hoed crops the present season. Professor Shaw has announced his intention of cleaning the farm without the aid of the bare fallow. He has made the somewhat bold assertion that the same will be accomplished in three years, but judging by the progress that is already being made, it does not seem very improbable that his word in this respect will not be made good. If so, it should prove a valuable lesson to the farmers, more especially in view of the fact that his predecessor claimed that a farm could not be made clean without the aid of the bare fallow.

The live stock at the farm are doing very well indeed. The losses have been slight during the past winter, although now and then a lamb, and occasionally an old sheep, is found pining away from some cause not well defined, but which is probably induced by the nature of the vegetation in the low places which abound on the farm.

There is to be a sale, we are informed by the farm manager, which will probably be held about the first of October next. At this sale it is expected that a large lot of Improved Yorkshire and Berkshire pigs will be offered, along with lambs of various breeds and other young stock. It is also intended that grains and potatoes of several leading varieties will be disposed of at the same time, which will afford a splendid opportunity for farmers to obtain a start in these without going to much expense.

We never visit the Experimental Farm without coming away more and more impressed with the value of this institution as a means of educating farmers. When a young man is given the opportunity of listening to a couple of hundred lectures from each of a number of lecturers in the course of two years, all of which bear more or less directly on the subject of agriculture, and which furnish the best and the latest that is known regarding the great science of farming, and when he is taught practically improved modes of management, he is certainly making a most egregious blunder, if he looks upon such splendid opportunities with any degree of indifference.

The education thus provided for farmers' sons may be obtained at but small outlay. It will not cost a young man from the farm more than \$75.00 a year, providing he is willing to labor outside every second afternoon, and it will allow him to have three months of the best of the year, viz. the months of July, August, and September, to labor elsewhere. It is beyond all comprehension the cheapest education of a high order that can be obtained in Canada.

The college year commences in October, so that those intending to enter as students next year, should post themselves at once as to the requirements. This they can do at any time by sending for a College circular.

The work that such an institution can do and is doing, must prove of inestimable value to the farmers of this country, but it can only help those who profit by its presence. The most potent medicines in the world are of no service to those who will not use them.

From Wm. Hutcheon, Herdsman, Hillhurst, Que. "I now enclose my subscription for the JOURNAL for I would not be without it for anything. I have your holiday number to hand to-day and am highly pleased with it, some of my friends are eager to have one and if you would oblige me with 4 of this number, I think I would be able to send you two new subscribers."

The Adaptability of the Shorthorn.

Read by Prof. THOMAS SHAW, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., before the Dominion Shorthorn Association.

By the adaptability of the Shorthorn, I mean its power of accommodating itself to a variety of conditions, as food, climate, and surrounding circumstances.

This power of adaptation it possesses in a remarkable degree, as is evidenced in the fact that Shorthorns are in favor in almost every country of the world where the English language is spoken, and in many of these Shorthorns and their grades are the prevailing stocks of the country.

This does not arise from the fact that Shorthorns were in the field as claimants on the public favor sooner than other breeds, for they were not. The Galloways were being driven in droves to the easterly counties of England at least half a century before the fame of the Shorthorns had begun to be sounded. The Devons in the south were high in favor at a period almost as early. The moulding powers of the immortal Bakewell had made the Longhorns famous ere the masters of the Shorthorn art of improvement had tried their hand, and several decades before the Collings brothers had commenced the work of moulding improved Shorthorns at Ketton, the elder and the younger Tompkins had been busy producing those beautiful specimens of the white face, which were the living wonders of that period.

Each of these breeds then was in the field prior to the Shorthorn, and the same is true of several other breeds that might be named. How comes it then that the Shorthorn has outstripped them in the race and gained favor in so remarkable a degree in every cattle country in the British Empire?

There can be but little doubt that their adaptability to the conditions amid which they have been placed, combined with their utility, has made them the breed *par excellence* in the estimation of the world.

Whether they will retain this proud position in the future rests, in part at least, with those who handle them. So long as they are bred with an eye to utility, and on judicious principles, they may be expected at least to hold their own in individual merit. But there is another condition which is to receive attention if Shorthorns are to hold the fort. It is the increasing demand for animals that will produce a large amount of milk in addition to their capacity to put on flesh. There can be but little doubt that it was the dual power possessed by Shorthorns in so remarkable a degree, of producing both meat and milk, that gave them their hold upon the estimation of the masses of the people. If the power of producing a fair return in milk becomes lessened, the cry for purely milking breeds will increase, and the Shorthorns are so far likely to be displaced.

Now, it is their power of adaptability that renders it so easily possible to improve their milking qualities. Milk production in large quantity was one of the original properties of the Shorthorn cow, and this was not found incompatible with a large amount of meat production when the same was desired. Some other breeds would never respond to the demands of the pail, although they answered well the purposes of the block. Since a large amount of milk-production is one of the original traits of the Shorthorn cow, although this property has been impaired by the desire to develop them in the line of meat production, we may reasonably expect that it can be restored more easily than it could be secured in a breed which had never possessed this quality.

The use of bulls from good milking strains, feeding the young heifers with a view to milk production, and milking the dams by hand for ten months in the year, would soon work a wonderful improvement in the milking properties of Shorthorns, without interfering with their ability to produce feeding animals of a high order.

We see the power of adaptability in Shorthorns, not only in their response to the demands of the pail and the block, but in the good returns which they give on pasture or in the stall. They may not give returns when on pasture quite equal to those of some other breeds, but in the stall they are without a rival up to the present. This does not simply mean that several other breeds of cattle are not excellent for stall-feeding, but that in the past they have not been found so good as the Shorthorns, and the same will hold true of their grades. I would have it understood, that in making these statements I do so without any regard to the amount of food eaten, for the proportionate