

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Canadian.

Another valuable oil well, yielding two barrels a minute, has been struck at Leamington, Ont.

One million whitefish fry have been placed in Lake Erie, at Port Stanley.

Six hundred more farmers left Toronto on the Home-seekers' Excursion to the West last week.

Mr. George McKenzie, who has been exploring in Northern British Columbia, reports having found a vast coal area in that vicinity.

A disastrous fire, causing losses amounting to \$30,000, occurred at Manitowaning, Manitoulin Island, recently.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has assured Mr. Nosse, the Japanese Consul-General, that the anti-Japanese acts of the British Columbia Legislature will be vetoed by the Federal Government.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway held recently, the President said the company would fight any attempt in Ontario to increase its taxes.

Signor Marconi and his bride are in Canada. Marconi will inspect the wireless telegraph station at Glace Bay, C. B., and will make arrangements for the stations which are to be erected at Sable Island and various inland points.

Rider Haggard, who has come as an Imperial delegate to investigate immigration conditions, with a view to finding homes for the unemployed British, is at present in Canada. A scheme is afoot for putting buildings on lands sold to British immigrants, and allowing the latter to pay for them on the instalment plan.

British and Foreign.

The total number of deaths resulting from the recent earthquakes in India is now placed at 14,000.

Four hundred Spanish workmen have been buried by the collapse of a reservoir at Madrid, Spain.

The sum of \$100,000 has been accepted as a gift from John D. Rockefeller by the American Baptist mission.

Since the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war, 22 vessels bound for Vladivostok with contraband trade have been seized by the Japanese, with a consequent gain of over \$6,000,000 to the Japanese.

In a recent encounter between the troops of the Sultan and the rebels in Morocco, the Sultan's troops were compelled to retire with much loss of life. The retreat would have been an utter rout had it not been for the services of the French officer, Lieut. Mongin, who, with his French frontier forces, interposed.

The great Russian fleet is still steadily bearing northward, and Rojestvensky has sent his last message to the Czar: "I will not telegraph you again before the battle. If I am beaten, you will learn it through Togo. If I defeat him I will announce it to you." This great battle may, possibly, have taken place before this paper can reach its readers; where and how are still matters of vaguest surmise, even to the greatest naval experts. The strength of the two fleets which will thus meet in what will probably be one of the most terrific sea encounters on record is as follows: The Japanese have five battleships, of a total of 69,800 tons, with 14.6-inch armor, and throwing a total broadside of 20,766 pounds. The Russians have seven ships, of 85,094 tons, with from 10.5 to 12.5 inches of armor, and with a total broadside of 26,966 pounds. In armored cruisers the contrast is overwhelmingly in favor of Japan. She has eight such ships, of 73,552 tons, with a total broadside of 13,766 pounds, to Russia's two ships, of 14,393 tons, and of only 1,388 pounds broadside. In the third class, of protected cruisers, Japan has also an enormous advantage, having 14 ships, of 52,543 tons, and of 10,969 pounds broadside, against Russia's six ships of 26,818 tons, and 2,532 pounds broadside. Upon land progress is being made but slowly, and it is now thought that Marshal Oyama will have to fight another big battle before he can take possession of Harbin. From St. Petersburg come rumors that the Czar has become insane. The report, however, has not yet been confirmed.

The Lewis and Clark Exposition.

Mr. M. D. Wisdom, Superintendent of the Live-stock Department of the Lewis and Clark Exposition (this year's World's Fair), to be held at Portland, Oregon, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon country, announces that the live-stock show in connection with the exposition will be held August 28th to September 29th. Liberal cash prizes are being offered in all the leading classes of live stock, but there will be no dairy test. The exposition will be opened next month, and will continue for six months.

The Dominion Agriculturist on "Stock Food" Experiments.

Sir,—In your issue of the 23rd of March appears a letter, purporting to be written by one E. B. Savage, evidently an employee of, or an agent for, the International Stock Food Co. In this letter your correspondent undertakes to criticise the experiment with stock foods recently conducted here. I am sorry to have to ask you to afford me sufficient space in your valuable paper to enable me to reply to the various claims put forward and charges made by your correspondent, but I think you will admit that some of the statements made by Mr. Savage call for rebuttal or explanation.

Permit me, therefore, to consider in turn some of the points taken up in the above-mentioned letter.

1. Your correspondent claims that International Stock Food should be fed as a tonic to live stock suffering from indigestion or other ills, and I admit that it is just possible that fed for this reason International or any other stock food may prove profitable (for a time). But your correspondent a few lines further on says: "Secondly, it should be used as an addition to the grain rations of all fattening stock, for the purpose of STIMULATING the digestive organs." Scientific and practical men interested in animal nutrition (animal in its broad sense) are agreed that the continuous use of stimulants is degenerative in its general effects, usually having for particular effect the enfeebling of the organ or organs more highly stimulated, and the creating of unnatural appetites. Again, a preparation or prescription that is tonic in effect and likely to prove helpful in time of ill health is, if its use be continued after the restoration of health, likely to prove a detriment rather than a benefit, and is certain to prove useless and expensive.

2. Then Mr. Savage states: "It is a well-known scientific fact that the average farm animal has impaired digestion to a greater or lesser extent." I have made a study of scientific agriculture for many years, and have devoted special attention to animal nutrition, and, Sir, never, save in stock-food advertisements, have I come across the above quoted foundationless remark. Further, I have not been able to meet anyone who held that opinion, or had heard it or seen it advanced, save in the above-mentioned connection. I am sure the average farmer will bear me out in this, that under normal conditions of food, water, air and light, 99 per cent. or more of the live stock of this country are in perfect health, so far as digestion is concerned.

3. As one of the staff of the Dominion Experimental Farms, I was glad to hear that Mr. Savage was not prejudiced against us. We have no ambition to do the International Stock Food Company, or any other stock food company, any harm. We are anxious to find out what we can about stock-feeding problems.

The markets in Canada to-day have many stock foods on sale. Does it not seem reasonable that we should try to find out what we can about the value of these stock foods? If our first experiment along this line had resulted in showing a decided advantage from the use of them, would not the companies have been glad to see the result published? Why should they object then when the results are against them? If in future experiments results more favorable to the use of stock foods are secured, they too will be published.

4. Mr. Savage makes light of the heaviest gains made by any of the lots fed. Had he taken the trouble to look up data on this matter, he would have found that an average gain of 1 lb. per day is considered very good feeding. The average daily gains of all the 32 pigs fed on the experiment was 1.15 lbs. per day. Pigs making such gains would be ready for the block in about 5½ months from birth. Now, it is well known that the average Canadian pig is not ready for the best market (180 lbs. live weight) till about seven months old. It is evident, therefore, that these pigs were fairly thrifty.

As to the large gains mentioned by Mr. Savage, while I do not say that they are never made, I do say that they are the exception and not the rule, and are usually made for a short time only. We have records of such gains here, but some particular reason can usually be given for their showing up. Besides, the production of first-class bacon and the very rapid fattening of pigs do not go well together; are, in fact, opposed to each other.

5. Mr. Savage says the report is "in the form of a statistical table," and as statistical tables are no good, therefore this report is no good. The report took the form similar to a statistical table for the sake of conciseness. It is not a statistical table, as Mr. Savage very well knows.

Then, again, Mr. Savage compares "ordinary practical conditions," and "conditions found on an experimental farm." I spend a good deal of time on one experimental farm, and have visited some score or more other experimental farms more or less frequently, and have never noticed any particular difference between the foods, the air, the water, the buildings and the attendance found on experimental farms and on ordinary farms, and these conditions are, I take it, the chief factors affecting the growth of pigs.

6. Your Mr. Savage says, "The pigs on which the test was made differed widely in weight to start with." The heaviest lot, the one on meal alone, averaged 75 lbs. each to start; the lightest, 45 lbs. each to start on meal and skim milk.

The lot on International Stock Food averaged 52 lbs. each.

The lot on Anglo-Saxon Stock Food averaged 51½ lbs. each.

The lot on Herbageum Stock Food averaged 55 lbs. each.

The lot on meal outside averaged 51 lbs. each.

The lot on meal outside, with pasture, averaged 62½ lbs. each.

Not a great deal of difference after all, is there? Further, the results of very many authentic feeding trials with pigs go to show that the younger the pig the cheaper the gains. This being the case, it is evident that the lot on meal alone inside labored under something of a handicap when compared with the lot fed on International Stock Food. The lot fed on meal alone put on 100 lbs. gain live weight for \$4.38, while the younger lot, on International Stock Food, that might have been expected to make gains somewhat more cheaply had meal alone been fed, cost, when International Stock Food was fed, in addition to a similar meal ration, \$6.17 per 100 lbs. live weight. The pigs on meal alone outside, starting at 51 lbs. (practically the same weight as the lot on International Stock Food), made 100 lbs. gain in live weight at a cost of \$4.31, slightly cheaper than the gains made by the lot on meal alone inside. Supposing the fact of being inside or outside of no consequence (and I believe it to be but a small matter, judging from other experiments), these results go to show that the lot fed on International Stock Food should have made gains more cheaply than the lot fed on meal alone alongside of them in the pen. They did not do so.

7. As to Mr. Savage's contention that it would be practically impossible to get together 32 pigs that would take on flesh with equal rapidity, I may say that all the pigs were bred on the Experimental Farm here, where from 20 to 30 brood sows are kept. The pigs were of different breeds, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Tamworth and Large Black, one of each breed in each lot as nearly as possible. The individuals in the lots were unlikely as possible. The fact accounts for the average weight form in size, which fact accounts for the average weight of some of the lots being greater than the average weight of some other lots. It has been found better to have the pigs in one pen of uniform size, rather than have the average weights of different lots equal where arranging pigs somewhat uneven in size or age for an experiment. As will be readily understood, the breeding of 32 pigs to be of exactly the same weight and the same age at a given time is very difficult, if not quite impossible. However, while there was as much as a four weeks' difference in age between the largest and smallest pigs, the individuals were, with the exception of the lot fed on skim milk, healthy and vigorous. The lot on skim milk was made up of the smallest pigs from four litters. The result speaks volumes for skim milk as a food for pork production.

Probably Mr. Savage's fear that all pigs would not put on flesh with the same rapidity explains the otherwise apparently inexplicable fact, that, so far as I can find out, no really comparative feeding test has been conducted by any of the Stock Food Companies to demonstrate the exact value of their preparations as meal savers.

8. Mr. Savage states that "the same amount of grain was not fed to each animal." Each lot was fed all it would eat up clean. If the supplementary food was of a character to enable "more of the feeding stuff to be taken into the system and go towards building up the body so that less of it needed to be fed," the supplementary feeding stuff (not we) was responsible.

In conclusion, I may say that we do not, as stated in our report, intend to let this matter drop here, but purpose carrying on a similar experiment in the near future. In the 1904 experiment we followed the printed directions as to quantity and manner of feeding of each of the stock foods. If these directions are not sufficiently accurate we are not to blame. If any of the stock food companies have any suggestions to offer as to method of feeding their foods, we would be glad to hear from them.

Central Experimental Farm.

Stock-judging Contests.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

An interesting feature of many of the county exhibitions in the Ottawa Valley during the coming fall will be stock-judging contests for farmers' sons. While definite rules to govern the competitions have not yet been adopted, it is proposed to bar out college graduates, and to place the age limit at eighteen. In connection with these contests, a movement is on foot to hold instruction classes at central points throughout the counties interested during the early part of the summer, at which an expert judge will instruct prospective competitors in the fundamental principles of live-stock judging. The Ottawa Valley has the reputation of being one of the best exhibition districts in Canada, and in inaugurating these classes it is expected that interest in live-stock judging among farmers' sons will be stimulated.

Compensation for Glanders.

We understand that an order-in-council was passed at Ottawa recently, authorizing compensation for glandered horses showing clinical symptoms. Formerly clinical cases were not paid for by the Dominion Government, only those reacting to the Mallein test without the clinical evidences. This expensive equine scourge ought soon to disappear under the active researches of the Veterinary Branch. Do not attempt to hide cases of glanders!