

winds will bring cold, the south wind heat, and the west rain; and during the north-west wind it rains in summer and snows in winter. We may also conjecture with probability, that when the morning sky is red, there will be wind or rain during the course of the day; and that a sky tinged with streaks of red in the evening promises fair weather the following day. From the weather of spring we anticipate that of summer. If in the former we experience much fog, we may expect a wet summer; if in the spring there are great floods, we may be apprehensive in the summer of violent heats and multitudes of insects. When storms have been frequent in spring, we have no reason to fear the return of hoar frosts.

MEN abuse animals in so many different ways that it is very difficult to enumerate all of them, and for the sake of being easily understood, we shall at present comprehend them in two classes. They are generally too much or too little valued; and in either case we act with impropriety. On the one hand, we have too little regard for the brute creation, when, presuming upon the authority given us over them, we exercise that power with arrogance and caprice. But allowing that we possessed this absolute dominion over them, is it just that we should exert our right with cruelty and tyranny? All who are not the slaves of passion, and are not corrupted by vicious habits, are naturally inclined to have compassion for every being that has life and feeling. This disposition does honor to human nature, and is so deeply implanted in our hearts, that he who has unfortunately stifled it is regarded with aversion, and shows how much he has fallen beneath the dignity of man. He will then have to make but one more step to become a monster; which is, to deny to men the compassion he refuses to brutes. History furnishes us with many examples of this species of ferocity. We there find that the people, who delighted in the combats of animals, were remarkable for their cruelty towards their fellow-creatures, so true is it that our treatment of animals has an influence upon our moral character, as well as upon the mildness of our manners. Animals have been given to us to serve our necessities, to conduce to our comforts and pleasures, and to relieve our toil by their labor, but it does not thence follow that we are to fatigue them unnecessarily, or to make them labor beyond their strength, refuse them that subsistence which is their due, or increase their sufferings by hard treatment. This is sufficient to show the nature of the first species of abuse; but some people fall into the opposite extreme. Those animals of a domestic nature, which amuse and contribute to our diversion or utility, sometimes inspire us with a ridiculous and extravagant affection. There are both men and women so absurd as to love their domestic animals to such an extravagant degree, as to sacrifice to them those essential duties which they owe to their fellow creatures. War may send its plagues through nations, and whole armies destroy each other, without making any impression upon the lady who, some days after, is inconsolable for the loss of her lap-dog. Parents, and those who are entrusted with the care and education of children, in their presence cannot too scrupulously avoid every abuse of animals. It is the more necessary to insist upon this, because the practice of it is very often neglected, and the children influenced by such pernicious examples, often imbibe the worst of passions. Let them always be accustomed to treat animals as beings which have life and feeling, and towards which they have certain duties to observe, and whilst we thus prevent their feelings from becoming brutalized, let us at the same time guard against their being too much attached to animals, to which they are often very much inclined.

THERE is some comfort to be derived from the fact that the necessity of farmers' sons receiving a better education in regard to matters pertaining to the farm is thoroughly appreciated by at least some members of the Ontario Legislature. Mr. McLennan again brought the question up at this Session of the Legislature in the shape of a resolution to the following effect: "That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived in the history of

this Province when greater local facilities should be given whereby farmers' sons may receive a better education in their own profession." The debate was adjourned from day to day, and from the remarks of the Ministers of Agriculture and Education, it was evident the resolution would meet the same fate as last session. It is to be regretted that party politics should have been introduced into the debate as it prevented a fair and honest discussion on the merits of the question. It is nonsense for the Minister of Agriculture to talk of the "enormous expense" of establishing agricultural schools in every municipality in the Province. That is simply done to burke the main question. If for other occupations some special and technical training is necessary, so, too, is it imperative for those who are going to devote their lives in agricultural pursuits to really grasp at least the rudiments of the reason why in farming. And its importance is fully recognized in every country in Europe. If the following information as to agricultural education in France, taken from a recently published pamphlet by Professor Teegan, of Dublin, Ireland, should meet the eye of the Ministers of Agriculture and Education, it will perhaps make them change their opinion. Since 1850 agriculture has been included as an optional subject in the primary schools of France. In 1879 it was made obligatory. The encouragement of agricultural instruction in primary schools is not confined to the State. Numerous agricultural societies encourage practical instruction by offering prizes and medals. There are gardens attached to a large number of French primary schools in the rural districts, and in these practical experience is gained. Of superior primary schools for agricultural teaching and *Cours Complémentaire* there were, in 1890, altogether 748. Of these 280—namely, 77 for girls, and 203 for boys—were superior primary schools. These schools were attended by 70,144 boys and 7,068 girls. In the primary normal colleges, agricultural education is imparted by the Departmental Professors of Agriculture. The course of training is a three years' one, during only the last two years of which is agricultural instruction given. There is a garden, and not unfrequently a *champ d'expérience*, attached to these normal colleges, and a general plan of the course of instruction to be followed has been drawn up by the Superior Council. Turning to the special agricultural institutions controlled and to a large extent maintained by the State, the most elementary of these are the *Stations Agronomiques*. Of these there are at present 53 in France. They were at first principally institutions for research, but latterly a number of plots of land called *champs de démonstration* have been attached to them. The *Fermes Ecoles*, or Farm Schools, are a sort of agricultural apprenticeship schools. The *Fermes Ecoles* are ordinary farms, selected because of the excellence of their management. The Director is nominated by the Minister of Agriculture, but he carries on his farm at his own risk, receiving no subvention for the working of the farm, but a certain sum per annum for each apprentice, the number of whom is never below 24 on any one *Ferme Ecole*. The instruction in these schools is essentially practical, and the term of apprenticeship is two years. The practical schools of agriculture—*Ecoles Pratiques d'Agriculture*—are institutions for imparting agricultural education of a secondary degree. They were founded in 1875. These schools are founded and maintained by the departments or private individuals, and aided by subsidies from the State. There are at the present time thirty of these "practical" schools of agriculture in France, and the average cost to the State comes between \$3,750 and \$5,000 each, or a total annually of \$125,000 to \$150,000. Besides the institutions already referred to, there are the National Schools of Agriculture—*Ecoles Nationales d'Agriculture*—which receive intern students, demi-intern students, externs, and *auditeurs libres*. These latter may be present at any of the lectures, but cannot take part in the laboratory work or the studies. Such, in brief, is a summary of what is being done abroad in the direction of technical agricultural education. Contrast with this the facilities we have in this country for the imparting of an agricultural training, and the education of our next generation of farmers and it will surely be acknowledged by any fair-minded man that we are very much behind the times and urgently require a reform of a drastic nature.



1st.—NOMINATIONS for the Quebec Legislature. . . . The Quebec Government decides, in consequence of the large number of unemployed workmen in the colony, to prohibit immigration for the present.

2nd.—Ottawa defeats Osgoode Hall at Toronto for the hockey championship of the Dominion. . . . The Orange Grand Lodge of the North-West Territories pass resolutions favoring Separate Schools.

3rd.—Louis Dugas, Conservative, elected M.P. for Montreal, Que. . . . Opening of the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Treasury Department at Washington substitutes the "Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book" for the "American Shorthorn Herd Book" on the list of recognized authorities to govern the importation of animals for breeding purposes.

4th.—Lord Salisbury's refusal to renew the *modus vivendi* as to seal fishing in Behring sea causes considerable excitement in political circles in Washington. . . . A thief, while being pursued in the streets of Paris, France, shoots three of his pursuers dead before being captured.

5th.—Elections for the County Council of London, England, result in the disastrous defeat of the Tories. . . . Death of James Beatty, one of the oldest and most prominent residents of Toronto, in his 94th year.

6th.—The Salvation Army in Eastbourne, England, fiercely attacked by a mob and many persons seriously injured. . . . Six persons killed and many injured during a hurricane in Lisbon, Portugal. . . . Thomas McCann, a young farmer of Garden Hill, Ont., shot and killed by Thomas Forsythe, a neighbor, while assaulting the latter.

7th.—Announced that the census of New South Wales places the population at 1,132,234 and the population of the city of Sydney at 383,386.

8th.—Elections for the Quebec Legislature result in the utter defeat of the Mercierites, the majority for the DeBoucherville Government being 33. . . . Death of Judge Wetmore, of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. . . . Royal Commission appointed by the Dominion Government to enquire into the question of prohibition of the liquor traffic.

9th.—Death of James E. Smith, ex-Mayor of Toronto. . . . Judge Elliot gives his decision admitting the appealed votes in the London election case, thereby sustaining the return of Hon. John Carling.

10th.—Wm. Pridham, Conservative, elected M. P. for South Perth, Ont., defeating Mr. Trow, the Liberal whip. . . . Announced that the University of Edinburgh will confer the degree of "LL.D." on Sir Charles Tupper. . . . The United Kingdom visited by a severe storm causing great destruction to property and some loss of life. . . . Mr. Urquhart and Mr. Dyer, Conservatives, elected M.P.s by acclamation respectively for Montmorency and Brion, Que.

11th.—About 200 men killed by an explosion at the Anderluis colliery, Belgium.

12th.—Inauguration of the great coal miners' strike in England, 400,000 men being out.

13th.—Death of Grand Duke, Ludwig IV, of Hesse-Darmstadt, who married the Princess Alice, second daughter of Queen Victoria.

14th.—Local option by-law defeated in Campbellford, Ont.

15th.—G. Guillet, Conservative, elected M.P. for West Northumberland, Ont.

16th.—General strike inaugurated on the Western Division of the C.P.R.

17th.—The coal miners' strike in England collapses.

18th.—Serious crisis in the German Cabinet reported.

19th.—A large bark in Paris, France, suspends; one director commits suicide, two abscond, and one is arrested.

20th.—Death announced of Lewis Cardigan, aged 101, at Hveres, France, the last French survivor of the battle in Trafalgar's Bay in 1805.

21st.—Lord Dufferin, the new British Ambassador to France, presents his credentials to President Carnot, and is received with military honors.

22nd.—Hon. Mr. Foster delivers his budget speech in the Dominion House of Commons.

23rd.—The strike of employees on the C.P.R. announced as settled.

24th.—The British Board of Agriculture issues an order stopping the importation of live stock from all European countries.

25th.—H.E. Clarke, M.P.P. for Toronto, drops dead in the Legislature, while in the act of speaking.

26th.—Death of Walt Whitman, the American poet, at Camden, N.J., in his 73rd year.

27th.—The house of the Public Prosecutor, Paris, France, destroyed by dynamite and seven of the inmates injured; several anarchists arrested.

28th.—W. C. McDonald, of Montreal, gives \$85,000 to McGill University as an endowment for the maintenance of the Experimental and Engineering buildings founded by him.

29th.—Behring Sea arbitration treaty ratified by the United States Senate.

30th.—Mr. Proulx, Liberal, re-elected M.P. for Prescott, Ont.