

Canada's Great Fair, Toronto.

The Toronto people cling to the title chosen for their Agricultural Exposition and Industrial Fair at its inception. With between \$35,000 and \$40,000 distributed in premiums and \$25,000 or \$30,000 spent in attractions, of which nearly \$8,000 is devoted to music alone, it is undoubtedly the largest in the country and probably the best annual in America. While it is to be regretted that the new manufacturers' building will not be ready for occupation at the forthcoming fair, to be held from Sept. 1st to 13th, there is much to be thankful for in the fact that the new dairy building will be available, to say nothing of the handsome art gallery that will have been erected. It has been the one prime deficiency in the truly great and national exhibition at Toronto that the accommodation for the country's foremost agricultural industry has been inadequately catered for. Now that that genuinely long-felt want has been supplied, the farming community have little to complain of as regards Toronto Exhibition. That the word "agricultural" should not be made a great deal of on the title page of the well-gotten-up prize list is to be regretted, but between the covers the agricultural community almost monopolizes the contents, upwards of \$30,000 of the \$35,000 given in premiums being devoted to them, live stock getting upwards of \$25,000 as their share. This is a magnificent showing, far ahead of any other annual exhibition on this continent. This year a few changes of some importance will be found in the prize list, which intending exhibitors are requested to make note of. Becoming to the inauguration of the new and spacious dairy building, additional premiums are to be awarded in that department, while several additions have been made to the premiums for bacon hogs for curing, and so on. Lectures and demonstrations will be given daily in the dairy building, where seating accommodation has been provided for 600 people. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this movement, as Toronto Exhibition will now become the center of instruction in the dairy business. There will be exhibits of all kinds of utensils, milking, butter-making and cheesemaking competitions open to farmers, farmers' wives, daughters, sons and help. Mr. A. F. MacLaren, M. P., as chairman of the dairy committee, has the warmest and most active support of both the Eastern and Western Dairy Associations, and, therefore, is warranted a grand success for the Toronto Exhibition's new building. It is well to note that while in the breeding classes horses can still only be entered in one class and sweep-stake, in the general classes, such as saddle, hunt, carriage, roadster and driving, they can be entered in as many classes or sections as they are eligible for. There are a few changes in the cattle, sheep and swine departments, which can easily be seen on a survey of the prize list, copies of which can be obtained, postage free, on addressing A. W. Bell, Exhibition Officer, 82 King St. East, Toronto. Meantime, it is proper to note that entries, which must be made on the proper form and accompanied by the fees provided, close as follows: Live Stock, Dairy Products, Ladies' Work, Fine Arts, Honey, and all classes of manufacturers, Saturday, August 9th; Grain, Field Roots and Horticultural Products, Saturday, August 16th; Dogs, Monday, August 18th; Poultry, Wednesday, August 20th.

All plants and flowers in pots must be delivered on the grounds and arranged on the tables by 1 p. m., Sept. 1st. Dairy products, Saturday, August 30th. Agricultural products, roots, grain and vegetables, noon on Thursday, Sept. 4th. All other articles, implements, machinery, stoves, manufactures of all kinds, honey, fine arts, ladies' work, etc., Saturday, August 30th. Horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry may be delivered on the grounds any time on Sept. 1st, but in no case will they be received later than noon on Thursday, Sept. 4th; cut flowers by 11 a. m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9th, and all fruit by 10 p. m. on Monday, Sept. 8th. Articles or animals arriving after the above dates and hours will not be allowed to compete.

Winter Steamers Wanted in P. E. I.

I think that the grain crop will be all light in the straw. The apple crop is first class, while cherries are a complete failure, and the plum is only half a crop. The cherry and plum blossoms were hurt by the late frost. Hay is lighter than it has been for many years. There is no clover in the hay or pasture fields, owing to the young plants having been burnt out by the dry weather and heat of last summer. We have had plenty of rain, but the weather keeps very cool. The fodder corn was planted during the last days of May and is very backward. We grow the Longfellow.

Fully one-half of the farmers have gone out of sheep-raising on account of the scarcity of pole fencing, as three barbed wires make a good cattle fence. The majority of farmers have gone in for horse raising, but I think that cattle, either Short-horn or the dairy breeds, will pay better in the end.

I wintered a flock of one hundred and twenty pure Plymouth Rock hens. Seven of their eggs weigh a pound. The chickens are hatched in April, and the pullets commence to lay about Christmas, and continue all winter. I believe there is a fair profit in the business. Nearly all the milk in this district goes to the butter factory. Everybody appears well satisfied with the returns. Apples do well here if protected

with a wind-break, but are a complete failure if planted in the open, and in about six years are ready for the brush heap. Young apple trees exposed to the prevailing south-west, west and north-west winds never succeed.

It would be beneficial to the farmers if strong wharves and breakwaters were built on both sides of the Straits of Northumberland at the narrowest point, which is eight miles wide, in order to enable the winter steamers to keep up regular communication with the mainland.

DUNCAN McCALLUM.
Prince Co., P. E. I.

Peel County, Ont.

At the time of writing, the continued rain and unsettled weather kept some of the farmers back in finishing their haying, and the golden wheat fields are also waiting to be harvested. Generally speaking, all kinds of grain is up to the average. In some counties some people complain of oats being short, but take it as a whole we have not had so good for years. Grass peas are extensively sown here and have proved to be very satisfactory. Last year they averaged between 25 and 30 bushels per acre. Rape has proven itself to be quite a useful variety. It is sown for summer pasture to take the place of the earlier pasture which is usually dried up with drouth. Some of the farmers tried Mr. Glendinning's methods of curing hay, but met with poor results. It appears the hay spoiled in the mow. Probably not properly handled. There has been an abundance of strawberries this season. The growers declare they didn't pay for handling. At one time they were as low as 1½ cents per box. Farm laborers are a great scarcity. It is almost impossible to get a man at \$1.75 per day. The apple crop is up to the standard. Many of the growers team them to Toronto, while others sell them to the packers.

As this is principally a Scotch settlement, butter-making and stock-raising are the chief industries on the farm, which are said to be very profitable. There are a vast number of cream separators used in Peel Co., the chief makes being the Magnet, New Century and National. In my experience, the long red mangel takes the lead before all other varieties this season. In our field they are a full crop, where the sugar beet is little better than two-thirds.

Monday, July 21st. MARTIN J. SANFORD.

Swindled Out of \$5,000.

An elderly farmer named Silas Toole, living near Newmarket, York Co., Ont., was lately visited by two young men, strangers, who pretended to be nephews of Hon. Wm. Mulock, and offered to give him \$10,000 for his farm. He accepted the offer and they went away for the money. Mr. Toole to get the deeds ready meanwhile. They returned with a satchel containing what purported to be four sealed packages of \$2,500 each, Dominion Bank bills, marked on the outside by the manager. Meantime, however, they had heard of an adjoining farm, owned by a Mr. Wilson, which they had decided to buy for \$5,000, and Wilson wanted the deal closed at once. They had left the valise with Mr. Toole, retaining the key. They claimed they did not want to break the \$10,000 or confuse the two deals, so they asked Mr. Toole to lend them \$5,000 to pay Wilson, when they would return and close with him. He is said to have seen the \$10,000 counted into the valise, and freely consented to lend them the \$5,000, which he drew out of the bank at Newmarket. They did not return and in a few days he became suspicious and broke into the valise, which, to his dismay, contained only some old papers and stones, with a lead-pencil note: "When you open this we will be far away." He reported his great loss to the Toronto police, who are looking for the scoundrels.

Threshing Corn.

Mr. A. J. C. Shaw, of Kent Co., Ont., the other day called our attention to the success of threshing corn, ears and all, a plan which he had tried for several years. He handled sixteen or eighteen acres that way. It was cut on the greenish side, Sept. 12th to 15th, and threshed out of the shock about the end of October. An ordinary grain threshing machine was used, a change being made in the concaves. Seven hundred and fifty bushels of shelled corn was threshed in a day and a half, the charge for threshing being three cents per bushel. The broken cobs go up into the mow with the stalks, which are torn up pretty fine. To keep the grain from heating it is spread out quite thin in the bins or on the barn floors.

Vastly Improved.

Visitors to the Central Canada Fair at Ottawa, August 22-30, will notice quite a few changes in the grounds. Vast improvements have been made, in which the Ottawa Improvement Committee has had a hand. The driveway to the Experimental Farm now runs through the grounds, near their northern boundary, and the beautiful grove to the north, recently acquired, has been taken in and cleaned. Moreover, the place has been thoroughly drained, many flower beds add to the scene, which is one well calculated to delight the eye. The attendance this year promises to be much larger than ever before. The entries are very numerous this year, and the directors are sparing no expense to secure the best special attractions on the continent.

South Perth, Ont.

The heavy rains of the past week have done considerable damage to the standing crops. Oats and wheat are badly lodged in many places, and it will injure the maturing, especially of the latter. Wheat is also badly rusted here and there. A great deal of the hay will be of inferior quality. Probably less than half was secured without rain. This crop is not so heavy as might be expected with a wet season, the cold, backward spring having an adverse influence. Straw, however, promises to be abundant—a great contrast to last season—and if the supply of binder twine is as scarce as reported we may have to resort to the old reaper again. Something in the weather, apparently, too, has been favorable to the production of young bees, as swarms were particularly abundant, keeping the bee men on the run, some reporting clusters often as big as a grain bag hanging from the limb. Small fruits are abundant, especially raspberries, and larger ones promise well, though for some inexplicable reason certain varieties of plums are promising a poor yield. Many farmers having refused to pay the higher wages asked by the laborers, are depending on boys, curtailing all unnecessary work, or depending more on machinery, either of which courses can only tend to aggravate the scarcity. The latter by creating a demand for more men in the factories, thereby coaxing many from an agricultural to a mechanical life with its steady employment, and the former more directly and more potently, as ambitious young men will not be content with farm life unless the remuneration is sufficiently greater to compensate them. It seems very evident that if we are to retain the young people in the country, farmers must, by thorough organization, more efficient methods and improved home conditions, endeavor to compete with the manufacturer or be doomed to the condition of "splendid isolation."

July 23rd.

J. H. B.

Crop Prospects---Dog Tax Needed in Nova Scotia.

The crops in this section give promise of being above the average on most soils. Roots are about the same; a splendid even catch having been secured. None have suffered from the fly. Hay on dyke lands is about the average, except where the embankment was carried away by the exceptionally high tides of early spring. On poor upland the crop is a little above the average. The growth of pasture began late, but is now in good condition. Owing to the cool weather stock has suffered but little from fly pests.

Dairying has been for years, and I presume will be for some time, the best paying branch in our district. There is always a good demand for milk for condensing-factory and for city supply.

I think that both the Governments have already done as much as could well be asked along the lines of helping farmers and stockmen, unless they would legislate and pass an act ridding us of the dog nuisance so that sheep-raising could be developed as it would be were it not for that menace, which nearly every farmer in our locality has suffered from at some time or other. Just a few days ago a neighbor had a very fine colt, which was in pasture with its dam, so worried and torn by a parcel of dogs that it is doubtful if it ever fully recovers, and unless there is some easier way of obtaining redress than at present, one is better to lose a few dollars than seek to obtain redress through the law courts. Personally, I should like to see a five-dollar license put on all dogs and double that amount on a bitch, with permission granted to shoot all dogs running at large without a tag indicating the name of the owner and certifying that the tax had been paid for the current year. Until we get some such legislation, I am afraid we will not have the flocks of sheep that our farms are capable of grazing without in any way interfering with the stock already kept. The very liberal treatment which our exhibitions have received from both Governments should be appreciated by every farmer and stock-raiser in the Province, but a little letting alone along one or two lines would perhaps be beneficial, while it has the additional recommendation that it won't cost anything.

C. A. ARCHIBALD.
Colchester Co., N. S.

Crops, Scrub Males, Mixed Farming and Transportation in King's Co., N. S.

Crops here, although late, look well, except apples. The weather has, of course, been unfavorable, and insect pests have been giving trouble.

The improvement of our live stock has become a very important subject. The introduction of pure-bred males is a move in the right direction, but as long as scrub bulls and boars are allowed to be kept for service in any neighborhood so long will the quality of our stock be below par. So many people will use the service of a scrub male because they are 25 or 50 cents cheaper, and as a result a pure-bred animal is not well enough patronized to make his keeping profitable.

Mixed farming is most popular here. The land is uneven and there are all kinds of soil for different varieties of crop.

The transportation of apples to the foreign markets is a matter deserving greater consideration in this country. Better facilities for placing in cold storage or a fast steamship service are greatly needed to improve our present condition in this respect.

King's Co., N. S.

TRUMAN BISHOP.