

# The Farming World

## And Canadian Farm and Home

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### The Closing Year

**E**LSEWHERE in this issue appear articles dealing with the condition of live stock and the advancement made during the year just closed. As will be seen, substantial progress has been made. With one exception, perhaps, that of beef cattle, the year has closed upon one of the most successful seasons in live stock husbandry that Canada has ever had. While the sheep industry has flourished, there has not been evinced on the part of the farmer as strong a desire to secure high class stock for breeding purposes as one could wish. While the demand for breeding sheep has been good, there has been too great a tendency to buy the more common and cheaper kinds for this purpose.

On the whole, however, the position of the farmer at the close of 1906 is one of encouragement. The dairy, the leading industry of the country, has flourished. Prices for cheese have never been so high and the farmer who has had a dozen or two good cows supplying milk to the cheese factory, and has not been too greatly hampered by the scarcity of help, has had a little silver mine of his own running every day during this season. Butter-making has also been a profitable undertaking, and the cream-gathering branch of it has flourished. Perhaps the most important feature of dairying during the year has been the development of cow testing associations. The results from the tests of the past season lead to but one conclusion, and that is that, even with the very high prices of 1906, scarcely one-half of the cows of this country are more than paying for their board. Then, the yearly tests of pure-bred cows which have been inaugurated during the year, tend to emphasize the fact that "perform" rather than pedigree and form, is the best indication of a milch cow's worth.

In fruit culture, the rapid development of the co-operative idea is the event worthy of chief attention. This, coupled with the Hon. Mr. Fisher's plan recently announced for the encouragement of the erection of cold storage warehouses, should place the fruit industry of this country on a more stable and safe basis. True, more cold storage facilities will benefit other industries as well, but it is the fruit grower who will, perhaps, receive the greatest benefit from them.

The year, then, has been one that every well-wisher of his country can look back upon with pride. It is sincerely to be hoped that at the close

of 1907 we shall have the same glad tidings to report. At the moment the outlook is rosy and there is a great advantage in being able to start out well. What, with the rapid development of the West, the building of transcontinental railroads, and the growing demand for the best quality of farm produce, no Canadian should have any anxiety about the future. Let him do his best and take advantage of the many opportunities that lie before him, and success is assured.

### Ontario Winter Fair

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair of 1906 has well maintained the high standard of other years. The attendance has been as good and the quality and extent of the exhibits equal

uses in such a city as Guelph, and would have assured the future greatness of the Winter Fair itself.

Year after year Canada's most enterprising feeders, breeders and agriculturists are compelled to show their best goods to the worst possible advantage; visitors are compelled to crowd along in the narrow passages, and cattle are simply tied to the stone walls, or to low board partitions temporarily erected each year. Hogs and cattle are in the same apartment, and while the swine are being judged the passage is blocked up with gates, so that only about a dozen people can get any idea of what is going on, and no one a good idea. In the cattle ring a few more can get a view of the proceedings, but not too many.

This lack of space has been tolerated for years with the hope of better things, and now the very suitable little plot of ground to the south is gone, and with it most of the hope that some improvement can be made. Operations are now under way laying the foundation for a military drill shed which will in all probability cost \$100,000, and will be an imposing, spacious and handsome building, where bank clerks will strut to the music of a tin horn and learn to wear little cloth caps a-tilt until they look like a peanut stuck on the side of an elongated turnip, though it is long odds that they will never in years of this kind of thing make as useful defenders of their country as the average farmer's son will make in three weeks' training, should the necessity arise.

There would be less objection to this prodigal expenditure of government money if Canada's more important interests were given due consideration at the same time. Canada was never made by soldiers. That was left for the farmer to accomplish. He is the backbone of the country in peace and will be in war should it arise, and if he has been too busy building up an empire to get next to all the easy grafts that are going, it is no honest reason why his interests should be placed secondary to those of the people who profess to handle and manipulate his vote. Military colleges and a military system may, and probably are, all right, and good enough in their way, but the average citizen, with his living to earn, has prospered in about exact proportion as he has left them alone and attended to his own business. How much good, present, future and lasting, would have been accomplished had the same consideration been

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to, if not ahead of anything that has gone before. The fact is that unless some radical improvement is made in the way of enlarging present quarters it is only in regard to the quality of the exhibits that any advancement can be looked for in future. To attempt to secure more exhibits would be only aggravating a grievance that was apparent to every visitor to the show last week. Larger accommodation must be secured before the Winter Fair can grow and expand as it should.

Just across the railroad siding from the present building is a small piece of ground at which some of the management of the Winter Fair have often cast speculative eyes. With a little financing, this would have made just the spot for a large, spacious building which could have given suitable accommodation to both exhibits and visitors. It could have beautifully filled the bill for many other