

German Agriculture Through Canadian Eyes.

BY PROF. A. E. SHUTTLEWORTH.

A line running from the Baltic Sea through the great commercial and political city of Berlin to Switzerland, crossed by a second running from Austria through the modern artistic city of Dresden to the north-east of Holland, would form a fairly well constructed Roman cross which, one may imagine, locates a somewhat irregularly oblong shaped portion of Europe, called Deutschland, or Germany. Its area is 208,258 English square miles, and its population not less than 52,279,915, or 251 souls per square mile.

The natural increase in population is at the rate of 1 1/2% annually. Germany of to-day comprises, or, more properly speaking, was formed by the political union of some twenty-five states and Elsass-Lothringen, which union took place on the 16th April, 1871. Within this comparatively small country are found some 2,280 cities, twenty-one of which contain a population of over 100,000, and 61,000 landgemeinden or villages. The entire country is traversed by a network of railroads uniting all these cities and the greater number of the villages, and forming one great system of transportation. To any railroad station several trains run daily; therefore, should one miss his train, it is only necessary to wait for the next or even the next, for it is still possible to make connections and reach one's destination within the country that day. One may travel first, second, third or fourth class, according to his wealth and taste. Comparatively few travel first-class, more second, and the great public third-class. Arbeiter (laborers) and those whose circumstances compel them, go fourth-class. In almost any direction one may see through the train windows a dorf or a stad. The climate is much the same in all parts of Germany, and very regular, averaging in winter from 30° to 32°, and in summer from 61° to 64° Fahr.

Practically all available arable land has for many years been under cultivation, while the greater part of that which is high, rocky or unsuitable for farming is under forest culture. Consequently, the impression naturally prevails that the agricultural industry cannot be expanded. Agricultural schools, colleges, and experiment stations, in apparently sufficient numbers, have long since been established. Agricultural science is put into practice, and the soil thus intelligently cultivated is fertile and yields abundant crops. The agricultural industry, therefore, appears to have reached its maximum development, while the above institutions zealously carry on the combined work of scientific research and instruction. But, on the other hand, the manufacturing industry appears capable of great and almost indefinite expansion and development. Within the last ten years all available means have been employed towards advancing its interests, and with most satisfying results. Cities everywhere in Germany are growing at what appears to a Canadian an abnormal rate; but villages and country towns remain, so to speak, fixed as they were probably hundreds of years ago. However, one does not perceive, as in America, the country population flooding into the cities. The demand for farm laborers maintains a large country population. Upon my arrival in this country, the farmer was one of my most interesting studies. But I soon found that the Canadian expression, "the farm," has no meaning here. The Canadian farmer is an expression that has a meaning in Canada, but the German farmer is so indefinite that it is meaningless. To intelligently comprehend German farming and farmers, it is first necessary to classify and then study not the farmer, but the classes of farmers.

1. Grossgrundbesitzer (big landowners) are farmers owning from 1,000 to 80,000 acres. These are men among the best educated, most influential and respected citizens in Germany.

2. Rittergutsbesitzer are those who own one or more farms of from 500 to 1,500 acres each. Such a farm is called a rittergut (nobleman's estate), and is either managed by the owner and his bailiff (called inspector, antmann or verwalter), or let to a tenant (pächter). In olden times only noblemen were allowed to possess a rittergut, and with its possession belonged certain political rights and duties. Graf Schweinitz of Hunsdorf, Rohnstock, Schlesien, is a rittergutsbesitzer who personally manages his farms. He is a true gentleman, an ideal farmer, and a nobleman. The accompanying photographs one from without the other from within the courtyard represent naturally the buildings of one of his farms.

3. Pächter (tenant farmers) are those who cultivate estates called domainen, the property of the state, and which are let for a term of from 15 to 20 years to the highest bidding pächter. Domainen are by no means small farms, but vary from 1,000 to 1,500 acres. Pächter are men of equally good education and of high social standing. They receive from the government degrees or titles according to the number of years since they have occupied domainen, and the degree of success with which they have managed these estates. The titles given are the following: Amtmann, Oberamtman, Amtrath, and Oeconomierath. A pächter is first made an amtman,



COW STABLE. DWELLING. BARN. GRANARIES. BARN.
HOMESTEAD AND GRAIN FIELD OF GRAF SCHWEINITZ, GERMANY.

and he may obtain one title after the other till he is made an oconomierath.

4. Bauern (peasants) own small farms of from 30 to 200 acres, and live together in villages or dorfs. To this class may be added kleinbauern (small farmers), who own probably one horse and a cow, and who live among the peasants. Peasants and small farmers do their own work, in which every member of the family shares. As a rule, small farmers are laborers who walk every morning into the nearest city to begin work at six o'clock in summer and at seven in winter, and return to their little homes (a distance of one to two miles) at night to sleep.



GERMAN WOMEN LABORERS.

The wife and children work the little bit of land. Peasants owning 30 to 200 acres of land are people much of the same manners and customs as kleinbauern.

To which class does the Canadian farmer belong? Socially and intellectually he stands much above the German peasant; but, as well as managing, he does the greater part of the labor of the farm, and, therefore, does not correspond to a German grossgrundbesitzer, rittergutsbesitzer, nor pächter.

The opportunities for acquiring a scientific and practical agricultural education are excellent in Germany. There are four different classes of institutions, which time and space permit me only to mention.

1. Landwirtschaftliches Institute, which forms a part of several German universities.
2. Landwirtschaftsschulen (agricultural schools).
3. Landwirtschaftliche Winterschulen (agricultural winter schools).
4. Landwirtschaftliche Hochschulen (agricultural high schools).

Connected with the first three classes of institutions are experimental fields and gardens, in which agricultural science is demonstrated, and in some instances practical instruction given.

Everywhere throughout Germany one sees examples of fixed methods, customs, and habits. Perhaps it may be said that America too readily adopts new methods or changes; but it can more correctly be said that Germany is too slow in introducing and adopting modern ideas, which circumstance may be a partial necessity rather than a mistake. Two important features of distinction between German and Canadian agriculture, which may illustrate the above, are the employment in Canada of labor-saving machinery, and the employment in Germany of great numbers of cheap laborers. The German agriculturist apparently asks, not

where can machinery to do this work be procured, but where can cheap labor be found? Circumstances affecting the financial interests of agriculturists the world over demand here, as elsewhere, greater efforts and economy. Take, for example, the case of Herrn Oeconomierath Beseler, of Weender, Hannover, Germany, who is probably one of the best known and most successful farmers in Germany. He farms 1,250 acres, employs nine span of working horses, fourteen yoke of oxen, and between eighty-five and ninety-five hands. Of these hands forty-two to fifty are women, who have been brought from Poland, and who remain

and work upon the farm from 1st April till 1st December, when they are taken back. Many men from the same place, Switzerland or elsewhere, are also hired, as well as native laborers. These poor creatures, who know only the roughest, hardest life, work from five in the morning till seven at night, resting only half an hour in the forenoon and in the afternoon and one hour at noon. The women receive 1.10 marks (=about 27 cents) and the men 1.50 marks (=about 37 cents) a day. Each person receives in addition a few potatoes daily, and foreigners are paid ten marks towards their travelling expenses. They board themselves. This cheap labor may be defined, however, as the salvation of the grossgrundbesitzer, rittergutsbesitzer and pächter of Germany. Touching upon the financial conditions of German agriculturists, it may be said that while many are wealthy, agriculture to be profitable here must be conducted strictly upon a business, scientific and economic basis.

Norwich (Eng.) Fat Stock Show.

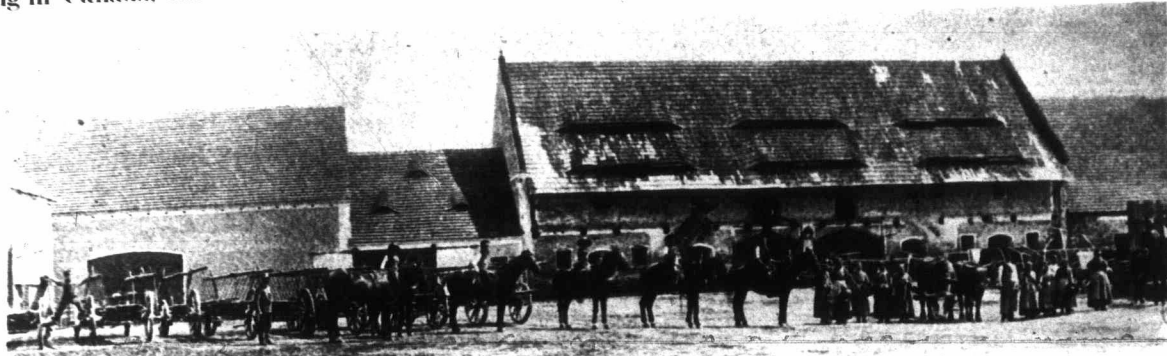
Our Scottish correspondent writes: "The period of fat stock shows is upon us, and to-morrow (Saturday, 20th Nov.) the Inverness and Birmingham events fall. These promise to be unusually interesting, and plenty of enthusiasm amongst breeders, especially of commercial cattle, will be the result. Norwich Show was held ten days ago and issued in a victory for Scotland—a cross-bred animal bred by Mr. John Ross, Meekle, Tarrel, Ross-shire, being champion. Mr. Ross was singularly fortunate in securing as his stud bull the Collynie sire Ringleader, but equal credit is perhaps due to the sire of his cross-bred cows—an A.A. bull named Carol, whose dam was owned by Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael, Bart., M. P. Almost all of the prize animals bred by Mr. Ross from Ringleader are out of cows got by this black bull, and their dams again were the ordinary farm stock found in feeding districts—that is, what might be called unpedigreed Shorthorns. It thus appears that most of these so-called cross-bred cattle are really three parts bred Shorthorns. Without the A.A. cross they could not have the quality and symmetry, but without the Shorthorn influence it is scarcely likely there would be the early ripening which is so pronounced a feature of these Tarrel cattle."

Ordering Eggs Under Difficulties.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and a hungry Frenchman illustrates anew the wisdom of the old adage.

He was in an English restaurant, and wanted eggs for breakfast, but had forgotten the English word. So he got round the difficulty in the following way:

- "Vaiterre, vat is dat valking in ze yard?"
 "A rooster, sir."
 "Ah! And vat you call ze roostaire's wife, vaiterre?"
 "The hen, sir."
 "And vat you call ze shildrens of ze roostaire and his wife?"
 "Chickens, sir."
 "But vat you call ze schicken before zey are schickens?"
 "Eggs, sir."
 "Vell, vaiterre, bring me two."



INSIDE GRAF SCHWEINITZ'S BARN COURT.