

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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power on the farm. A most important part of the farmer's business to-day is the judicious choice of implements and machinery suited to his soil and system of farming.

The degree of perfection to which farm machinery has been brought is one of the most satisfactory features in the experience of the present-day farmer, and the cost of improved machinery, which when first introduced was high, has been steadily reduced till it is now placed upon the market at prices which the average farmer can well afford to pay; indeed, he can not well afford to be without it. And the use of iron and steel in many parts of modern machinery, which were formerly of wood, has rendered it much more durable, so that with proper care it may reasonably be expected to last much longer, and owing to less liability to warping and twisting, from the effects of the weather, is calculated to do better work, while lightness and strength being combined makes it more satisfactory in every respect.

Upon the proper care and use of farm implements depends, more largely than most men are willing to admit, their satisfactory work. The keeping of the wearing parts and bearings well oiled and free from grit or gumminess, and keeping the cutting parts well sharpened, makes the draft very much less and the character of the work more complete. This applies to implements of cultivation as well as to those of harvesting and chaffing. We have known instances where a cultivator with dull hoes which would slide over hard places without effect, making an uneven and unsatisfactory seed-bed, has done good execution after being sharpened—the work of a few minutes by the blacksmith and at a trifling cost. Yet many farmers neglect to have implements put in proper condition to do work, and then lay the blame on the implement or its maker.

We are free to admit that absolute perfection in agricultural implements has not yet been attained, but all, we think, will agree that gratifying progress has been made, and we have full confidence that the enterprise and ambition of our manufacturers will prove equal to the demands of the times in providing such improvements as are needed and practical, and will hold their own in the keen competition they have to meet and cope with in

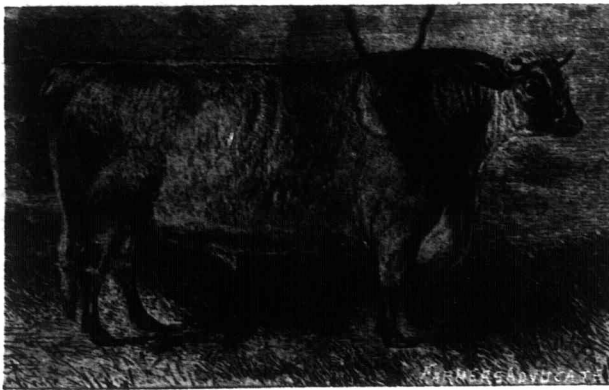
this line of work. The statements published elsewhere in this issue by a number of our leading manufacturers regarding outstanding improvements which have been incorporated in various classes of machines, and the article describing the implements of a half-century ago, will be read with great interest.

Agriculture at the Recent Session of the Ontario Legislature.

It will be remembered that at the first session in 1898, legislation was passed dealing with the

SAN JOSE SCALE.

During the past year, Mr. Geo. E. Fisher, with a large number of assistants, has been carrying on an extensive inspection of nurseries and orchards, principally in the Niagara Peninsula. Messrs. Bennett and Woodbridge have looked after Essex and Kent. In order to make the Act more workable, a few amendments were proposed this year by the Minister of Agriculture. One is that in case an orchard is found to have infected trees scattered here and there through it, and it is thought advisable and in the public interest to cut out and destroy the whole orchard, this may be done after a report by a second inspector, thereby saving the expense and time of having every individual tree examined. This is considered warranted because of the terrible devastation of the insect, as proven in several of the States. It was reported that in Maryland one block of 27,000 peach trees was destroyed last year. The next point in this Act is one that is of still greater importance. From the 1st day of April, 1899, no nurseryman or agent is allowed to sell any nursery stock until the same has been fumigated by hydrocyanic acid gas, in accordance with regulations provided by order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. We understand that the carrying-out of this work has been entrusted to Prof. Wm. Lochhead, the Entomologist at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, who has lately visited some of the States where such work is being carried on, and who is now at work among



COMET (155).

BORN IN 1894. DIED IN 1895. BRED BY CHAS. COLLING. SOLD AT THE KEITON SALE, 1810, FOR 1,000 GUINEAS. GOT BY FAVOURITE (252); DAM BY FAVOURITE (252), OUT OF THE DAM OF FAVOURITE (252).

the nurserymen, advising as to methods, inspecting fumigating-houses, etc. Every bunch or package of nursery stock purchased must have attached to it a tag with certificate of fumigation. The enforcement of this part of the Act should give us clean stock, for it is well established that all forms of insect life are destroyed by hydrocyanic acid gas, but the trees themselves are uninjured. In order to meet the increased work under this Act, the grant has been increased to \$20,000. If, however, our fruit-growers are saved from the enormous losses that have fallen to American fruit-growers, it will be money well spent. This scale is the most destructive enemy that has threatened Canadian orchards.

BUTTER AND CHEESE EXCHANGES.

The next bill affecting agriculture is one providing for the organization of butter and cheese exchanges. At the present time there are a score of "cheese boards" in Ontario. These are gatherings or associations for the purchase and sale of cheese and butter. They are somewhat loosely organized, and do not fully meet the end desired. In many cases the sales off the board greatly exceed those made on the board, and many disputes have arisen, for the settlement of which due provision has not been made. This Act proposes to provide for such associations, based on a statutory foundation, and providing for by-laws and regulations that can be enforced in courts of law. The organization is simple and inexpensive. An agreement is drawn up and the by-laws submitted to the Minister of Agriculture. When these are approved, the declaration and by-laws are filed in the local registry office, and incorporation thereby takes place. The expense, therefore, is practically nothing. The by-laws of such an exchange will provide for an inspector, who will have power to settle disputes between buyer and seller, and thereby both parties will be placed on an equal footing. The Act, of course, is not compulsory, but purely voluntary, and those who prefer to buy and sell to suit their own convenience are as free to do so as before. It places cheese boards on somewhat the same footing as cheese- and butter-manufacturing companies.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

The subject of agricultural instruction in public schools came up several times, being introduced by members on both sides of the House, and the opinion was apparently unanimously in favor of such instruction. The Minister of Education put through a bill empowering rural public schools to engage, if desired, the services of graduates of the Agricultural College to give instruction. To these classes, farmers and others interested might be admitted if they desired to attend. The Minister explained, however, that this was purely optional with school trustees. He stated that, beginning with Sept. 1st, agriculture would be a compulsory subject in all rural public schools, and that an examination in the subject would be required. It is presumed that it will be placed in the fourth form. Some subject now in the course will have to make way for it. This will be a matter to be dealt with in the Regulations of the Department, which may be looked for in the next month or so.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Western Dairy School at Strathroy came up for discussion; and the announcement was made also that Mr. Sleightholm had resigned, and that another Superintendent would have to be appointed. The selection has not yet been made.

With the exception of the doubling of the grant for scale inspection, the votes were about the same as in 1898. Special deputations waited on the Government in behalf of four new grants. The Guelph Fat Stock Club asked for \$500. They got \$150 as a contribution on behalf of the College in connection with instruction of the students. A deputation representing the students and the Experimental Union asked for a new hall at the College and increased accommodation for students. There is no grant this year for this purpose. Representatives of some of the live stock associations asked for an extra \$1,000, to extend a sales scheme, but the Government did not accede to their wishes. The Board of the Toronto Industrial asked for a grant for a Provincial dairy building. Five thousand dollars (with conditions) was placed in the supplementary estimates, but when the champions of London and Ottawa and other exhibitions had been heard from, the Premier suggested that the vote be dropped, and this was done accordingly. It will be seen from this that the Government does not grant every request for money, and it should be further stated that the Opposition does not approve of every grant that the Government does sanction, for they moved that the agricultural vote be reduced by \$8,100, made up as follows: Western Dairy School, \$2,600; Pioneer Farm, \$1,000; instruction in spraying, \$2,500; and printing of reports and bulletins, \$2,000. This, however, the Government did not accede to, and the grants therefore stand.

STOCK.

Polled Angus-Ayrshire Cross and the General Purpose Cow.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I notice in your issue for March an enquiry as to crossing Polled Angus bulls on Ayrshire cows. I have had some experience in Scotland with this cross, but can scarcely agree with Mr. Ferguson's opinion that "the best beef cattle cross from an Ayrshire is through the Polled Angus bull." This dictum may be true as to quality and early maturity, but the element of size or weight has to be considered, and if this is taken into account, I have no hesitation in saying that the Shorthorn cross is the most profitable on Ayrshire cows. This is true also of undersized cows of any breed or grade. As is universally admitted, there are no better butchers' cattle than the Polled Angus and their crosses; but bulls of that breed should be put to cows of some weight and substance. Ninety per cent. of the calves will be polled and black. From Hereford cows the white face will appear on the black body. From white cows the calves will generally be blue-grays. In Scotland—apart from the pure-bred herds—farmers' cattle are generally Shorthorn grades with a strain of Ayrshire blood. The steers are splendid butchers' cattle and come early to maturity. The heifers make good dairy stock. To use a much-abused term, they are "general purpose" cows.

In Manitoba the question is often asked at farmers' meetings, "What is the best breed of cow for the Manitoba farmer?" The answers are various. If a dairy expert is present he will probably reply: "You must not attempt to combine beef-making with dairying. If you go in for dairying you must have cows of one of the distinctive dairy breeds. You must sacrifice the beef-making qualities to the milk pail." "But what shall I do with my steer calves?" asks an innocent enquirer. "Oh, knock them on the head," says our expert. This is mischievous doctrine, and enough to discourage any farmer who is a lover of live stock from embarking in the dairy business. There is no incompatibility between dairying and beef-raising. The one is the complement of the other; and here, as in Scotland, the man who recognizes this is more likely to make a success than his neighbor who knocks his dairy-bred steers on the head.

Eastern Manitoba.

AGRICOLA.