

THE POTATO CROP IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Owing to the increased demand for New Brunswick potatoes, the area of land under cultivation to that crop has increased year by year for some years now, until the question how to deal satisfactorily with the resulting crop has become a very live one. The acreage under potatoes this year is believed to be three times greater than ever before, and it is estimated that the yield will be not less than three million bushels, and the problem what to do with this enormous crop is one which is causing the growers considerable anxiety just at present. There are no facilities in existence for storing anything like such a quantity as that, and to attempt to put the tubers on the market as soon as they are lifted would certainly not be a very wise move, as a glutted market, with a consequent depreciation of prices, would be the only result. Even if this were not so, the shipping facilities are at present utterly inadequate to deal with such an output as it is expected there will be this year. The matter having been brought to the attention of the Executive Government, that body appointed the Minister of Agriculture and the Solicitor-General (the latter of whom represents Carleton County, one of the counties more particularly affected) a committee to deal with the matter, and these gentlemen accordingly invited the growers and shippers and all others interested in the potato crop to meet them for the purpose of considering the question and endeavoring to devise some means of dealing with the prospective crop, in case those engaged in the industry were not in a position to deal with the situation unaided. In response to this invitation, about seventy or eighty "potato men," from the Counties of York, Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska (those being the counties principally concerned), and also several members of the Local Legislature and representatives of the C. P. R., attended at the Board of Trade Rooms, Woodstock, on August 1st, when the subject was fully discussed. The Hon. Mr. Farris, Minister of Agriculture, and the Solicitor-General each spoke, and briefly outlined the object of the meeting. The Government, they said, had no policy in the matter, neither had they any suggestions to make at that present, but they were anxious to learn from the farmers and others directly concerned the actual conditions and prospects for dealing with the prospective crop during the coming season, and to ascertain what assistance, if any, would be likely to be required in connection therewith.

Several of the leading growers then addressed the meeting. The general opinion appeared to be that it was in the lack of shipping facilities more than of storage accommodation, that trouble would be experienced, as most growers already possessed, or could readily procure, storage accommodation for all the crop they harvested. Some speakers were of opinion that the shortage of cars last year was not altogether such an unmitigated evil as others would make it out to have been, as had the cars come as quickly as they were demanded, there would have been a glut in the market, with prices down to 80 cents a barrel. As it happened, the cars came just about fast enough to keep the market right. Mr. B. F. Smith, M. P. P., suggested that the C. P. R. should be asked to build some storehouses and charge the growers a small fee per barrel for storage; if the Railway Company would not do this, then the Government might step in. Mr. Tweedale, M. P. P., agreed with this, but the C. P. R. representative stated that, whilst the Company were anxious to do what they could to enlarge the potato market, it was quite impracticable for them to build storehouses. He could, however, promise for the coming season a better service of cars than in previous years, but every farmer should be capable of looking after his own crop, and if he was not already possessed of sufficient storage accommodation, storehouses could be built at very little expense. Mr. Tweedale said he was one of a Company incorporated to build potato houses, which had invested \$15,000, and were building six houses in Victoria County. He also spoke of several other farmers who were now providing themselves with large storage facilities. Ultimately, after some further discussion, Mr. Carvell, M. P., moved that the Government be requested to send experts through the districts most interested, to point out to the growers the necessity of providing themselves with storage accommodation, and to furnish plans and offer suitable advice as to building root-houses, and generally to give such information on the subject as might be required. This was opposed by Mr. J. E. Porter, of Victoria County, who said that it did not meet the situation at all. The Government had already taken steps to provide facilities for cold storage in different parts of the Province, and it was quite as good policy for them to assist in building potato storage houses as to be building roller mills, grain elevators and cheese factories, as the potato business was the most important. The Government had invited the farmers to state their position, and were desirous of learning how the situation could be relieved, and he therefore moved an amendment that

the Government be asked to assist in building potato houses at central points. This amendment did not meet with much favor, and was lost by a large majority, and Mr. Carvell's motion was then carried. It was also resolved that a committee be appointed to wait on the C. P. R. authorities, with the view of obtaining increased shipping facilities and better handling of the potato business generally.

After some remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and the Solicitor-General, the meeting closed.

In connection with the potato industry in New Brunswick, it may not be out of place to mention here, as evidence of the Government's desire to do what it can to assist growers, that at the last session of the Local Legislature, in order to give encouragement towards the erection of starch factories, for the production of starch from potatoes, an act was passed enabling the Minister of Agriculture to grant assistance towards the erection of such factories, such assistance to be by way of a bonus of five dollars per ton of the finished product ready for market.



Judging Shorthorn Bulls.

At Omagh Show, County Tyrone, Ireland.

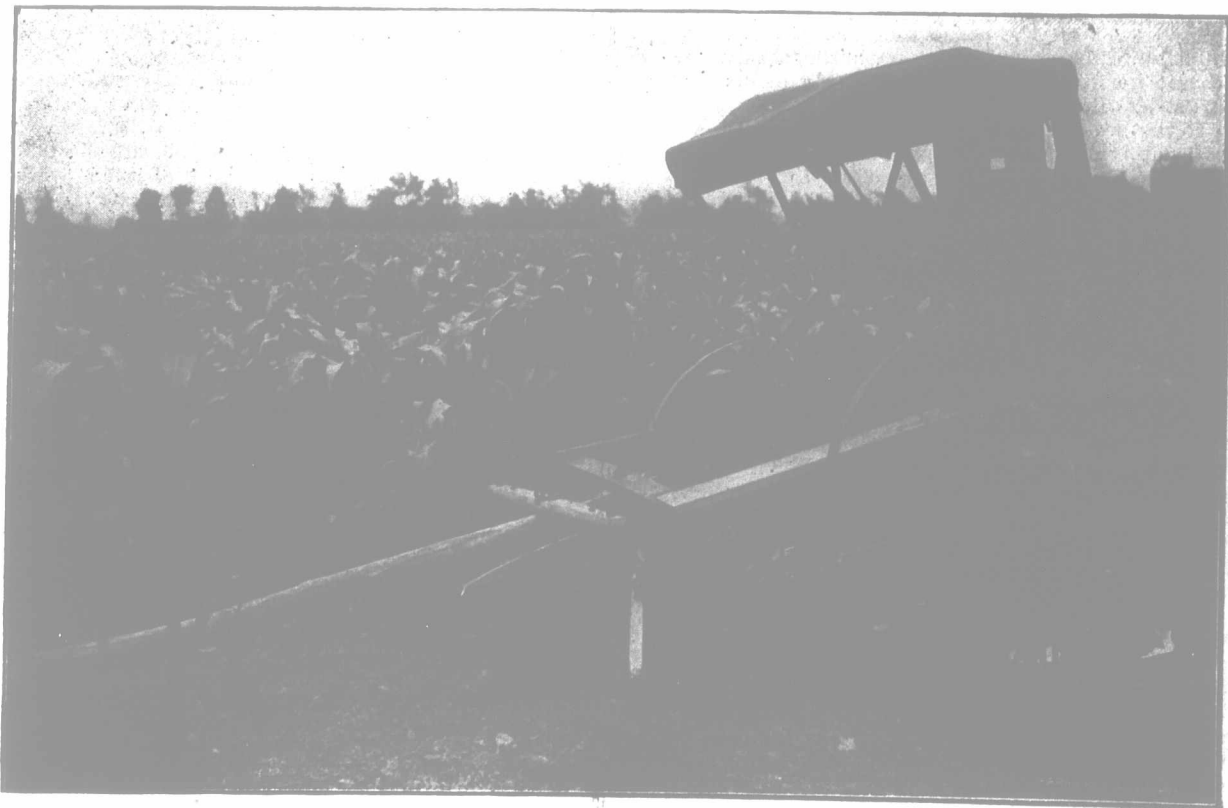
ANCHORING FENCE POSTS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue a correspondent, writing on stays for anchor posts, recommends a stone placed in the ground with a wire around it, and up to the top of the draw or anchor post. This was justly criticised by a more recent correspondent, on account of most anchor posts being along the road or used as gate posts, and the stone wire would be either in the roadway or gateway; and this correspondent advocated sawing a notch on each side of the post six inches from the bottom, and spiking 2 x 4 pieces, 3 feet long, in them to hold the draw post in the ground. In your footnote you condemned this, on account of it rotting the post. Now, I have had thirty-five years' experience in building board and wire fences, and have always found the bottom of the post sound when taking out old posts, even when rotted off at the top of the ground. I saw, a few years ago, a lot of swamp-oak posts that had been set twenty-eight years, to my knowledge, in clay land, and most of these were sound and good at the lower end, although somewhat worn and smaller at the surface; many were reset back on the old farm, where looks was not a consideration. I think this notching is all right, and is generally

practiced; and, being down three or four feet, away from the atmosphere, will never injure the post, and, where practicable, the stone and wire is a sure help, as it will hold most any post in any kind of heavy ground right down to its place. I have been practicing for a few years the sinking of a long stone with No. 9 soft wire wound round it three feet in the ground in all low, heavy places, and attach the two wires from the stone to the wires in our wire fences, and find the frost cannot grip these wires or the contraction of the fence lift or move the stone an inch. This works so well, we are now trying the stone and wires for every other post, and setting the cedar posts fifty feet apart. This is much cheaper than a post and placed just as quick, and, we believe, will hold the woven wire or wire-and-picket fence right to its place, especially on low, heavy ground. Right here I want to put in a word of warning, and a little free advice, as so many are making the same mistake as we did in our first wire-fence building; that is of making the spaces between the wires too wide, especially just about the height of a cow's nose, as one dehorned cow will soon ruin a fairly good-looking eight or nine wire fence, with pickets two feet apart. I have already had to respace two ten-wire fences, and am now adding a wire and respacing the first nine-wire fence we had built on the farm. Don't, for the sake of three or six cents per rod, put up a fence that will be a source of annoyance and expense keeping in repair for the next twenty years. Don't make less than a ten-wire, or a space below the top one more than seven inches. In our first fences we made the mistake of putting our bottom wires too close together, and find, outside of a barnyard or garden fence, four and a half or five inches is close enough, as our lambs or pigs have never got through the former.

Your correspondent, as well as many old anchor-post settlers, makes another mistake in digging the hole across the fence (and I admit it seems the most natural), as it should be either large enough to let the post with the sticks spiked on stand so the sticks are lengthways of the wires, or the hole dug the long way, the same as the wires run, as, by placing a post in this way, there is a bearing or brace on the draw side of the post of 16 to 20 inches, and on the back side of the post you have 16 to 20 inches of a hold-down, which keeps the post from tipping or leaning with the tightening of the wires. One only gets the hold-down by placing the sticks in the hole crossways of the wire, and only very little help to keep the post from pulling over with the wires. We put a plank four feet long on the end of a big rail just at the surface across the front or draw side of the anchor, as well as in front of the second or brace post, which we take the same care in setting as the anchor. This cross plank should not be spiked, as the frost will get hold of it and lift the posts out. We set these posts eight feet apart, and use a small post or heavy rail for brace, set straight, eight inches from the top of the anchor to the second or brace post, then take No. 9 soft wire and wind around them within six inches of the ground at the anchor post, to within six inches of the top of the second or brace post; twice around the whole thing after the brace is fitted. Care should be taken not to notch the posts any deeper for the braces than absolutely necessary to hold them to place, until you cross the wires half-way between the posts; take a good strong stick, three feet long, place between the



Two-horse Corn Cultivator with Buggy Top.