

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

VOL. XIX

DECEMBER 10th, 1901.

No. 24

An Apologist for the Railways.

THE first and most obvious comment which is evoked by the letter, signed "Viator," which appears in this issue of *The Farming World*, is that it occupies a good deal more than a page of this paper's none too plentiful space. Upon consideration of room, a detailed discussion of "Viator's" apology for the railways must be postponed until the next number. In this issue we may content ourselves with a few remarks upon some of the outstanding features of this attempt to place the case for the railways in the most favourable light.

One thing that is worth noting is that *The Farming World*, in the article to which "Viator" takes exception, expressly stated that the instances of unjust railway rates cited were purely a recapitulation of points brought out in the controversy of last winter. Every instance of inequitable freight rates, which "Viator" attempts to explain away, had been published already. *The Globe* was especially active last winter in the campaign and, as a matter of fact, all of the cases quoted appeared months ago in its columns. An anonymous correspondent, signing himself "St. Lawrence," attempted to controvert some of the *Globe's* accusations against the railways, and the *Globe* subjected "St. Lawrence's" statements to a most destructive examination and analysis. Nearly all of the instances quoted, however, appeared unchallenged. "Viator's" defence is somewhat belated.

The facts just mentioned cast some light upon a passage in "Viator's" communication, in which he permits himself to use language which is not free from offensiveness. "You have brought," he says, "these charges upon the strength of so-called proofs which you have not investigated for yourself, but which you found floating about in one or two Ontario newspapers, which also took them on trust without making any attempt to verify them; so that you are in the position of a retailer of second-hand fabrications against men like Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and Mr. Reeves, who have reputations to lose and who, like the rest of us, ought not to be assailed without just cause."

"One or two Ontario newspapers" is a term designed to suggest, though not explicitly making

The statement, that the charges appeared in small or unimportant journals. Such language should not be held of assertions to which a leading newspaper like the *Globe* gave publicity and maintained against the efforts of the apologists for the railways. The remainder of the paragraph, with its distinct note of arrogance may be dismissed with no further comment than that it is regrettable that complaints as to the nature of the service given the people who in one way or other have paid or are paying for the railways, are received with no greater civility.

It is worth noting that "Viator" in his letter is at once distinctly on the defensive, and is conscious of the fact and anxious to disguise the fact. His disingenuous reference to the journals which have already given publicity to these charges of discrimination is a case of this.

"Viator" concludes his letter with a request to *The Farming World* to be accurate. *The Farming World* has been accurate and will be accurate in the matter. In the next issue an examination of the details of "Viator's" reply will show on which side of the discussion accuracy lies.

Provincial Winter Fair.

Everything is now in readiness for holding the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph. The entries are bigger than ever before. The large building erected last year will be taxed to its full capacity. The entries in the cattle, sheep and swine class total 1,172, and in the live poultry 2,150. Great interest is shown among the farming community and comparatively the attendance will show an increase as large as the entries.

Farmers' Institutes are availing themselves in large numbers of the opportunity of having their members admitted free to the Fair, and the Secretaries are enthusiastically endeavoring to have their own particular district well represented in the attendance.

The railroad rates are very low. Single fare for return tickets can be obtained from all points east of Fort William. Persons of New Ontario have signified their intention of being present. It will be the largest gathering of those interested in the live stock business ever gathered together in Canada.

With the arrangements which

the City Council of Guelph have made for the accommodation of visitors, every one can be assured of accommodation upon their arrival at Guelph.

The Show will be conducted along the most advanced lines, with the object of giving as much instruction as possible to those who are present. Everyone will have an opportunity to learn and no one can afford to be absent if interested in any of the subjects to be discussed. The endeavor of the Management has been to bring each department to its highest state of efficiency. The show promises to be most successful. Take advantage of the cheap fares. Come, if you can only spare half a day. The show opens on Tuesday, December 10th. The judging will commence at 3 p. m., and from that time until the show closes at 5 p. m. on Friday, December 13th, each day will be filled with interesting and practical discussions. Do not miss them.

Lessons from the Winter Show

The Provincial Winter Fair, which takes place at Guelph this week, affords a splendid opportunity for obtaining object lessons in good live stock. As a rule all the animals shown at an exhibition of this kind are of good quality. Few if any, very inferior animals will be found there, simply because breeders and feeders who have been accustomed to show their animals, know that there is no use in entering inferior animals in the competitions. And yet a marked distinction will be found between the very best types and the very lowest types at the show. It is in noting these distinctions and in finding out wherein one animal is superior to another that the educational value of the show is found. At previous winter shows several of the judges, after making the awards, gave their reasons for so doing. Very valuable lessons can be obtained by listening to the judges. Then the addresses on the carcasses and live animals by practical men will be of very great value.

In looking over the animals two or three things will be noted. It will be found that, as a rule, all the choice animals are well bred. This indicates that good blood is the foundation of all good animals. No scrubs show such perfection of form, such wealth of flesh, and such good returns on the block as