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LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., NOVEMBER 15, 1898.

No. 466.

EDITORIAL.

John Bull's appetite for Canadian poultry is developing rapidly. Two of our exporters received an order from one Old London house for 30,000 Ontario turkeys!

The Manitoba farmer may be too busy growing big wheat crops to bother with such trifles as poultry, but what good reason has the farmer of the Maritime Provinces for not raising enough birds for the local trade instead of having the dealers send to Ontario for them?

The Dairy World, a representative English journal, concedes that "there can be little doubt as to the great hold which Canadian butter is getting upon the British market," but the statement of Mr. Peter Keevil, which we reproduce elsewhere from that paper, shows that Canadian buttermakers have something yet to learn.

Prof. A. E. Shuttleworth, of the Ontario Agricultural College staff, who has been spending a couple of years in Germany, at Gottengen, Halle, and Berlin, taking an advanced course in agricultural chemistry (plant and animal) and methods of scientific teaching, expects to complete his studies this month, and will sail for Canada early in December, getting back to Guelph in time to eat his Christmas dinner.

The closing of the autumn season in Ontario and Manitoba has been characterized by an unusual amount of rainfall, seriously interfering with threshing operations in the latter Province, and making the roads exceedingly heavy in both, and resulting in lighter shipments of grain than usual at this date. The compensation for this unpleasantness will probably come next summer in a good supply of moisture stored in the soil to be given off in time of need to help the growing crops.

The Farmer's Gazette, the leading agricultural journal of Ireland, says that experience in Liverpool of late years has gone to show that Canadian and Continental eggs are usually received in much fresher and more marketable condition than the great bulk of those sent from the Emerald Isle. Irish producers are warned to use only fresh, clean straw for packing, and avoid the too common practice of holding over eggs at certain seasons of the year in the expectation of obtaining better prices with the hardening of the markets.

It was a great sale of cattle which came off at Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 25th and 26th, when Mr. K. B. Armour, of the great packing and shipping company of Chicago and Kansas City, disposed of 113 head of Herefords, of all ages and both sexes (being only a portion of his herd), for \$43,490, an average of \$384.86. Six of these averaged \$1,004.50, the highest price being \$1,025, for the imported heifer True Lass, bred by Her Majesty the Queen. The Western breeders and ranchmen evidently have a high appreciation of the value of the Whitefaces as beef producers.

The Scottish Farmer says: "Opponents of the shearing rules now in existence at the Royal and other shows in England are protesting again. Mr. Alfred Mansell is going to move at the next meeting of the National Sheep Breeders' Association that it is desirable to do away with all restrictions. There is a good deal to recommend this, as it would place all exhibitors on a common level, and thus the honest flockmaster who now honorably obeys the rule will not be placed at a disadvantage alongside some less scrupulous. We would give the same freedom on this side of the border to all breeds as is now given to the Cheviots."

Fat Stock and Dairy Shows.

It is gratifying to observe that in addition to the many lines of agricultural products in which Canada is taking a leading place in the markets of Europe and America, we are also holding our own and taking the lead in the maintenance of fat stock shows, the intermittent efforts in this line of our neighbors in the country to the south of us having apparently ceased for the present, as we have seen no announcement of a show of this character for the coming Christmas season on that side of the lines. Fat stock shows have been maintained for over twenty-five years in Canada without a break, so far as we are aware, either by the Fat Stock Club of the Royal City of Guelph, the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario, or the Amalgamated Stock Breeders' Associations of the Dominion, and the interest and number of such exhibitions is increasing rather than diminishing, as may be inferred from the announcements in our advertising columns in this issue. Good breeding and good feeding must go together in order to the attainment of the greatest success in stock-raising, and the fat stock show serves an admirable purpose in presenting profitable object lessons of the possibilities of these twin factors in producing the ideal butcher's beast, the most approved quality of meat, and that which meets the demand of the market and the taste of the most critical of the consumers.

The summer and autumn shows of breeding stock in connection with the various industrial exhibitions have done and are doing good work in stimulating competition by the offer of prizes for breeding stock of superior merit, and the judges in late years, chosen as a rule from the lists of upto-date breeders, have proved educators of the rank and file by setting a standard of type safe to follow, the tendency being steadily towards uniformity of size and quality, together with early

The fat stock show proper fills a place peculiarly its own, by the granting of prizes for animals intended immediately or directly for slaughter, as distinguished from those likely to be kept for breeding purposes, and the sconer and more nearly it is made to conform to that idea by the offer of many and liberal prizes for stock intended directly for the shambles the more completely will it fulfil its mission.

The block test is the logical accompaniment of the fat stock show, and we are pleased to note that for the first time in Canada prizes are offered at the Brantford Show for dressed carcasses in the case of bacon hogs, the product to be exhibited at the annual meeting of the Swine Breeders' Association, in connection with the judges' report. By no other means but that of slaughtering and weighing, before and after, can accurate comparisons be made as to cost of production, percentage of dressed meat to live weight, and quality of product These are vital problems in connection with economical meat production, and in the absence of the test indicated a world of guesswork is indulged in which is not in accord with the practical ideals of the age we live in. Men may have much confidence in their ability, in judging animals, to harmonize the seen and the unseen, but actual demonstration by the aid of the scales frequently plays havoc with our fine-spun theories, and it is only by following the subject to its legitimate conclusion that we can learn to judge the live animal with tolerable accuracy as to results.

The same remarks apply equally in regard to the judging of dairy cows by conformation and the pet theoretical indications of milk and butter production, as is done in the competitions at the fall shows, as compared with the milk and butter test faithfully and fairly conducted under fair and equitable rules rigidly applied, and where the scales, fit emblem of justice, and the churn are the final court of appeal and the only absolutely trustworthy

tribunal. To our mind the winter shows are the most intensely interesting of the series for the year, affording as they do opportunity for quiet and leisurely study and comparison of breeds and types of animals free from the bustle and distractions incident to the mixed and miscellaneous exhibitions which attract the motley multitude, and we would gladly see a larger percentage of intelligent young farmers availing themselves of the opportunity of attending the short-course terms in these practical schools of animal industry and studying the ideal types in the greatest of our country's industries.

Thanksgiving.

The farmers of Canada will join heartily with all the people on our annual national Thanksgiving Day, in acknowledgement of national, family and individual blessings at the hands of a beneficent Providence. There is a world of significance in the practical application of the words peace and plenty to any people, and these have been and are the heritage of this favored Dominion in full measure. In the midst of wars and rumors of wars, the white-winged angel has hovered over our happy country; home circles remaining unbroken by the ruthless hand of the war-fiend, and hearts spared the agony of anxious suspense, hope deferred, and grief for the loss of loved ones, inevitable accompaniments of cruel, unrelenting war. Pestilence and famine have found no place in the history of Canada, and poverty is little known, while public and private charities provide generously for the relief of the unfortunate few. A clear, bracing and wholesome atmosphere gives health and energy to a thrifty people, while our herds and flocks enjoy immunity from disease in larger measure than those of any other land, and the increase has been sure and satisfactory.

Our fields have brought forth plentifully. bountiful harvest has been gathered, of food for man and beast enough and to spare. Our barns are full, heaped up, pressed down and overflowing. Pastures in nearly every section of the country have kept fresh and full all through the three seasons, with the result that milk has flowed like a river and the financial returns from the dairies must be above normal, notwithstanding that prices have not been quite satisfactory. The immense crops of clovers in all the Eastern Provinces will show their value in the winter returns from the dairy, and in flesh-forming in the case of feeding animals, while the nitrogen collected and stored in its tissues will tell mightily for good on future crops, and meanwhile the busy bees have improved the shining hours by storing up rich supplies of nectar from this source, and nobly playing their part in concert with the cows in making this literally 'a land flowing with milk and honey." Our orchards and small-fruit plantations have, as a rule, yielded abundantly, and the returns from our export trade in this line promise to be greater than ever before. Prices for live stock of all classes have appreciably advanced, especially for those of a high standard of quality, and these are still on the rise. Trade has greatly expanded, new and better markets opening for the produce of our farms; while our mines, proving the richest known under the face of the earth, are attracting capital for their development from all directions and inducing immigration, not only of miners, but of many who are content to grow rich by the surer if slower means of cultivating the virgin soil of our Western prairie lands, which rarely fail to return a hundred-fold for all of capital and labor expended on them. For these and a thousand other felicitous conditions enjoyed, not the least of which is our happy connection with the Anglo-Saxon race and Imperial Britain, leader in civilization, culture, and freedom of thought, and influence, the dominant sentiment should be grati-