

The Ontario Experimental Farm.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—It has been to me a matter of no little surprise that so much has been said and written adversely regarding the Ontario Agricultural College, in certain quarters, and that such an ado should be made about the expenditure in running the institution, even by farmers themselves, the class whom it is intended to benefit more than any other. It is only meet, Mr. Editor, that I should say here that I admire the stand that you have taken in reference to the Experimental Farm from the first, and for your making it so clear that your course is not prompted by any sentiment of party partizanship, inasmuch as you say that you will stand by an experimental farm for Ontario, where farmers' sons may get the scientific side of their calling, no matter which political party may be in power.

All manner of charges have been brought against the Guelph College and its management, some of them no doubt sincere, but oftener for partizan purposes. If the element of partisanship were to be taken out of these attacks, assuredly a very small vessel would be required to hold what was left.

It has been argued that the expenditure in running the institution has been unjustifiably large, but in which particular it has never been made very clear. While I admit that some things might possibly be done on a more economical basis, on the whole, candid men must admit that the college has been fairly well managed, and that in proportion to the expenditure of money it has given the Province a fair return. The annual public expenditure with a view to the advancement of higher education is \$85,000, and more is sought, which is perhaps all well enough, but why in such a case grudge the expenditure—very much less—in promoting the higher education of farmers' sons, as the farming community is the most numerous, and owing to its relative importance has the first claims on the attention of a legislature to provide for its wants.

The Experimental Farm has done good work in many ways, although it may not have done everything that we might desire. The institution is young. Give it time to develop. The system of collegiate and university education is old as the hills, and yet even now what are regarded as reforms are ever and anon introduced. Why then should we look for perfection from an institution which is just entering on its teens?

The college has done good work in its experiments in cattle feeding and dairying. Its reports may not have pleased everyone, since some are interested mainly in the pushing forward of one particular breed of live stock, and whatever in the reports touched their interests adversely, touched a very tender sore. The experiments carried on by it in this way have been favorably noticed in leading agricultural journals on both sides of the Atlantic, in the pages of which not a line from the agricultural papers of our own land with their adverse criticisms ever finds a place.

But equally good is the work which the College has done in the experimental field. Think of the frauds that were practised a few years ago in the sale of seed grain which had proved to be worthless, but which nevertheless had been sold for outrageous prices before it had been tried. Now, when any of these seed vendors come along, they are told they must get a certificate from the Experimental Farm before their seed will be bought. The great loss to the farmer did not so much consist in the extra price paid for the seed, which was a mere bagatelle compared to the loss of the crop the following harvest.

It has also done good work in the impulse it has given to the stock-growing industry. The experiments at the farm have confirmed the reports of fat stock shows as to the early age at which animals intended for the block may be matured. The investigations in this respect have astonished farmers of old-time practice. These results printed in the annual reports have been read by thousands, and even the most skeptical, if they would only acknowledge it, have been influenced in a degree by what they have read.

Some have argued that this agricultural college should be done away with, since most of the students have not followed farming as an avocation after leaving it. This I do not believe, but admitting it, then all the model schools must go, as a very large proportion of those who prepare themselves for teachers never take up the profession, and a large number of those who do, only make it a stepping stone to something else.

The day is fast going when farmers' sons will think so

little of the calling of their fathers as to run away from it at the first opportunity. Some years ago, while sitting in the Ontario Legislature, I heard one of the members state that he could understand a man coming from the *stills of the plough* making an exhibition of himself in the House, but for a man of the *legal* profession to do so was more than he could understand. Since those days farmers' stock has gone up. Now, no member on either side of the House dare attack them openly, and with the still greater advance of coming years we may confidently look for the profession to be held more and more in honor.

Now that farming is becoming recognized as a distinct profession, and one of the first magnitude, it becomes more and more important that the one institution in Ontario, which can give them an insight into the scientific details relating to their calling, be sustained in increasing efficiency. It is a simple thing in a sense to be a merchant. If one buys goods at \$1 a yard and sells them at \$1.50, he cannot go wrong if he but gets enough sold. An important feature of the lawyer's duty is to make black appear white and white black, but it requires *brams* to be a farmer. It requires pluck, perseverance and determination to be a successful farmer, and the more highly educated a man is, possessing the above characteristics, the more likely is he to succeed.

Farmers should rally around their own institution. To allow a lawyer to give it a stab, a merchant a blow, and an editor a hack, unresisted, is unjustifiable timidity, and to manifest indifference in not making the most of the opportunities its advantages afford is blame-worthy.

A. BISHOP.

Exeter, Ont.

Permanent Pasture in North Middlesex.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

Dear Sir : As no part of farm economy has more to do with stock raising than pasture, I thought a few remarks on this subject might be of interest to your readers.

We believe the first requisite of a pasture grass is that it be highly nutritious. Secondly, that it grows abundantly, and thirdly, that it keeps up a regular supply throughout the season.

It will have been noticed by all observing stockmen, that animals in grazing, invariably pick out the leaf or blade, and never eat the stalk except when compelled to do so by hunger, which clearly proves that the chief elements of nutrition are in the blade, therefore it follows that those grasses which furnish the greatest percentage of leaf (other things being equal), are the most desirable. Now the grass that fills the above mentioned requirements is *Poa Pratensis* or Blue Grass generally mistaken in Ontario for *Triticum Repens* or Quack Grass, which for nutritive value and regularity of growth is superior to any other. The second place we would give to White Clover; no forage plant grows that is more nutritious, but it is deficient in quantity, and as it comes in during a slight lull in the growth of the Blue Grass, we give it the second place. The third place we assign to orchard grass, which is fully equal to number one in regularity of growth, but far below in nutrition, and no better in quantity. The fourth and last place we give to alsike clover, which is below numbers one and three in quantity, and not equal to numbers one and two in nutrition, but as it has staying qualities, and is palatable to stock, we would not be without it.

I am aware that many will say that these grasses are not sufficient for a permanent pasture; well, for some localities perhaps they are not, but we must speak of things as we find them. Ten years ago we seeded down seven acres for pasture, sowing a mixture of timothy, orchard grass, oat grass, Italian and English rye grasses, and meadow fescue. They have all disappeared excepting the timothy and orchard grass, which is no loss, as nothing would eat them without being pastured too close for profit; indeed, the last mentioned are worse than worthless, as they for a time kept other grasses from growing. The pasture is now chiefly blue grass, a sprinkling of white clover, a little timothy, orchard grass and redtop, the last being but an inferior grass. You will bear in mind that these remarks apply only to this locality. We admit that those grasses that have proved failures so great with us may prove useful in other places; but as far as this section is concerned, we have no hesitancy in proclaiming blue grass the king of pasture grass.

Within a radius of fifteen miles of Alton Craig, there are thousands of acres devoted to grazing steers, and all this pasture is composed of blue grass and white clover (which latter appears to be indigenous to the soil), that will fat bullocks from the straw stack in April, fit for the English market in August. Yes, but some will say it takes three acres of such pasture for each head for the season, but it must be remembered that they are turned on about the first of April, and sooner if the weather permits, and when they are removed, others are put on and remain until the first of December, which makes eight months or more.

We doubt if a pasture of the cultivated grasses would do any better; it certainly would not come up to it in regard to fattening.

STEPHEN NICHOLSON.

Elmdale Stock Farm, Sylvan.

The Dairy.

In no department of farming is there more room for improvement than in the butter industry, and in no line, we may add, is the outlook so bright for many years to come. There is practically an unlimited demand for good butter and at good prices. It is the very large amount of medium and inferior that keeps the price so low as it now is. Good butter is made by a considerable number. Why, then, are these so largely in the minority? The tocsin of advance has already been sounded by the proposed formation of an association of the butter dairymen of Ontario. But this is only one step in the advance, as the influence of this association will only reach certain sections for a time. There will still be a very large number of butter-makers—farmers' wives and daughters—who will continue to make butter with the home churn. It is a thousand pities that so much of the product thus made finds its way to the confectioner, to reach the stomach of the eater in a very roundabout way, who would reject it with loathing, if it were offered him directly. This is one of the strange results of the circuitous methods of preparing food.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

The Holstein's Defence.

(Continued from February Journal.)

I will now proceed to give a few facts bearing more particularly on the relative value of the Holstein compared to other breeds as a general purpose animal. Firstly, as regards production of milk. The largest daily, monthly, and yearly records that have ever been made by cows of any breed have been made by Holsteins. There are eleven Holstein cows that have produced over 18,000 lbs. of milk in one year, and one nearly 24,000 lbs. Here are a few of these large records made. Empress, 19,714 lbs.; Aaggie, 18,004 lbs.; Jamaica, 19,546 lbs.; Ethelka, 18,131 lbs.; Echo, 23,775 lbs. In one herd alone there are twenty mature cows, including four-year-olds, which averaged 15,567 lbs. in one year—equal to 42 lbs. 6 oz. for every day in the year. For want of space I will not quote any of the hundreds of daily and monthly records made within the last few years, but will content myself with asking, where is there another breed that can make such a showing?

"Yes," some will say, "that's all very well, but Prof. Brown has said that the milk is of very poor quality." Very well, let us see. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." The amount of butter a Holstein cow is capable of producing surely ought to be sufficient guarantee as to quality of milk.

Messrs. T. G. Yeomans & Sons, of Walworth, N. Y., write as follows to the *American Dairyman* :

"To show what the real average quality of Holstein-Friesian, we give you herewith the average per cent. of 21 cows of our herd, embracing all in our