

many parts declare that the growing of grain for malting purposes is no longer remunerative at the prices they are forced to accept. The new situation thus created has been of late seriously faced, and the idea has become widely disseminated that, as the Irish farmer is obviously "up against" a serious proposition, his best plan might be to ignore the brewer and the distiller, and find a more profitable outlet for his grain in feeding it to live stock on his farm, thereby helping substantially to reduce the huge national expenditure—running into millions of pounds annually—for imported manufactured cakes and meals of foreign origin, sold very often at excessively high prices. Of course, a great many farmers do use home-grown grain on their farms for feeding purposes, but the agitation under notice is working for a much wider adoption of the practice. It stands to reason, need it be said, that the prevailing market prices current for grain, and the prices the farmer has to pay for cakes and purchased meals, constitute the factor that determines the best method of disposing of grain. Such prices fluctuate from season to season, but undoubtedly, under existing circumstances, there are strong indications that the utilization of grain as a foodstuff on the farm is the best-paying outlet for such produce. Seeking the benefit of expert information, a representative deputation of farmers has lately gone to the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture, and urged on him the great importance of instituting a thoroughly practical test, in order to ascertain definite information for the guidance of farmers as to the actual feeding values of the different grains, compared with imported cakes and meals, and, further, to determine the proper proportions in which the grains grown in Ireland should be blended by themselves, or mixed with other ingredients, so as to give the best feeding results. This the Department have expressed a willingness to do, and useful information of a practical kind may be expected as an outcome of their investigations.

THE "ILL WIND" AGAIN.

The moment that the recent English outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease became known, all Irish ports were almost automatically closed against stock from across the channel; and though the likelihood of infection has been considerably lessened in the interval, the Royal Dublin Society have decided to take no risk in admitting any British animals to be exhibited at their great spring show at Ballsbridge, in Easter week. Nearly seventy cross-channel entries were made, but all have been declined. "England's difficulty: Ireland's opportunity," is an old political cry, reminding of rather rancorous reminiscences; but, in a commercial way, we can fairly revive it without embittering anybody's feelings. Hence, it is expected that the great South American buyers of Shorthorns and other pedigree stock who dare not send animals to the Argentine from any British port for many months, will be induced to turn more extensively than ever this season to Irish sales, in order to satisfy their requirements. Efforts are being made to cater for their convenience by getting direct sailings established between Dublin and other Irish ports and South America, so that there may be no need to send purchased animals to Liverpool for embarkation on the big boats there, as has formerly been the custom.

LAWS IN THE MAKING.

Some say it is a scandal, others say it is a matter for indifference, that T. W. Russell, as Vice-President of the Irish Department of Agriculture, is still without a seat in Parliament. I will content myself with moderate language and say it is at least a pity that he is not able to personally look after the interest of Irish agriculture in the House. A number of recent discussions there were obviously incomplete without direct representation of the body over which Mr. Russell has charge. The far-reaching Butter Bill, which is to control the dairy industry of the country, gives no signs of appearing on the legislative horizon; but then, with the so-called constitutional crisis still looming, most of the legislative machinery is at a standstill. A private measure, fathered by Wm. Field, M. P., and extensively backed, is, however, "on the road." It is called the Meat-marking Bill, and, as its name implies, is designed to check the sale of frozen foreign meat as genuine home-fed produce—a dishonesty that is extensively practiced with shameful flagrancy in our consuming centers, both large and small.

"Richer Than the West."

The chairman of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Board, J. L. Englehart, gave two hundred of the business men of Toronto the other day an interesting address on the wonderful new North West of Ontario, with which he is so intimately acquainted, and for the development of which he is doing so much. While the minerals and timber of the region are the only sure foundation of the country's agricultural development. From a wide and varied standpoint, the land of Northern Ontario is richer than the West. Its soil has been found to be good for growing with great fertility, and it

yield greater returns than the land of the West. Where, in the West, work was provided for only six or seven months in the year, in New Ontario there was work for the whole year round. The soil of the great clay belt was equalled nowhere else in the world.

Eastern Dairy School Examinations.

Of the seventy-four students who registered at the Eastern Dairy School for the session of 1911, only twenty-nine completed the full course, which closed on March 25th.

The subjects covered by the written examinations were: Cheesemaking, Separators and Buttermaking, Milk-testing, Dairy Chemistry, Dairy Bacteriology, and Miscellaneous (Boilers, Engines and Mathematics); also practical examinations on Cheesemaking, Buttermaking and Milk-testing. The total marks obtainable were 900; 33 per cent. was required for a pass on each subject, 50 per cent. of the total for second-class honors, and 75 per cent. for first-class honors. The following is a list of the successful candidates, in order of general proficiency: First-class honors—Aaron Stoodley, 709; J. W. Charbonneau, 683. Second-class honors—W. E. Rallison, 666; R. A. Grant, 642; Roy Richards, 634; Lorne Merkley, 633; J. A. Mitchell, 623; D. Connell, 607; H. G. Villeneuve, 580; H. McDonald, 561; S. J. Landon, 554; H. Woods, 550; H. Richards, 542. Third-class honors—E. S. Beales, 531; Geo. Thimms, 524; H. Greatrix, 495; G. H. Phillips, 489; A. A. McRae, 483; and E. T. Rogers, 470.

L. A. ZUFELT, Supt.

Algoma Notes.

Our winter is almost a thing of the past. One hardly knows whether to take the sleigh or the wagon. We had a comparatively mild winter, with sleighing from start to finish.

The stock are coming out well this spring, with feed left over, if the number of hay stacks tell the story. Pressed hay, \$9 per ton; oats, 35 cents; peas, 65 cents; pork, about \$9.50, dressed, with butter from 25 cents to 30 cents, and eggs at 20 cents a dozen now.

So far, the apple trees have stood the winter well, but the alternate thawing and freezing will tell the tale later on. The heavy crust of the snow has played havoc with the bush fruits; many are broken right down, and need to be cut off, and let them make fresh start from the roots.

We have organized an energetic Farmers' Club of twenty members in our neighborhood.

There is no registered heavy-draft stallion in the township of Johnson that I know of.

SAMUEL G. FISCHER.

Have just received from Herbert J. Reid, Secretary of the County Dublin Farmers' Association, Ireland, a copy of the sixth annual report, together with the printed rules under which the Association works. The objects of this farmers' organization are: To protect the members in carrying out their business, to secure the best possible market facilities, to provide technical instruction and demonstrations, e. g., lectures, plowing matches, etc., and to enter into agreement with municipal or other authorities to further the aforesaid objects, as well as to obtain from these authorities desirable rights and privileges. Social intercourse among the members is also to be encouraged. The committee are to meet at least once a month, and the annual general meeting is held in January, besides other general meetings in April, August and November. The report of 1910 claims that the Association has surmounted its infantile difficulties, and promises to flourish with robustness and vigor. Three lectures which the Association had the pleasure of hearing during the year, on "Veterinary Hygiene," "The Irish Farmer's Interest in Tariff Reform," and "The Living Soil," are mentioned, with much appreciation.

For some weeks past persistent rumors have been circulated through the press to the effect that deposits of potash had been discovered in the neighborhood of Goderich, Ont., and that companies were being formed to exploit these resources. A representative of the German potash syndicate recently visited the Goderich locality in the interests of his firm, to find out, if possible, what truth there was in the rumors. He writes us to the effect that, while he heard from one gentleman the statement that potash had actually been discovered in paying quantities, but that the few people "on the inside" were endeavoring to keep it quiet, he discredited the statement. Interviews with officials of several salt works were obtained, and all agreed in believing that potash would ever be mined in the Goderich district wasn't there—at least, certainly not in paying quantities.

Pushing Fruit Business in Wentworth.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Last fall, every unsprayed and uncared-for orchard in the district between Hamilton and Guelph was a losing and a discouraging proposition for the owner, and for the buyers who bought and tried to dispose of the product, it meant trouble, and more trouble, from start to finish.

Carey Bros., of Hamilton, who owned an evaporator at Millgrove, and were the principal buyers and exporters from that district, decided they would cease the buying game, and rented for five years fourteen orchards, over eighty acres, and set to work at once to look after these orchards in the proper manner.

This started a general-improvement feeling, and a few of the most influential growers and best thinkers got together, and asked Carey Bros. if it would not be a wise act to organize a Fruit-growers' Association, and promised them their staunch co-operation and assistance if they would start the ball rolling. They agreed heartily, and did as follows: Interviewed four good speakers: M. C. Smith, of Burlington; Prof. Caesar, of Guelph; Mr. Gilbertson, Simcoe, and P. J. Carey, Dominion Fruit Inspector, Toronto; and, by individual invitation, called a meeting of all fruit-growers of the district, and met in the Town Hall, Millgrove. The two meetings, afternoon and evening, were largely attended.

That night, twenty-one men agreed to join in a co-operative concern, appointed their executive committee, and the committee in turn appointed Roy A. Carey as manager and secretary-treasurer.

More meetings were held, including as speakers J. E. Johnson, manager of Norfolk Fruit-growers' Association, of Simcoe. Seventeen more growers joined, and we now have a total membership of thirty-six, representing about 250 acres of orchard, and each member is pledged to spray his orchard thoroughly, and to prune and fertilize where necessary.

Through the influence of the Association, outsiders are waking up to the sense of their duty, and all over the country you will find orchards being pruned, scraped and sprayed thoroughly, as they never have been before.

Several power sprayers and a carload of traction and hand sprayers have been shipped in here and found their prospective homes. The Fruit Branch of the Department of Agriculture has sent to us for the entire season R. R. Waddle, of Simcoe, who is giving our members valuable information and assistance in their pruning, grafting, spraying and cultivation. He has also taken five small orchards as demonstration orchards, and will handle them something on the same plan as was followed by Mr. Kydd, at Collingwood, last season.

Our main idea and determination is to place on the market a better and more uniform pack of fruit, and the outcome is eagerly watched, particularly by growers who have not joined us yet, and who say they will join next season, if all goes well, which sounds to the enterprising leaders like the schoolboy days at the swimming pool, when one fellow says, "You go in first, and if the water is fine I'll come in too."

Wentworth Co., Ont.

R. A. C.

Rumor has been persistently connecting the name of Dr. James W. Robertson with prominent positions in the agricultural service of the country. So far as "The Farmer's Advocate" has been able to learn, the reports are not well founded, as Dr. Robertson is understood to have expressed in no uncertain words his intention not to accept again a position as civil servant, or any other position under permanent employment and salary. Friends of Dr. Robertson suspect that he has some aspirations in the direction of politics, and would not be surprised if at the next general election he were to offer himself as an independent candidate. A man of Dr. Robertson's attainments would render invaluable service to agriculture in the Dominion Parliament, or, better still, in the Cabinet, in case he should be called to assume a portfolio.

Hon. Mr. Fielding's fifteenth annual Budget statement, lately presented to the Commons, was remarkable for two things—it was short, and sweet. The speech only occupied 40 minutes in delivery—the shortest on record—and it announced a surplus of thirty and a half millions. The total estimated revenue for the past year is \$117,500,000, and estimated expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund, \$87,000,000. During the year, \$27,000,000 have been spent on Transcontinental Railway construction, and \$11,500,000 on public works and other items of capital expenditure. Addition to net debt, \$3,900,000. In answer to a question, Mr. Fielding announced that the Government has no intention of renewing the bounties on iron and steel rods, which expire on July 1st, 1912.