

to England from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Spain and other countries, is large. The volume of the antipodean dead meat trade is assuming formidable proportions. This fact is especially recognized by the mutton men, who have larger competition than those who are interested in cattle. What will be the result of the Australian frozen meat trade? It is steadily growing in volume, and there is almost no limit to the proportions it may assume.

The hogs that have been marketed this year are heavier in weight and better in quality than those of one year ago, but prices have been \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt. lower. Still, the hogs have not sold this year for unremunerative rates.

Agricultural Education.

BY MARSHFIELD.

This question embraces two divisions: (1.) The education of our farmers, and (2) agriculture in our Public Schools. Farmers receive their agricultural knowledge (1) through the agricultural press, and (2) by the distribution of Government literature, or by means of Government lecturers sent out amongst them. I shall not have space in this article to discuss agricultural exhibitions, farmers' clubs, or agricultural colleges.

Educationally, farmers may be divided into three classes: (1.) Those who keep posted on the agricultural literature of the day and make practical use of such experience of others as they deem to be profitable to them; (2.) Those who read such literature for criticism or pleasure, but entirely ignore "book farming," and (3) Those who neither take nor read an agricultural paper. Questions.—1. Does the Government now undertake the agricultural education of our farmers because it neglected to do so when they were pupils in our Public Schools? 2.—Which of the above three classes does the Government intend to reach, or does it intend to school all the classes with the same lectures or text books? 3.—Does it intend to make up for the imperfections of the agricultural press? Our farmers should obtain an answer to those questions, and demand from what standpoint the Government proposes to act.

In reference to question No. 1, the Government must either affirm that it does not intend to commence the agricultural education of farmers until their school days are over, or explain its delinquency with regard to agriculture in schools. As to question No. 2, the Government should be asked to show what special facilities it has for reaching each of the classes mentioned, and the nature and extent of the instruction to be imparted to each class. If, as in question No. 3, the agricultural press, (as well as other private enterprises by means of catalogues, etc.) is at fault in any particular, the Government should then be called upon to show cause why it does not undertake the education and licensing of agricultural editors.

Is it just to tax class No. 1 for literature which it does not require, for a supposed benefit to their business rivals in classes numbered 2 or 3? Can the Government give us any guarantee that free literature will be more eagerly perused and more wisely acted upon than that which costs a dollar a year? My observation testifies that the reverse is the case. It is not

what the farmer reads, but what he acts upon, that tells. Before submitting to further taxation, I would advise every farmer to ascertain the quantity of Government literature that has already been distributed in his neighborhood, make diligent research as to the reliability of the information it contains, and the amount of practical good it has accomplished. Based upon observation, my impression is that should the Government employ agents to attempt to educate the farmer, they will either be incompetent partizans or high-salaried professors who will soar so high above his comprehension that their labors will only begin to be appreciated by generations yet unborn.

I have no special objection to urge against a Government as a controller of schoolmasters. A minister of education is a man of learning, and is perfectly competent to deal with all the educational matters at present under his control; but it is more the fault of our circumstances than of the man that he is incapable of grappling with agricultural questions. The same may be said of a commissioner of agriculture. I doubt that there is a man in the Province who is sufficiently intimate with the science and practice of agriculture to be able to deal efficiently with the intricacies of this great problem. That there are competent foreigners is true; but they would be out of place in this Province. The man so eagerly sought must also be perfectly familiar with all our agricultural circumstances and resources, and the tendencies and temper of our agricultural population.

The incapacity of our agricultural authorities may be exemplified in many ways. The placing of Tanner's "First Principles of Agriculture" on the public school optional list is a striking example; as well also as the recommendation of Stewart's "Feeding Animals" to be read by our farmers. There is no wonder that the minds of our farmers revolt against "book farming." It is certain that no work confined to British agriculture will fill the wants of our Public Schools. Any manual specially written for British farmers might safely be condemned as a text book without perusal. In his introduction Professor Tanner says that he purposely avoids the use of technical terms; that is, he omits the "first principles"—just the very thing that should be taught in school. The agricultural press, as an educator of our farmers, will be hampered until the technicalities of agriculture are taught in our Public Schools. A text book of this kind should not be an arbitrary one; it should contain no subject that could not immediately be put into profitable practice by our farmers. In this way the parents would learn from their children—just as foreigners in the United States usually acquire the English language Stewart's "Feeding Animals" will prove a failure on still more objectionable grounds. Notwithstanding the many excellent hints contained therein, it must not be forgotten that the work was written during the height of a series of agricultural booms which have since collapsed, and much of it is encumbered with analytical tables which are beyond the comprehension of those who have not studied the first principles of agriculture.

Nothing illustrates the incapacity of our agricultural authorities more strikingly than the management of our fat stock shows and

agricultural exhibitions; but these matters are too well known to require comment. They have yielded to and encouraged speculations of the vilest kind, to the detriment of the true basis of agriculture. The whole system is rotten to the very core, as every sensible farmer already knows. No matter how commendable an object may be, if it is encouraged on false principles the day of doom is certain and near. We commenced too high up, and the higher we go the more certain and dreadful will be the fall. Let us go straight back and seize hold of one sound principle, instead of a score of false ones, and when its encouragement is once fairly established, all the powers of ignorance and fraud cannot prevail against it.

PRIZE ESSAY.

How can the "Farmer's Advocate" Best Expend \$100 Annually in the Farmers' Interest?

BY JAS. SHANNON, WOLVERTON, ONT.

The agricultural interests of our country being in a depressed condition, it is not unlikely that, in common with all other trades and occupations, it will feel the effects of competition in the future more keenly than it has done in the past. We are also in the transition state between the old hap-hazard style of farming and the systematic or scientific method, which naturally accompanies age and development, and is made necessary by reason of the exhaustion of our soil. We have reached that point in our history when brain work must largely supercede muscular effort. The requirements of the times, then, naturally suggest organization among farmers for the purposes of mental improvement and protection, and the dissemination of the soundest and most practical doctrines and methods.

I therefore urge the claims of farmers' clubs—in some measure, at least—to meet these requirements, and bespeak for them aid from the ADVOCATE'S liberal offer. This scheme, if worked out on a proper basis, is of great importance to the future of our country. An intelligent and united electorate can, and undoubtedly will, control the public affairs of the country, and in this pre-eminently agricultural Canada of ours, we do not know the limit of our power when united. In every community are to be found sound, practical men in almost every respect; yet if called upon to give a detailed exposition of their views on any subject, fail, not so much for want of knowledge as discipline of mind; and thousands of our young men although possessors of a good education, are being confirmed in this undisciplined habit of mind. To obviate all this, and improve the social status of isolated families, we need organization.

But how to organize, or how to infuse public spiritedness enough to effect this result, is a problem yet to be solved, and will require time, agitation and example.

As briefly as possible I shall give the details of my plan, fully realizing, however, that "the best laid schemes," &c., and I have not the presumption to suppose that my schemes will prove an absolute exception to the general rule.

I propose, 1.—That clubs be formed under the patronage of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and