

Canadian Records Recognized.

The authorities of the Columbian World's Fair have decided to recognize the Canadian Sheep Record, also the Canadian Swine Record. Animals recorded in these records are eligible to compete at Chicago, and need not be registered in American records.

Mr. John Bell's Tamworths.

The illustration on the first page of this issue portrays three Tamworth swine, the property of Mr. John Bell, Amber, Ont. The combined weight of these animals is 2,500 lbs., yet they are smooth and attractive in appearance and very active. The female in the background is imported Sally Ann-1-3908, bred by Mr. John Norman, jr., Cliff House, Tamworth, Staffordshire, England. The other two large pigs are Scarboro Bell and Major of Willowdale, two of her first litter, sired by imported Norman's Pride. Each of these animals has been frequently shown at Canada's largest exhibitions, and in each case has been awarded first prize.

These are fair specimens of Mr. Bell's now famous herd. His present breeding stock consists of three aged boars and twelve sows; two of the boars and four of the sows were imported from England. Ten of the sows have farrowed recently, two will farrow soon. This spring nearly one hundred young pigs have first seen the light at this farm, many of which are now sold. Orders have been received from nearly every state in the American Union, and from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba, Assiniboia, British Columbia, and a great many from Ontario. At the time of our visit the pens contained a grand lot of breeding animals and young pigs; all were surprisingly smooth and had the appearance of being easily fed and calculated to produce the finest grade of bacon and hams. They were uniformly light in the neck, jowl and back, wonderfully deep in the sides, hams full, thick and well let down, while the shoulders were fine and smooth. To many Canadian farmers these pigs present a novel appearance; their heads are not dishd, nor their backs broad, two qualities much admired by many, but of no intrinsic value—in fact, a broad, fat back is not wanted by any of the pork-packers to-day, because the consumers reject all such. Although the snouts worn by these swine are long, the head is very light, and the offal less than usual. This sort will doubtless win their way among the rent-paying farmers. We have never heard of a section where they have been introduced that they have not grown in public favor. They are said to be excellent grazers, easily fed, and very prolific.

Mr. Nicholas Awrey, Ontario Commissioner to the World's Columbian Exposition, instructed Mr. Bell to prepare a full class of this breed for competition at Chicago, but owing to the authorities of this great show refusing to give this breed a class, Mr. Bell has declined to make an exhibit. What are known in Canada as Improved Large Yorkshires and Middle Whites are also compelled to show in a sort of general class, or consolidation class, which will include animals of very different types—so different that it will be impossible for any man to make just awards. The Tamworths and Large Yorkshires should each have been given a class. We were given to understand at one time that this would be done, but recently some mysterious change has come over the American managers at Chicago; they have changed their mind without giving any explanations.

Mr. Bell breeds Shropshires as well as Clydesdales and Tamworths. At the head of his flock of Shropshires is a ram imported by John Miller & Sons, Brougham, Ont.; this sheep is the sire of a lot of good lambs, which are doing very well.

The famous Granite City is at the head of the Clydesdale stud; this noble horse is as fresh and good as he ever was, and is doing a satisfactory season, standing in his owner's stable. Among the Clydes owned by Mr. Bell is a very good yearling colt which will be shown at the Columbian Exposition.

The breeder and owner of this stock is one of Canada's best live stock judges, a man widely known and as widely respected. We recommend him and his stock to our readers.

The Poultry Association held a regular monthly meeting in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE office on the evening of June 5th. After discussing of routine business, a revision of the constitution was discussed. Several important changes being deemed necessary, it was decided to leave this matter over till the next meeting (first Monday of July), when it should receive full discussion before the annual meeting, which will be held during exhibition week and of which notice will be given later on.

Institute Work and What It Should Lead to.

[Read at the Farmers' Institute Meeting, at Hartney, by R. E. A. Leech, Secretary Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute].

The object of the Farmers' Institutes, as set forth in the "Act respecting Farmers' Institutes," are "To encourage improvement in agriculture, horticulture, arboriculture, manufactures and the useful arts, (a) By holding meetings for the discussion of and hearing lectures on subjects connected with the theory and practice of improved husbandry or other industrial purposes," &c., but this should be sufficient text for an elaborate paper.

First, then, "To encourage improvement in agriculture." In this calling, more than in any other profession or business, we have opportunity to study art, literature and science, and apply the useful knowledge thus gained in helping nature produce her most bountiful rewards, and assist us in our daily labour. Ours is an age of advancement, and each succeeding year brings with it new and improved methods of husbandry, and those who keep abreast of the times have best returns for their labour and skill. For that purpose we have met here to-day. Let this gathering be a profitable one for us all, the knowledge we receive by communion one with another the means of developing new thoughts and better ways and means for our daily labour, and raise to a higher plane in the world's onward march this great pursuit, Agriculture. Agriculture is the foundation business of this country, and in many respects the very best in which a man can be engaged.

A Wisconsin Institute man thus describes one of their institutes (in the early days of Institutes in that State):—A small audience, a few progressive farmers in front, a few curious stragglers in the middle seats, and a few old farmers in the back seats, as dumb and cold as oysters, had come, firmly braced against the heresy of new ideas in farming. Few questions, few local papers, and little enthusiasm prevailed. Since then, however, he adds, "things have changed;" instead of small meetings and no interest we now have large, enthusiastic audiences, and those who first "came to scoff, now remain to pray." The progressive farmer is now our best worker, the curious straggler is now our intent listener, the old farmer, now in the front seat, delights to tell his experiences. Best of all is a small army of bright young farmers, reading, thinking, talking, experimenting, testing and laying the foundation for intelligent work in the future—work that results in higher fertilization, more thorough preparation of the soil, better tillage, larger crops, finer stocks, improved dairies, and greater success in every way. He further adds that his county alone could pay every dollar expended for Institute work in the State of Wisconsin, and still have a balance in her favor. Farming is becoming more and more a scientific profession. Hence the demand for elementary science and manual instruction is becoming louder and more general. And as machines become more delicate and complex, as new processes decide the victory in this or that department, and as financial exactitude and foresight exert increasing influence over commerce, the demand in our profession for men of trained intelligence will become universal and imperative. The blunt workman must be turned into the skilled artisan. No sooner do we secure a forward movement than we set about asking how it may be improved, and it is well that it is so, because dropping into a rut is next thing to dropping into the grave. Farmers, as a class, are perhaps the most difficult to lead out of old and long travelled ruts, into a trial, even, of that which is new. We do not contribute largely to that changeless, restless element that would keep society in a constant ferment, and render the foundations of government even uncertain. If we are more persistently loyal to political and religious antecedents than most other classes, we are also slow to recognize those lines of thought and action that lead up to the better methods and conditions in our particular interests.

These peculiarities are largely attributable to the isolated character of our lives—to a failure to mingle in society, to assert our individuality, and to consult with the more successful and intelligent of our own class about mutual interests.

Occasionally we hear the objection, "Oh, experience is the best teacher; I will learn by my own observation." My friends, life is too short for some of us, and be we ever so capable we cannot learn it all alone. Experience is terribly expensive sometimes, and a useful fact about any branch of farming is no less valuable because it happens to be stated by a brother farmer on the floor of an Institute meeting. If it is worth knowing, the sooner it is acquired the better.

Our narrow view of life too often leads us to harbor feelings of distrust and jealousy to those around us, especially the more successful of our neighbours engaged in the same occupation as ourselves; while better methods better business habits and better education are regarded as delusions. But the star of a higher and better education beams upon us, and wise men, old and young, are turning that way for a new revelation. The gospel of good farming is being taught us in Institutes, experimental farms, bulletins, and reports. Our enterprising newspapers are taking up the glad refrain, and carrying it to every rural home. Under these favorable influences the live farmer sees that this is a progressive age—an age of invention, of steam, of electricity, of machinery, of manufacturing, of combinations and better business methods of all

classes. He realizes what a farmer should be in such an age—a man possessing good common sense, not brilliant but having judgment in ordinary matters; not necessarily highly educated, but well informed; not possessing great strength, but endurance; not having great self-esteem, but confidence in himself. He should understand political questions, without being a politician. He should understand law, without being a lawyer. He should be familiar with simple remedies, without being a doctor. He should study nature and her loving ways, without being a preacher. He should understand the soil he is working, and the best crops to grow. He should appreciate the value of manure, the necessity of saving the same, and the best way to apply. He must be familiar with the principles of the breeding of farm stock—the general form, characteristics and adaptation of the various breeds of the animals he handles. He must have an intelligent idea of the profits he should derive from the enterprise in which he engages. He should have well-defined ideas of the values and effects of feeds, that when combined they may produce required results; knowing how to feed, when to feed, and what to feed. He will be a buyer and seller, and should cultivate a ready and correct judgment. Instead of being controlled by circumstances, let him aim to be in a position to use them for his advancement. Institute work in this province is but in its infancy and requires nursing, and in many places much careful fostering. A live secretary is a positive necessity. But while an inefficient secretary never succeeds in getting a good meeting, an inefficient chairman or president is just as liable to spoil one. For those positions particularly, endeavor to secure active men of good executive ability and reasonable mental qualifications and attainments. Select subjects for discussion of most general interest, and endeavor to have one or two papers prepared by men who will be able to impart useful information, followed by questioning and a general experience meeting. Vary the proceedings; "variety is the spice of life." Mammoth picnics may be held in June or July, in connection with the various Institutes, when the matrons and maidens of the farm are present with their lunch baskets, in a beautiful grove on a lovely day. There is sure to be a crowd, whether of those who admire them, or of the hard-hearted stoic fraternity who professedly do not—but somehow they do get there, and thus an excellent opportunity is afforded of dispensing useful information, though it should be dealt out in tiny morsels in nice little speeches; and the chance is too good to lose of swelling the membership list on the principle of badge selling and badge wearing system. A few energetic ladies appointed by the Institute as membership or badge committee would do good service. Push membership list until it reaches one hundred names at least, because the Government bonuses the Institutes to the extent of fifty cents for each member up to that number. Always endeavor to have the "press" interested in and giving reports of your meetings. If there is no paper published in your vicinity, select one of your members to report to some paper generally taken in the locality.

The result of Institute work cannot probably be better summed up than was done by Mr. Thompson, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, at the Portage La Prairie "wind-up," last summer:—

1. Better farming, as a result of increased knowledge.
2. More faith and enthusiasm, which are worth a good deal to any enterprise.
3. Better returns for the farmer's toil and investment.
4. Fewer frauds and humbugs thriving.
5. Less isolation among farmers, and greater unity of action.
6. More comfortable homes.
7. Greater respect by himself and the community for the business of farming.
8. Development of the capacity to conduct public meetings and deal with public questions.
9. The young men of the country appreciating more than they do at present the advantages of an agricultural life.

At a regular council meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, held recently, the veterinary committee reported that they had had the question of abortion in cattle under their careful consideration, and recommended asking the board of agriculture to undertake at as early a date as possible an exhaustive inquiry into the nature and causes of this disease. They had prepared a memorandum on the subject, which showed that although there are no official statistics showing the losses caused by abortion in cattle, such losses have now become exceedingly serious, and they are very widely spread amongst the herds of the country. The cause of the affection has never yet been definitely ascertained, and, consequently, there is no degree of certainty attaching to any of the remedies that may be applied. To show the difference of opinion which prevails as to the nature of the disease, it is only necessary to mention some of the various causes which have been assigned to it, such as ergoted grasses, unsuitable food, impure water, "sympathy," bad smells, disease in the bull, tendency to fatten, etc. That the disease is either contagious or infectious, practical men entertain no doubt, but the question as to the means whereby the contagion or infection is communicated still remains unsolved.