

social problems; dairying; intensive gardening; new inventions; governmental assistance; public school education. The bill of fare was varied, and while an immense amount of information was imparted, the main object seemed to be to crystalize opinion on the great agricultural problems of the day and inaugurate movements for carrying out the views of the Congress. Every resolution was closely considered and nothing was allowed to pass simply to please some person interested. The moment a speaker's voice dropped he was stopped, and every delegate given full opportunity to hear every word. Close scrutiny of proposals and careful criticism of every resolution were marked features of the Congress. Committees were appointed to carry their views to the legislators at Washington and at the various States' capitals. The temperature rose at times almost to the explosion limit, but it seemed proper to discuss nearly every question at a higher temperature and with more animation than would be found in a Canadian convention.

The proceedings are published by the Congress and sent to all interested, and the cost appears to be met entirely from the assessment upon delegates and gratuitous local contributions. This year, however, the State of Massachusetts gave \$1,000 for the expenses of the Boston meeting.

While the Congress was in session no time was given to outside enjoyment. The Board of Trade gave them a reception, but only one hour was allowed for that. The State Governor received them at the State House, but they walked over there at the noon hour. After the sessions were concluded and their work done the delegates enjoyed the hospitality of Boston for two days. The all-absorbing Dewey reception was in progress, the streets were filled with eager crowds watching the bulletins of the yacht race, the hotels were over-run with excitable politicians attending the State Republican convention. As a consequence the papers did not find much space for the deliberations of the Congress. Amid all these counter-attractions the farmers of the United States came together quietly and dispersed without much notice, but it is safe to say that the Farmers' National Congress was not the least important for the future welfare of the United States.

Space will not permit to give even a summary of the many excellent addresses. They will be printed shortly, and it is probable that persons specially interested may be able to procure copies from the secretary, John M. Stahl, 4328 Langley ave., Chicago.

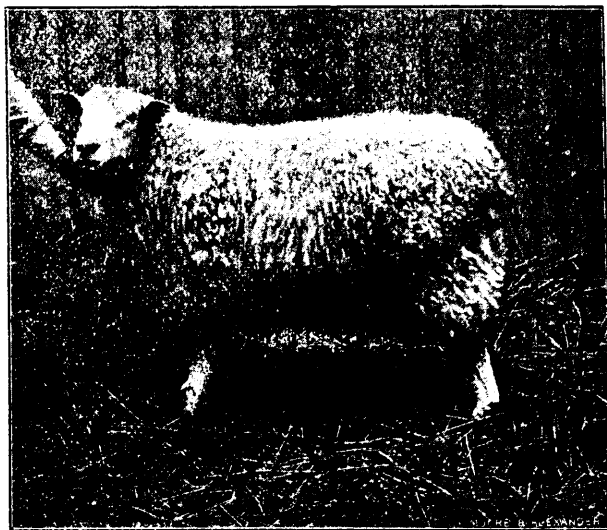
## Maritime Agriculture

Prof. Shutt, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, who last week returned from a trip through the Maritime Provinces, reports that the prospects for an excellent crop of apples in the Annapolis district are good, and that the yield this year will be far above last year, both as regards quality and quantity. A very modest estimate places the yield at 300,000 barrels of first-class fruit. During his trip Prof. Shutt attended a meeting at Kentville, N.S., for the purpose of discussing the advisability of establishing an agricultural college in Nova Scotia. Dr. Mills, president of the Ontario Agricultural College, who was present by special request, gave an account of the work being done at Guelph, and pointed out the great advantages of having such a college in the province.

Prof. Shutt, in conjunction with Prof. Robertson, visited several points in Cape Breton where poultry fattening and creamery stations will be established providing the districts are suitable. The recent developments at one or two points in the way of the establishment of immense smelting works have awakened a deeper interest on the part of the farmers of that part of Nova Scotia, who foresee the possibility of a good market at their doors. Though farming in this part of Canada is not as far advanced as in other parts, the people are anxious to learn and more progress will be made from this on.

While in Cape Breton Prof. Shutt made a special effort to learn something of the condition of farming there. There

is a very large acreage which is fast returning to brush conditions, being rapidly overspread by a thick growth of spruce. After clearing, the soil has been continually cropped, without any application of manure or fertilizer being made. This, in the course of a few years, sometimes not more than six, resulted in the soil becoming impoverished and it no longer yielded a profitable return. It was, therefore, abandoned, and virgin soil recovered from the primeval forest. This wasteful practice has been in vogue over large areas of the island. This treatment had been



Two-year Lincoln Shearling Ram, first prize winner at the Industrial Fair, 1890. Owned by J. H. & E. Patrick, Ilderton, Ont.

such as to reduce very largely the humus and nitrogen in the soil, and Prof. Shutt counselled the more extensive growing of clover.

## Some Interesting Figures

Mr. George Johnston, Dominion Statistician, has recently made public some interesting figures regarding Canadian exports since Confederation. According to Mr. Johnston, we have exported from June 30th, 1867, to June 30th, 1898—thirty-one years—of home products to the value of \$2,464,000,000. These products have been of the farm, the mine, the forest, the fisheries, the workshop and the factory. Of this amount Great Britain has taken more than one-half, or \$1,260,565,563. Our next best customer has been the United States, who have taken over \$955,000,000 worth, or \$305,500,000 less than the United Kingdom. The British West Indies have taken \$59,945,541; Newfoundland, \$48,807,362; France, \$12,190,654; Germany, \$9,080,194, and all other countries \$118,640,647 worth.

In 1868 Great Britain took \$18,000,000 of our products; in 1872, over \$25,000,000; in 1882, nearly \$40,000,000; in 1892, over \$54,000,000, and in 1898 there were over \$93,000,000 worth. In 1868 the purchases made by the United States amounted in value to over \$22,000,000; in 1872 to nearly \$30,000,000, and in 1882 to \$41,700,000, the highest figure their purchases ever reached.

This is a very interesting comparison and shows clearly who are our best customers. During the thirty-one years Great Britain's purchases have increased five times what they were at Confederation; while during the same period the United States purchases have increased only about two-thirds more than they were in 1868. Great Britain, which purchased in 1868 four and four-tenths millions of dollars less than the United States, bought in 1898 fifty-eight and three-tenths millions more than the United States. If the figures for 1899 were at hand we are sure they would show a still wider margin between the purchases made by the Mother Land and our kin to the south of us. If the figures for farm products alone were known, to a greater degree than ever Great Britain would be shown to be our best and only customer of importance.