

Winter Fair Accommodation and Lectures.

The Reception Committee of the Guelph City Council have always been most untiring in their efforts to provide accommodation for the visitors at the Provincial Winter Fair, and prospects of bigger crowds than ever at this year's fair (December 9th to 13th) have only spurred them to special efforts.

Every person in Guelph who can accommodate one or two visitors has been encouraged to open his or her home to the visitors, and already accommodation for several hundreds has been arranged for. Visitors, when they go to the fair, should at once report at the City Hall and enquire for information as to where they may find accommodation. Any person wishing to reserve rooms before going to Guelph should communicate at once with Alderman Frank Howard, chairman of the Reception Committee of the Guelph City Council.

Following is a program of the judging and lectures. It will be noted that the dairy-session has been advanced to the first evening of the lecture program instead of the last one as has formerly been the case. As usual the meetings will be held in the lecture room of the Winter Fair Building.

Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 8 p.m.—"Influence of Heredity in Milk Production," by H. Barton, Professor Animal Husbandry, Macdonald College, Quebec; "The Best Scale of Points for Awarding Prizes at Dairy Cow Competitions," by H. H. Dean, Professor Dairy Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph; "Things to Do and Things to Leave Undone in Handling Milk" (illustrated), by S. F. Edwards, Professor Bacteriology, O. A. C., Guelph.

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 10 a.m.—"Raising Turkeys for Market," by W. J. Bell, Angus; Demonstration, (1) Killing, Plucking and Shaping Chickens for Market, (2) Boning a Chicken and Method of Cooking, by Miss Mary Yates, Port Credit; "European Poultry Practices Which Might be Applied to the Poultry Industry in Canada," by W. R. Graham, Professor Poultry Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph.

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 7.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.

Thursday, Dec. 12th, 10 a.m.—"The Sheep and Mutton Supply in Canada," by H. S. Arkell, B. S. A., Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa; Discussion, led by Lt.-Col. D. McCrae, Guelph; "The Sheep Situation in Ontario and Eastern Canada," by R. H. Harding, Thorndale; Discussion, led by Lt.-Col. R. McEwen, Byron.

Thursday, Dec. 12th, 2 p.m.—"Importance of Seed in Securing a Root Crop," by C. A. Zavitz, Professor Field Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph; "Feeding Roots," by G. E. Day, Professor Animal Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph; "Results of the Bang System in Handling Tubercular Cattle at the Ontario Agricultural College," by R. W. Wade, Associate Professor Animal Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph; "Grain Smuts and Their Treatment," by J. E. Howitt, Professor Botany, Ontario Agricultural College.

Thursday, Dec. 12th, 8 p.m.—Canadian Seed Growers' Association; Chairman, Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.; "Five Year's Experience in Seed Improvement Work," by Wm. Lewis, Dunsford, Ont.; "The Improvement of Hoed Crops," by Chas. Pearce, Wellington, Ont.; "The Choice of Foundation Stock and Its Importance," by Fred. Foyston, Minesing, Ont.; "Progress in High-Class Seed Corn Improvement in Western Ontario and Some Practical Suggestions as to How the Product May be Handled to Better Advantage," by L. D. Hankinson, Grovesend, Ont.; "Work of the C. S. G. A. in Western Ontario," by W. J. W. Lennox, Representative Dominion Seed Branch for Western Ontario, Guelph; "Work of the C. S. G. A. in Eastern Ontario," by T. G. Raynor, Ottawa, Representative Dominion Seed Branch for Eastern Ontario.

JUDGING PROGRAM.

The following program of judging will be carried out as far as possible:

Dairy Cattle—Friday, 9 p.m., commencement dairy test; Monday, 9 p.m., conclusion of dairy test.

Horses—Monday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Tuesday, 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m.

Beef Cattle—Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, 9.30 p.m. to 12 noon, 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sheep—Monday, 1.30 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Swine—Bacon hogs, Monday, 1.30 p.m.; other classes, Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Poultry—Monday, 9 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; Wednesday, 8.30 a.m.

Diet and Degeneracy.

Editor, "The Farmer's Advocate":

Of the twenty-two families that came from the borders of Scotland and England, and made the first settlement at what is now named Vanneck, Ont., ten had an average of eleven children per family. I am not counting any that may have died in infancy. All those I knew as men and women. Their vitality equalled their large numbers. My father's family consisted of four brothers and five sisters. Three brothers and three sisters are still living, their average age lacking only four months of being 80 years. The object of this letter is to point to the cause or causes that produced such a wonderful record. Two causes I think undoubtedly contributed largely to this result. First: vigorous exercise in the open air. Second: a nutritious, palatable and wholesome diet. Henry Ward Beecher said, "The blessed side of poverty is that it gave lots of children." No doubt if poverty calls for energy and activity this is true.

The voices of winter in those early days were the clang of the woodman's axe, the crashing of falling trees, and the pound, pound of the barnman's flail. These were forced to yield to the first joyous voices of spring: the gurgling of the head waters of Bear Creek as it forced its way through willows crystallized with ice; the bold crow of the rooster; the cackling of hens; the quack of the duck; the bugle tone of the gander as he stood guard over his modest mate. Impatient boys and girls, catching the inspiration, are eager to be in the sugar bush. At the first this is slushy work, but blessed sweetener of toil is the willing and enthusiastic heart. Everyone is enthused. Even the wee toddlers must go to the camp. But the job is short and sweet. The very air is filled with the rejoicings of the little unclothed brown frog. The buds begin to burst, and the myriad of bird voices fill the world with gladness. The wee tots are now running to the sheepfold, rejoicing at every new arrival; the calf pen, too, calls for its share of interest. Happy the children born on the farm.

While the slow oxen drag the seed into the soil we hear anew the clang of the bell and the tinkle, tinkle of the sheep bell. All the boys and girls know their own and their neighbors' cow bells. The earth is again clothed with leaves, grass and flowers. While the father splits rails the mother and children burn the brush. Then the logging-bee. This called for skill, extreme energy and activity. The competition between well manned teams was as keen as that of baseball teams, and enjoyed with a far more stolid and more worthy pride. While the father and oxen were at other bees, the family at home burned the log heaps, and raked and burned leaves and chips.

Potatoes, corn and turnips usually composed the crops the first year, next year the land was ready for a grain crop by simply dragging. When the grain was gathered with the sickle the women were equal to the men. When it was displaced by the cradle, the women and children often raked and bound after the cradle. Sometimes the smaller children were left to watch the dinner and care for the baby. It would be brought to the field in the middle of the forenoon the mother would sit on a sheaf and nurse her baby, and a while before noon she would go in and complete the dinner. Then the hungry family joyfully responded to the call of the tin horn. Surely that mother ate an abundant dinner. No knicknacks, but palatable, nutritious and wholesome food. You say "slavery." Yes, —if the work had not gone with the heart, but don't forget that she was as anxious as her husband to gather the crop. No man was their master. Necessity was their task master.

The children were numerous as I have shown. Born well, nourished well, fed at the mother's breast.

Weak women, slaves to fashion, daintily nibble cookies, tarts, iced cake, preserves, pie. Children, if born, are weak, poorly nourished, and even if naturally fed would be half starved. Director Hill, of the London Institute, advises natural feeding as the best safeguard, as four out of five children that die the first year are bottle-fed. The medical men of London state that a very large per cent of the school children have defective teeth, defective eyes, with many other physical defects. Look in the lunch basket and you will find the poor things starving on the cookie, tart, cake and pie ration. What is now the Telfer School on the 9th Concession of London Tp., was the only school in this district. Children came four miles to school. I well remember the ample lunch baskets, with slices of home-made bread and butter, slices of pork, beef or mutton, sometimes home-made cheese or hard boiled eggs. But always the covered tin pail or bottle of good creamy milk. Little wonder if the teacher had to wield the blue-beech rod to govern the vigorous, frolicsome, robust boys and girls. Strong sound teeth, they had, clear and bright eyes.

Domestic economy, the multitudinous arts of home making are being taught widely now in Ontario. Let every young woman take advantage of it. If she is the wife of a poor man she will be his real helpmate. If she marries the rich man she has not to blush before his friends or be the sport of her own servants. You have the two pictures before you with the two causes I have mentioned. Will Dr. Hill, of the Institute, be kind enough to suggest any other reason for the unhappy contrast?

Middlesex Co., Ont.

THOS. B. SCOTT.

A Belated Work.

Editor, "The Farmer's Advocate":

This has been an unusually wet season, but apparently no worse than over the rest of the Province. We may congratulate ourselves the season was not so wet as with our English cousins, where we read of whole fields submerged, of many cattle drowned, and even in some cases of families living in the upper stories, and leaving their homes in boats.

At time of writing, a great many acres of buckwheat and red clover are still out, some not even cut. The balance of white grain was housed in good condition, and good yields were common.

The fall has been very backward. Many acres are still unplowed, and no doubt will remain so until spring. Farm hands are very scarce, and the outlook is not bright, but we are looking for assistance from the Immigration Bureau.

Red clover is only fair, and the acreage is small. Contrary to what we usually expect, the late cutting is promising to give the best yields. Alsike turned out well, bringing good returns to the grower. Timothy seed, as we might expect, was grown in large quantities, and some are wondering why they are so unfortunate to grow such a crop for seed when it is so cheap.

Corn was fair considering the season, and took very small space in silo, owing probably to the large quantity of water contained in corn, and also to the fact that plenty of rain fell at silo-filling. Much difficulty was experienced in filling, owing to the wet land, and also the threshers and silo-fillers were unusually busy.

The root crop was very good, probably the best in years. Potatoes were good, but in some parts are rotting badly, but on the sandy soils of Uxbridge the crop is keeping nicely, making a good sample. Beans are rather poor, and a poor sample as well. Apples are not so good as in some other counties, and are very badly blemished, very few of some varieties being shipped at all. The inspector was particularly keen after his business, and we think few apples which would not come up to the standard were shipped.

Farmers have lots of feed in this locality. More cattle as feeders and stockers were offered this year than ever before in the writer's memory, though the prices demanded were stiff. It is rather difficult as yet to say just how many cattle will be fed this winter. Milch cows are in keen demand, and bring, in some cases, especially at credit auction sales, where a twelve-month note is accepted, exorbitant prices. H. W. Ontario Co., Ont.

Eastern Township Notes.

Editor, "The Farmer's Advocate":

In this part of Quebec we have been favored, in the last two months, with a week now and then of very good weather. Farmers are getting their ploughing pretty well finished. The past season has been one that demonstrated the necessity of good drainage, many fine fields lying half covered with water, and the cutting of corn or small grain being greatly retarded. Silage corn, generally speaking, was not a very heavy crop in this section, due in part to the difficulty of getting good seed and also largely to the weather. But most farmers have a fine lot of well-cured hay, which helps out the problem of wintering a large stock.

Milk is selling at \$1.60 per cwt. at the condensing factory, and those who are shipping to Montreal receive \$1.90 per cwt. Cattle and horses are selling high at auction sales, at one sale the auctioneer realizing \$143 for a grade cow. At the same sale over 30 head of milch cows averaged \$70 a head. Hay is selling at \$13 to \$14 a ton, and straw \$11 a ton, while oats are worth 64 cts. a bushel. There are many auction sales in this district, due in the most part to such a large number of farms changing ownership. Farm values are advancing rapidly, 100 acres, with fair buildings, selling for \$8,000. This is due no doubt to the fact that a large million-dollar real estate company from Montreal is buying up farms everywhere. The Government offer of 50 per cent. of all expenses on the underdrainage of 10 acres of land is being taken advantage of here. The Government clover huller is also in the district, and quite a few farmers are getting clover hulled; it is giving a fair yield. PERCY BUCKHAM.

Huntingdon Co., Que.