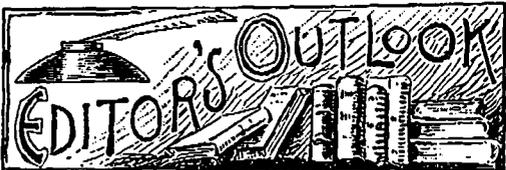




Sunshine and Showers.

In the changeful April weather,
Playing hide and seek together,
Rain and sunshine, light and shadow, through the
woodlands come and go;
Now athwart the free-tops glancing,
Now amid the Violets dancing
In the quiet glades below.

Flitting through the tasselled Larches,
In and out the greenwood arches,
Now the vivid sunlight lingers, and its fitful broidery
weaves
On the starry wind flowers bending,
And the feathery mosses blending,
With the red-brown Ivy leaves.



Notice.

THE full announcement of our teachers' prize story awards appears on the previous page. Miss Ella M. Trimble (RaySmith), Arkona, Ont., receives first prize \$15.00. Miss M. Watt (Marzyanna), London, Ont., takes the second prize \$10.00, while the third, \$5.00, goes to Miss Martha M. Cullis, (Musa Dune) Balsam Grove, Ont. Gentlemen teachers, it is too bad to let the ladies lead off this way. Let more of you try next time and try harder too.

It is almost needless for us to refer to the Dominion elections as the fact that Sir John Macdonald, has been again returned to power is generally known by this time. The majority is variously estimated from 16 to 45, but it will not be definitely known till the first division in the new Parliament which is summoned to meet on April 29th.

The following information regarding the business callings of the members of the Ontario Legislature will no doubt be of interest to our readers: farmers 26, merchants 15, lawyers 13, doctors 11, printers 6, lumbermen 5, millers 3, stone quarrymen 2, contractors 2, cheesemen 2, drover, carriage builder, baker, auctioneer, tanner, 1 each, with one seat vacant. Of the farmers 13 are Reform and 13 Conservative, merchants 10 Reform and 5 Conservative, lawyers 10 and 3, doctors 6 and 5, printers 4 and 2, lumbermen 3 and 2, millers and stone quarrymen all Reform, contractors 1 and 1, cheesemen 1 and 1, the drover, carriage builder, and auctioneer, are Conservative, and the baker and tanner Reform.

THE Dominion Grange in a memorial presented to the Ontario Legislature, makes a most important suggestion in the following clause: Believing that the experimental work which is carried on at the Ontario Agricultural College is one of much importance to the farmers of Ontario, but from variations of soil, temperature, altitude, humidity of the atmosphere, and other causes, the experiments carried on in any one particular place must necessarily be incomplete and misleading to other sections of the province differently situated, we would respectfully ask the consideration of the government to the propriety of establishing several small experi-

ment stations to ascertain the most suitable varieties of grasses, grain, and roots for cultivation in the different localities.

ADVICES received by the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, show that the emigration during the past year from Great Britain to Canada had decreased as compared with 1889, but the Imperial Board of Trade returns of emigration show a diminished movement to all countries. There was a falling off of ten per cent in the movement to the United States, of twenty five per cent to Australia, of twenty eight per cent to the Cape and to Natal, and of twenty per cent to Canada. This diminution is attributed to the decided improvement in the trade and commerce of Great Britain during the last few years, but as a set-off against it the reports of all the agents in this country show that the class of immigrants arriving during the past year was very superior, that they were calculated to make good settlers, and that many were possessed of means sufficient to enable them to settle upon land immediately after their arrival.

THE electric light is destined to prove an important factor in future farming operations. It is now being utilized on some of the big fruit farms of California as it is found that the work of planting grapes and other fruit trees can be done better and more cheaply at night by its aid. A San Francisco agricultural paper says it is only a question of time when fruit picking will be done at night in the same manner, as the greater coolness of the night air is better suited for that work, there being some perishable fruits which cannot be picked in daylight as rapidly as they ripen, large quantities of which are thus lost every year. The use of an electric light plant, which could be moved readily from one part of an orchard to another, would enable night staffs to be worked, and thus overcome the difficulty.

A SCHEME with the object of getting the Ontario Government to come to the financial assistance of farmers throughout the Province, who might be in need of such, has been on foot for some time back. It got its quietus in the Legislature last month when Mr. Waters asked if it were the intention of the Government during this or any future session of the present Parliament to introduce any bill or measure, for the consideration of the House, having for its object the borrowing of money from British capitalists at English money market rates, and the loaning of the same to farmers who may have their farms mortgaged; or if it were the intention of the government to formulate or propose any other mode or scheme of obtaining and loaning money to farmers, who may have their farms mortgaged, at a low rate of interest. The Attorney General replied that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce any bill or measure of the kind mentioned. As to whether it was their intention to propose any other mode or scheme to obtain loans for farmers he might say that all of them mourned at the condition of the farmers for whom assistance of this kind was asked, but believed that any scheme of the kind suggested was impracticable.

POSSIBLY more cruelty has been inflicted on animals by the use of the horse collar than by most other appliances of civilized communities and the appearance, therefore, of a collar which will put an end to cruel torture and unsightly galls, will be hailed with gratitude. Such a humane device has been patented in England. It is a combination of springs, canvas, felt, and leather, and many advantages are claimed for it. It is made in all sizes and fits perfectly, as the spring gives to the shape of the horse's shoulders, thereby preventing the collar from rocking. It is very soft on the surface, and springy, thus avoiding the possibility of galling or pinching. It takes a more even draught than the ordinary collar, as the spring gives way and fills up any cavity in the shoulder caused by the motion of the horse when going. The springs of the collar are fastened to straw pads, which are enclosed in canvas, then thin leather, then numal felt, and

afterwards a fine, thin, serviceable leather. The collar is made so soft and pliable that it is not possible for either the neck or the shoulder of the horse to chafe. From the comfort attending the use of this collar it is easy to believe the statement that horses provided with it do a great deal more work than those without.

THE difference between animals and vegetables is so obvious, that we can readily distinguish them by the slightest observation. The most striking distinction is the power which animals possess of moving from place to place, which vegetables do not enjoy. Another very essential distinction is the faculty of perception, which animals have in a greater or less degree, but which is not common to plants. A third difference is the manner in which they are nourished. Animals, by means of proper organs, have the power of selecting, that kind of aliment which is adapted to their nature; whilst plants are obliged, without choice, to receive such as the earth and water offer them, or perish. The variety of species is much greater in the animal than in the vegetable kingdom, and animals have less conformity with each other than plants have, which renders them more difficult to classify. There are other distinguishing characteristics between animals and plants, yet, notwithstanding, we are far from having discovered the exact limits of these two kingdoms, or from knowing how to distinguish them in every instance. Nature, in diversifying her works, makes use of shades almost imperceptible. In the great chain of beings the links are beautifully formed; from the highest to the lowest the degree of perfection gradually falls, but by such a gradation, that the most perfect differs but little from the one immediately next to it. We find some plants endowed with sensibility, and some animals that are nearly void of sensation. Corals formerly were thought to be marine plants, but subsequent observations prove them to belong to the animal kingdom, and there are many substances which naturalists are not yet determined under what class they should be arranged, so difficult is the task of assigning the precise limits to either kingdom, and the more our observations are multiplied the more shall we be convinced of this difficulty arising from the great resemblance between some of the inferior species of the animal kingdom with certain vegetable productions.

It is stated upon authority considered high amongst friends of the Government at Ottawa, that Sir John Macdonald for months antecedent to the elections, had been engaged in the consideration of elaborate plans looking to the improved condition of the farmers of Canada. Although he maintains that they have been all round as well off as the farmers of the United States, yet he has since the beginning admitted that the hostile legislation of the American Government aimed at Canadian farmers and through them at the very life of the Dominion has had in certain places a pinching effect upon our farmers, and although it is felt that the blow directed at us has hit the American consumer equally hard and must eventually result in a relaxation, still he feels that it is due the farmers of Canada to do for them in their peculiar circumstances, more than would ordinarily be necessary. Sir John has been, it is said, for many weeks engaged in elaborating a policy framed especially with a view to an encouragement of the Canadian farmer. These efforts will look to the adoption of improved methods of work, improved classes of stock, the raising of specially promising kinds of produce and securing new markets. Whenever industrial protection is found to be oppressive in its operation, without compensating benefits to the general public, amelioration is to be applied. Retrenchment in all the public departments will be vigorously insisted upon, whereby it is believed considerable sums will be placed at the disposal of the Government for the new purposes indicated. Sir John was, it is said, urged by supporters to foreshadow some of his plans before the election, but repelled the idea on the ground that the announcement would be misinterpreted as an election manoeuvre, and moreover his hands would be freer by refraining from an ante-election statement of the kind. Now that he is safely installed in