

The Farmer's Advocate

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED" and Home Magazine. ESTABLISHED 1866.

VOL. XXXIX.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., JULY 28, 1904.

No. 618

EDITORIAL.

The Sugar-beet Outlook.

The late, wet spring and continued cold weather were not encouraging to farmers in the sugar-beet areas, but when a Canadian puts his hand to a task he does so with intelligence and a determination to overcome difficulties. With the advantage of experience previously gained, the patrons of the two large beet-sugar enterprises now in successful operation were not deterred by a bit of unfavorable weather at the outset. Since then conditions have steadily improved, and the result is, referring to the Wallaceburg, Ont., territory, that the tonnage of beets grown and the output of sugar will be about double that of last year. Growers are overcoming the difficulties of handling the crop, and many are now regretting that they have not a very much larger acreage of beets, owing to the partial failure of corn and wheat. The crop is decidedly in a better condition than a year ago, and with the recent fine weather indications point to more than an average yield of beets per acre. Both experimentally and as a regular field crop, our soil and climate have been found peculiarly well adapted to producing a large yield of beets of high quality. Rightly looked after, not only is the crop itself a most profitable one, but the necessary tillage and drainage of the land has a most beneficial effect upon the land, to which the luxuriant spring crops of subsequent seasons bear eloquent testimony. The more detailed account of the conditions of beet culture in Waterloo County, personally inspected by one of our editorial staff, duplicates what has been said regarding the Wallaceburg country. A good many farmers have now been growing beets three years in succession, with very gratifying financial results, and while it is perhaps too much to expect that there will not be some exceptions, the general results show that the crop is very much more profitable than many others, and the reflex influence of beet-growing on the general methods and culture on the farms is of a most improving and beneficial character. From the outset, the "Farmer's Advocate" has felt that this would be the case. The most serious obstacle to overcome is the general shortage of farm labor from which agriculture generally in Canada is now suffering. The public is also becoming better acquainted with the real merits of beet sugar, the recent series of articles running through these columns showing it to be identical or superior in appearance and quality to the finest "granulated" made from sugar cane. It has also been shown that, without the general public's cognizance, fully two-thirds of the sugar consumed in Canada in late years has been made from beets grown in Germany and elsewhere. There appears to be a tendency, from economic, as well as other reasons, to utilize the output of these factories locally; that is to say, very largely in the country and towns adjacent to the factories where the sugar is produced. There is also a feeling that it is well to encourage and keep thriving an industry for which the farmer produces the raw material, and which will act as a wholesome check upon the refining monopoly which fixes the price from day to day at which grocers are permitted to sell sugar.

What an Old Friend Says.

I am glad that your efforts have been appreciated, and that the circulation of your paper is rapidly increasing. I well remember when the paper was first started and was a subscriber at that time. I am, therefore, in a special manner pleased.

Omahee, N. D., U. S. A. GEO. J. COULTHARD.

Railway Expropriation.

We are asked to state in a general way the position of the farmer with regard to the compensation to which he is entitled at the hands of the railway company, upon the taking, by the company, of a portion of his farm for the purposes of the railway, and it is said that in fixing the amounts they propose to give upon such expropriations, the companies generally fail to discriminate as they should, or at all, with respect to the character of the farms affected.

The rights of both company and individual vary, of course, according to whether the railway is one governed by Dominion or Provincial legislation, and if the latter, then according to the Province in which the land may be situated, and also according as the railway may or may not be the subject of special as well as general Acts of Parliament or Legislature.

But, generally speaking, the farmer whose lands are so interfered with, and in part or in entirety taken by the company, need not suffer any substantial injustice. It is open to him to refuse the company's offer, and to have the matter arbitrated upon. And the arbitrators in fixing the amount of compensation to be awarded are bound to take into account both the value of the land taken and the damage to the remainder of the lands. On the other hand, they must consider the increased value that may be given to the rest of the farm by reason of the passing of the railway through it, or of the construction of the railway, setting off this increased value, if any, against any inconvenience, or damage, caused by the expropriation. And there is the right of appeal from the award of the arbitrators. It is difficult, therefore, to see why there should be any real hardship to the farmer, and if, at the outset, he take the precaution to have his interests properly and efficiently looked after, he may fairly count upon receiving reasonably full indemnity. Upon receiving the offer he ought at once to consult a solicitor, and be advised by him as to whether it should be accepted, and in the event of its being considered that more compensation should be given, and would probably be awarded, the solicitor should be instructed to attend to and protect the farmer's interests at every stage of the subsequent proceedings.

The Show Catalogue.

The provision of a well-prepared catalogue of the entries of live stock is a feature that has been too long neglected in connection with most of the leading shows in Canada. The catalogue is a real necessity to the visitor who desires to learn the most of the character of the exhibits, and it were well that more of our exhibition boards of management should make provision for the issue of this educational factor in the show. With a numbered catalogue, giving the name, age and breed of the animals on exhibition, the name and address of the owner, and the name and herbook number of the sire and dam, and with numbers attached to the animals to correspond, the visitor gets, at a glance, a fund of information that is helpful to him in forming a correct understanding of the exhibits, something he can carry away with him as a souvenir of the show, and which may serve as a means of reference after his return home. A few of our leading show associations have made brave efforts to provide this help, and where exhibitors have done their part in supplying the necessary data, the result has been eminently satisfactory, but in many cases exhibitors have shown inexcusable indifference to the matter, failing to furnish the needed information, and hence

the catalogues have in many classes been incomplete and less satisfactory than should be. To meet this difficulty, the only effectual means would appear to be to make the supplying of the pedigree and other needed information a condition of acceptance of the entry or the payment of prizes. This would not be an unreasonable proposition, and is one that is in the interest of the honest exhibitor, as well as of the public. The well-furnished catalogue is an excellent advertising medium for the owner of the stock shown, and also serves as a check against fraudulent practices on the part of unscrupulous or dishonest exhibitors, and for this reason, if for no other, is well worth the cost of its preparation. The expense, by good management, may be met by securing advertisements from business men and manufacturers to appear in the catalogue. The catalogue is considered an indispensable part of the principal shows in Great Britain, and, indeed, of many of the more advanced county and district fairs, and we hope to see more attention given to it in this country now that the idea of making our fairs more educative in their character is meeting with such general favor.

In order to make the catalogue complete, the time for closing the entries must be rigidly observed. The employment for a week or two of a clerk having some knowledge of pedigree registration is almost a necessity, but this and other details can generally be arranged when once it is decided to adopt the catalogue as a part of the show. We may add the suggestion that in the composition of the catalogue more attention be given to the display of more distinct headlines for the different classes than has been usual in the preparation of the catalogue of the Toronto Exhibition, and that wider margins for notes would be an improvement.

A Summer Outing.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

Those who have been over the ground are generally agreed that the section of Western Ontario, formerly known as the Huron Tract, lying north of the city of London for a distance of seventy miles, is unexcelled in the Dominion, or, one might safely say, in any other country, as an all-round farming district, the land being uniformly level or slightly undulating, with hardly an acre unfit for cultivation, the soil a comfortable working clay loam, with, for the most part, a gravelly subsoil, providing natural drainage and well adapted to growing all the staple farm crops to perfection. In no other section of this country of similar area is found, as a rule, better farming, fields cleaner of weeds, or better fenced, or farm buildings more uniformly good, the dwellings being nearly all two-story structures of white brick, and a considerable number of those more recently built having high, roomy basements, with cement floors, and being equipped with furnace heating, bath-room, water service, and nearly all the conveniences of modern city homes. In some cases the water supply is obtained by gravitation through underground pipes from a spring on higher ground, in others by means of a hydraulic ram from a lower level, but in most by means of the windmill from the well to an elevated tank, and by pipes to house and stables; while soft water for washing, from the house roof, is stored in a tank in the attic. In building a new house, these conveniences may be secured at no great cost, and even in older buildings, where no provision has been made for these, in many cases, by a little ingenuity and at reasonable expense, most of them may be secured, adding greatly to the comfort of