

The Agriculture and Arts Association--A Glance at Its Half-Century's Work--An Honorable Record.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

Few who have heard the name of the Agriculture and Arts Association of late years only in connection with the annual fat stock show in Guelph, or, perhaps, also the horse show in Toronto, are aware of the magnitude of the work carried on by that Association from time to time during the fifty years of its existence. The Association was formed in the year 1846 the leading spirits in its organization being Mr. E. W. Thomson, of York County, and Mr. W. G. Edmundson, the publisher of the *British-American Cultivator*, a pioneer agricultural journal of Upper Canada. Local agricultural societies had been already formed in most of the twelve or thirteen districts into which the Province was then divided. These local societies performed, in a more or less efficient way, almost all the functions which have fallen to the lot of the various farmers' societies in later times. The sparsely settled farmers were brought together, discussed their interests, made common purchases of seeds, breeding animals, and articles of general utility, such as stumping machines, and held an annual fair. The design of the Provincial Agricultural Association was to perform these same functions for the Province at large. In addition to holding an annual Provincial exhibition, it aimed to draw the farmers of the Province closer together, to disseminate information among the local societies, and help them in their work, and assist them in making purchases and importing breeding animals to the best advantage. At the annual fairs delegates from all parts of the Province met and talked over agricultural prospects, and debated as to the lines along which improvement might be made.

The first exhibition was held in Toronto in the fall of 1846. The prize list amounted to the moderate sum of \$1,600. At the fair in Hamilton in 1847 it was nearly double that sum, and was afterwards rapidly increased. At the fair in Brantford in 1857 it had reached \$10,000, and from that time increased, with numerous fluctuations, of course, until \$20,000 was reached in 1884 and 1885, after which it again began to decline.

In 1851 a Provincial Board of Agriculture was constituted, which was to act as the Executive of the Agricultural Association. With this better provision for its management, the scope and usefulness of the exhibitions grew rapidly. A special feature was the encouragement given to the importation of good breeding stock, and to the work of this body is due very largely the position which Ontario's live stock holds to-day.

Up till the time of Confederation the Board was the sole executive body of agriculture in the Province. It supervised the distribution to county societies of the Government grant for agricultural purposes; it collected and published agricultural essays; it secured the establishment of a chair of agriculture in the University of Toronto, to fill which its Secretary, George Buckland, was appointed; it conducted in connection with this an experimental farm, and generally managed the affairs of agriculture, besides providing for any special emergencies which arose.

After Confederation some of this work was taken over by the Government. The Association, however, continued to hold its annual fairs until 1880. They were given up because great central fairs had grown up in each of the cities, among which the Provincial had circulated. To the grounds and buildings of these the Association had largely contributed.

The Association also had control over the breeding interests of the Province, and founded a society or association for almost all the principal breeds. It has also kept registers for pure-bred animals, and issued numerous volumes of stud and herd books. The work of registration has especially been developed since Mr. Wade became Secretary of the Board in 1881. Plowing matches have also been held, prizes given for farms, valuable agricultural reports compiled and published; and since the abandonment of the Provincial Exhibition much attention has been given to fat stock, horse and dairy shows.

The Association founded the Ontario Veterinary College in 1861, and has always had some interest in its management.

In 1862 the Board purchased a lot in Toronto, and erected the building which it occupied from that time until it was destroyed by fire last year. The real estate, which now, on the dissolution of the Association, passes to the Government, is valued at \$100,000.

A few of the men who have occupied the presidency of the Association are Hon. Adam Ferguson, Hon. David Christie, T. C. Street, J. C. Rykert, Hon. C. Drury, J. C. Snell, and Nicholas Awrey. The first president was E. W. Thomson; the fiftieth and last, Jonathan Sissons.

By the Agriculture and Arts Act of 1895, the work done by the Association (which at the close of last year passed out of existence) is to be divided between the Ontario Government and the various breeders' societies, most of which the Association itself developed. Thus, permanent provision is made for the continuance of the work of the Association, the utility and necessity of which in days gone by was always fully recognized.

The New Dominion Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon. Walter Humphries Montague, M. D., M. P., Haldimand Co., Ont., a life-like portrait of whom appears herewith, has been appointed Minister of Agriculture for Canada, as announced in the Jan. 1st issue of the *ADVOCATE*. He had previously been Secretary of State. He is a son of the late Joseph Montague, farmer in the township of Adelaide, Middlesex Co., Ont., where he was born in November, 1858. He was educated at the Public School, High School, Woodstock College, Victoria University, and Toronto School of Medicine, being a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Scotland. In March, 1879, he married Miss A. Furry, daughter of Mr. Elias Furry, J. P., Reeve of South Cayuga, Haldimand Co., Ont. From about 1883 he has been in political life, displaying abilities that have caused his rapid advance. Since taking charge of the new portfolio he has devoted himself energetically to the details of his Department, and we have received assurance from him that the subject of live stock husbandry in connection with the Experimental



HON. W. H. MONTAGUE, M. D.

Farm staff, the necessity for which has been repeatedly urged in the *ADVOCATE*, will receive prompt attention. He writes us that he quite agrees with the necessity of the points urged, intimating that such a branch is to be established, special reference being made to sheep husbandry. While that has been almost entirely overlooked heretofore—a fact greatly to be deplored—we have no hesitation in saying that it would be a decided mistake to confine the proposed new department to that single industry. The proper strengthening of the Central Farm staff on the line of live stock husbandry has been an obvious need, and will, apart from the direct work connected therewith, be of very great advantage to the Agricultural Department generally, by keeping it more closely in touch with the great breeding fraternity of Canada, the varied interests and needs of which are all the time increasing.

STOCK.

The Champion Cow -- Mr. Glennie to Messrs. Rice.

SIR,—I see in the *ADVOCATE*, that A. & G. Rice claim that the performance of their cow, Calamity Jane, in the dairy test at Guelph has never been equaled by a four-year-old. He mentioned her as having beaten the eight-year-old cow at Winnipeg—no doubt referring to R. L. Lang's Short-horn. They must have overlooked the performance of my four-year-old Holstein, Daisy Teake's Queen, in the same test. I see that their cow gave 69.18 lbs. milk, 3.16 per cent fat—2.09 lbs. fat. My cow gave 72.25 lbs. milk, 3.00 per cent. fat—2.62 lbs. fat. This is practically 3.27 pounds of butter in the 24 hours, while Calamity Jane's yield was 2.61 pounds of butter. In the ten days before leaving for the Exhibition she gave 810 lbs. of milk. They claim that Calamity Jane is champion of the Dominion. I claim the honor for Daisy Teake's Queen, No. 126, of "Hazel Rigz Farm," Portage Plains, Manitoba; and hope that Messrs. Rice will be content to hand over the championship to whom it is rightly due. JAS. GLENNIE.

[NOTE.—Messrs. Rice's cow, Calamity Jane, was credited in January 15th issue with having given 2.60 lbs. "butter," which should have read "butter-fat." Ed.]

Dehorning Calves.

SIR,—The dehorning fever is still spreading. The other day my nearest neighbor, who had until then held out, had all his cattle dehorned, except his young calves. In my case, it has worked the other way. I have not, as yet, had the horns taken off the old cattle, but for the last two years I have dehorned the calves. Two years ago I tried caustic potash on some, but it was not a success. I gave several applications, a little at a time; a slow process it was, and the horns were only checked, not completely stopped. On two calves, that year, I used dehorning tools, and was so well pleased with the result that I repeated the process on all the calves last spring, and my present intention is to treat all the calves that come in the same way. The horns are taken out completely, and do not grow again. The operation should be performed at the age of six weeks to three months. One of the tools resembles a gun-wad cutter, only larger, which is pressed down and cuts the skin around the base of the budding horn. The other may be described as gouge pinchers, which, when used, leave a hollow where the horn had been. I generally fill each little hollow with pine tar. In only one case was there any excessive bleeding and no harm came of it. In some cases the blood never flows out of the wound and all heal up without any discharge.

But this is no new practice. A friend has told me that when he was a boy in Scotland, fifty years ago, the farmers used to grub out the horns of calves with a knife, and sear the wound with a hot iron to stop the bleeding.

The objection has been raised that dehorning calves will cause frontal bone development and an ugly habit of bunting, but my experience leads to the conclusion that there is nothing whatever in that idea. THOS. BATY.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

FARM.

Uncut Corn in a Round Silo.

SIR,—In submitting to the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* how I built and filled my silo with uncut corn, I do not wish to assume undue credit, for I owe it to articles in the *ADVOCATE* and Hoard's *Dairyman* that I now have a silo and an abundance of ensilage and corn stover this unprecedented year. The merits of ensilage and the silo are settled. The question of how to construct and fill is not settled, at least to those who have, like myself, a limited amount of capital. I found, after visiting a number of silos, that it was impossible to find one of perfect construction and within my means. The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* of April 1, 1895, contained a description of the round silo at Mono Mills, which so far revived my hopes that I purchased and drew to the saw and planing mill sufficient tamarac to build a silo. As the season advanced the short crops (except the twenty acres of corn I had planted) and the high price of a good cutter about caused me to delay for another year. When I noticed an article, "Why We Do Not Cut Our Ensilage," by John Hodgins, Jr., of Penankee, Wis., I at once wrote Mr. Hodgins, who very kindly gave me his eight years' experience in storing uncut ensilage. The result is that I now have a silo that cost me less than \$45, built by our own labor and filled at not much more expense than the interest and repairs on a good cutter and elevators, not including cost of engine, fuel, board and wages of extra help in silo-filling. The labor of putting in ninety tons of ensilage corn was, besides my ordinary farm help, two men at five days each. In describing how I built and filled my silo no attempt has been made at mechanical terms; and while perhaps of no special benefit to those who are able to purchase all the modern machinery necessary, may be of some benefit to your readers who, for reasons best known to themselves, are desirous or compelled to study economy. On December 12 I opened my silo and found ensilage in excellent condition, the quality of which I hope to have reported upon by disinterested and competent judges.

Building the Silo.—My silo is round, 14 feet in diameter, made of 2x6x25-ft. tamarac staves, surfaced and beveled, and bound together by eight steel bands 2½x½-inch, tightened by ¾-inch bolts, 14 inches long and 10-inch thread, running through lugs 12 inches long, made of 2½x½-inch steel, bent with eye for bolts, and riveted firmly to the end of bands. Set upon foundation one foot larger in diameter than the silo; made by digging trench 18 inches deep and 18 inches wide, filled with broken stone firmly pounded down within 2 inches of the top, giving a slight covering of dirt to the level of the ground, which forms the bottom of the silo, and should be perfectly level. If the silo is clay, a drain should lead from bottom of foundation. To build silo, make two circles 4 inches larger than the silo is in diameter outside, to allow for the tightening of bands, and thus closing of joints; for example, if the silo is to be 14 feet and the staves are ½-inch, the circles should be 14 feet 7½ inches. To get the circle, drive wire nail in batten or narrow board near the end, and in the center of barn floor, then drive another 7 feet 3¼ inches from the center and use as a compass to draw circle. Cut an inch board 4 feet long, lay it on outside of circle, so each corner of one side of board meets the circle, hold firmly, and draw the circle on the board; draw the nail, and drive again 3½ inches nearer the end of board, again describe the