

THE POLAND-CHINA HERD

of J. J. Payne, Chatham, and also that of W. & F. Row, Avon, contributed largely in quality as well as in numbers to the show.

CHESTER WHITES

were well represented by R. H. Harding, Thorn-dale; E. W. George, Putnam, and H. George & Sons, Crampton, while but one herd of

TAMWORTHS

put in an appearance, this being shown by J. Calvert, who had a lot of well-fitted pigs.

The Sherbrooke Exhibition.

BY W. A. HALE SHERBROOKE, QUE.

This the 8th annual Exhibition was formally opened by Lieut.-Governor Angers, on Tuesday, the 6th Sept., after he had first laid the foundation stone of the monument commemorative of the centennial of the first settling of the Eastern Townships. The Exhibition was, all things considered, a great success, and it is hoped that the financial result will go some way towards reducing the debt of the Association upon its grounds and buildings. Owing to the unprecedentedly wet weather in June (during which month over nine inches of rain fell), followed by the unusually warm, dry weather of July, the display of fruit and vegetables was not only small, but the quality inferior. The dairy exhibit was remarkably good, especially in cheese showing, but little to be desired in the way of improvement here in cheese factories, but in creameries there is yet much to be accomplished before this part of the province can compete with even its neighboring districts. The exhibit of superphosphates by the Nichols Chemical Co., of Capelton, together with the raw and prepared materials from which it is made, was very interesting, representing as it did the means of supplying the fertility, upon which so much of the agricultural prosperity of the country must in future depend.

The cattle were as usual remarkably fine, the greatest improvement and keenest competition being noticed in the dairy breeds, the Jerseys being particularly complimented by the judge, Mr. William Crozier, of Northport, Long Island, who is probably one of the best authorities on the continent. The Ayrshires also justly drew their share of admiration, and seem to be taking a first place in the growing demand for dairy cattle. The beef breeds were as usual nobly represented, and from amongst those here exhibited doubtless many of the best representatives to the Chicago World's Fair will be selected. The display of horses showed a marked improvement in the quality of all breeds, and the Association feels that their efforts in encouraging the use of pedigreed stallions has had its good effect. One serious mistake, however, has been, this year, the withdrawing of the "general purpose" horse class entirely; this will be rectified before another year's exhibit. The working dairy, under the able supervision of Professor Robertson, was of special interest. In connection therewith was to be seen growing on the Exhibition grounds an acre of ensilage corn. This was harvested and carried, during the Exhibition, to a horse power and elevator cutter constantly at work filling the silo, from whence it was taken as feed to the competing dairy cattle entered as such. The system of employing single professional expert judges in all departments, though in some cases more costly than appointing three local men, seems to be growing in favor both with the directors of this Association as well as with their exhibitors. One regrettable change this season is that of suppressing the exhibitor's name on all entry cards. True, Toronto and other large fairs have adopted this method, but that of giving full publicity to all exhibits is for many reasons to be preferred. The Poultry, though not largely represented, showed a high standard of such breeds as were exhibited, the early date of the Show deterring many from sending their best fowls during their moulting season.

Attend Conventions.

BY JAS. W. ROBERTSON, DAIRY COMMISSIONER.

From conventions of farmers I derive much assistance for the carrying on of the public work which has been committed to my care; and, as far as a speech or article of mine can be made a vehicle, a servant and a nourisher of thought, I will very willingly minister to my brother farmers. Let me specify a few of the aspects of real service that come to the dairy and agricultural interests from annual conventions. A store of information is provided for all who come and for all who will read the reports of proceedings. Every member who can, ought to contribute something to the general fund of knowledge. The fund of available information of a reliable and helpful quality is sometimes more scanty than the financial resources of the Association or Institute. The discussions which these meetings call forth define into clearness many questions and subjects of dispute, which before were visible only through the haziness and mist of imperfect knowledge. The qualities of enthusiasm which these conventions inspire in the breasts and evoke from the lips and hands of the farmers give greater confidence in the capabilities of their own business, and more hope in the future of their opportunities and country. The enjoyment of these are often the best part of a man's or a nation's capital. Among those who are actively engaged in promoting co-operative dairying, it is very important that confidence in each other should be created and maintained. Intelligent confidence can grow into a full co-operation of dairymen in Ontario, by which their concerted action can enable them to better their circumstances in every respect. The condition of the farmers on this whole continent—more so, perhaps, in the United States than here—threatens the honor and peace of the nation. Such gatherings as here recommended will help to rescue farming from its rather discreditable condition. Farmers, as a class, are easily discouraged; and they have been discouraged beyond reason during recent years, by being assiduously directed to view their competitors with alarm, and to contemplate their waning influence on the markets with rising anger towards somebody, or something, or somehow, which is variously named "the other classes", "the other interests", "the trusts", "the combinations", "the governments" or "Providence". Now, the enlarged and improved carrying facilities of the world have made competitors out of producers who are far removed from each other by geographical location. The butter-maker in New Zealand has become next door neighbour in competition with the creamery butter-maker in Ontario. This world-wide competition is an integral part of the developments of modern civilization. It was not brought about by the will or doing of any one mind; and the farmer, like all other men, had better adjust his practices to the new conditions than waste his time trying to bring the old regime back. However, while he has lost control at one end of his business—while the influence of the individual on the market end of the business has been decreased—he has gained control at the other end of his business in a more than compensating measure. Increased knowledge, new appliances and improved methods have brought the cost of production more and more under his control. Profit always arises from the difference between the cost of production and the market price that may be obtained. If the latter cannot now be raised or enlarged at will, the former can be lowered and reduced by intelligent labor and management; and the profit may still be as great, and may be made to depend on that safer and more controllable factor—the home-end of the business. The more time a farmer takes to attend farmers' conventions, called to discuss his own business, the more thoroughly will he be equipped to enlarge his profit in the manner which I have indicated. Many men voice their unwisdom in saying that they had no time to attend conventions. How would a farmer be rated who said he had no time to plough or cul-

tivate his soil? For successful agriculture, the mind, as well as the field, needs to be stirred up to receive seed, in order that its harvest may be matured and reaped. If you will go back through all the materials, processes and products that are coming in excellent quality from any farm, you will find behind these things, as an essential to their economical production, somebody's clear thinking and somebody's good management. The agency whereby the farmer is enabled to exercise these functions—clear thinking and skilful and economical management—is his own mind. The harrowing up in a meeting with his fellows will kill multitudes of weeds and provide for the growth of remunerative crops. A workman who is thoughtless enough to labor with dull tools works at a great disadvantage. It pays a carpenter to take time to sharpen his chisels and to grind his axe.

Forestry Report for 1891.

SIR,—There is one point in connection with our agricultural success that is rapidly forcing itself on the attention of the community, namely, that throughout our cleared and settled portions of Ontario most of the reserves of timber are being year by year intrenched upon either by the axe, decay or the general weakening and drying up of the forest soil, causing the trees to blow down in numbers. This last, by the way, is often the result of cattle being allowed entrance, for the result of their trampling down the earth and eating off every young tree not only destroys what should perpetuate the forest but injures the soil for forest purposes and causes decay in the trees already there. However it is there is every chance that much of Ontario will be destitute ere long of forest protection so far as the original woods are concerned.

Whether for the sake of fuel and timber it would not be worth while to commence large plantations of trees now I do not wish to discuss here. People are doing it largely in the States. But what I would suggest is that in the meantime the only way to prevent the great evils which would result in an unsheltered farming country situated like Ontario—a country covered originally with heavy forests, and where no other vegetation succeeds so well nor comfort be at all so attainable in many ways when denuded of trees—would be to plant along the exposed sides of as many farms as possible rows of evergreen trees. There are many of these—the spruces, both Norway and native, the pines, the cedars, all of which I have myself seen planted in rows, and in a few years make excellent and impervious wind-breaks. They are easily obtained. In the States they are sold in large numbers when from but four to six inches high at \$3 to \$5 a thousand and sent great distances, their small bulk costing but little in freight. I suppose if the demand was good they could be produced as cheaply here. Large trees of course cost more. Then there are in many parts of Ontario plenty of young evergreens growing in unused fields or on the borders of woods which if transplanted into rows when young would answer well, and which can be often had without charge. Deciduous trees are generally planted, though they are not half the use, giving no shelter in winter, because they take root easier. But if care be taken to keep the evergreen roots covered and moist till they are planted, getting good roots with them if possible, they will succeed as well as the others. Whoever gives a few days to so protecting his farm will be able, I have no doubt, in a few years to sell it if he chooses for a thousand dollars more than if the work had not been done.

My object in writing this letter, however, was principally to inform your readers that the forestry report for this year is now being distributed, and will be sent free to all who send me their addresses. Yours truly,

R. W. PHIPPS,
251½ Richmond street, Toronto, Ont.

A golden rule of life is always to do just a little better than you agree to. Work over hours instead of under. Pay your note before maturity rather than after. Give over measure rather than under.