

Ontario Plowing Matches.

Will you kindly answer the following questions through your most valuable paper:

1. When and where was the last Provincial plowing-match held?
2. What amount was granted by Provincial Government?
3. On what condition are the grants given?

PLOWMAN.

We submitted the foregoing to the Department of Agriculture, Toronto, and received the following reply:

"Yours of the 11th instant has been received, in which you ask certain questions in regard to Provincial plowing-matches. These matches were held under the direction of the old Agriculture & Arts Association, which ceased to exist on January 1st, 1896. The Association set aside each year \$660 for prizes for plowing matches. These plowing matches were inaugurated in 1873, when \$1,200 was given to each of four divisions or sections of the Province. Later on this was cut down to \$600. The last Provincial plowing-matches were held in 1895. That for districts 1, 2 and 3, near Kingston; and that for 4, 5 and 6 on the farm of James Hawkins, somewhere near the border of Northumberland and Hastings Counties. There was another near Owen Sound. Where the fourth was held I cannot make out from the printed report. Appropriation was made, however, for the fourth, and the money paid. The practice seems to have been to appropriate \$150 for each competition, and appoint Association representatives living in the districts as committee of management, and these members associated with them some other officers, such as the local Plowmen's Association, Farmers' Institute officers, etc.

I am sending you a copy of the last report of the Agriculture & Arts Association, and have marked certain pages, namely, 5, 45, 135 and 168. As the Agriculture & Arts Association was carried on by a separate organization, we have only these printed records in the Department, and you will understand that they are somewhat incomplete.

C. C. JAMES,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

On referring to the reports, it will be seen that the plowing-matches were all popular and well attended, despite inclement weather, as many as 400 and 500 farmers attending, the results being an awakening of great interest in high-class plowing. For one of the matches held in 1905, arrangements were made jointly by committees representing the Agriculture & Arts Association and the Frontenac Farmers' Institute. The rules governing the match were as follows:

RULES.

1. All entries to be made personally or by letter to A. Ritchie, Inverary P. O., on or before 8 o'clock a. m. on the day of the match.
 2. Competitors to be on the ground at 8 a. m., and plowing to commence at 9 a. m., and to be completed at 3 p. m.
 3. Each plowman shall draw his number, and the lot having a corresponding number shall be the lot on which he shall plow.
 4. After drawing his number, the plowman shall proceed to stake off his land, and shall be allowed one assistant to set and remove his stakes. Any plowman receiving further assistance shall forfeit his claim to any prize; nor shall he use his hands in fixing his furrow.
 5. On proceeding to open his land, each plowman shall commence at the stake corresponding with his own number, and shall back up his own furrow.
 6. All plowing to be 6 x 9, a less average depth than 6 inches shall not be entitled to a prize, and not more than 1 inch undercut will be allowed.
 7. Plowmen shall commence by a signal from the timekeeper, and shall complete their work by 3 o'clock p. m., and should there be any difference in the quantity of land, a further proportionate time shall be allowed.
 8. Each plowman after finishing must place his stake with the number on the center of his land, and remove his team and plow from the lands immediately and report himself to the timekeeper.
 9. Should one or more competitors be considered of equal merit, the preference shall be in favor of those finishing in the shortest time.
 10. The decision of the judges shall in all cases be final, if in accordance with the above regulations.
 11. All the land plowed will be judged.
 12. No person will be allowed to interfere with the plowmen while at work.
 13. Prizewinners to pay 50 cents into the funds of the Farmers' Institute.
 14. A copy of these regulations will be put into the hands of the judges, and will be strictly adhered to.
- The Committee of Management consisted of Messrs. W. C. Edwards, M. P., Rockland; D. P. McKinnon, South Finch; Joshua Legge, Gananoque, from Agriculture & Arts Association;

also the President, E. Milton, Kingston; Hugh Rankin, Collins' Bay; J. Knapp, Kingston; J. Knight, and A. Ritchie, Secretary, Inverary P. O., from the Farmers' Institute. The entries were numerous, some coming from the County of Hastings. One judge, Mr. D. M. McDougall, from Duncanville, County of Russell, did all the judging. He was an expert plowman, and filled the position in a competent way. Mr. George entertained the committee and plowmen on the ground with refreshments at noon.

It commenced raining about 9 o'clock a. m., and continued during the day, which made it very unpleasant, but did not prevent an unusually large attendance, which was estimated at being over one thousand. This gathering of farmers had a social value worthy of notice. Discussions and comparisons of experience in connection with the best methods of plowing were freely indulged in, and it was decided that the owner of the land should consider it as greatly improved.

"The Farmer's Advocate" would gladly see a revival of interest in the plowing-matches.

Weed Pests.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Sept. 9th is a most excellent and well-timed contribution on weed dissemination, from the pen of H. H. Miller, which should awaken every farmer to the fact that the first appearance of a weed is the time to kill it. About thirty or perhaps thirty-five years ago I saw the first ragweed on a farm in this neighborhood. There were two stalks, about three feet high, in full bloom. The owners of the farm knew well

value of the farm and the farmer to the observing passer-by along the concession or side-line.

Now, why is this? Have not farmers the law to guide them in respect to noxious weeds? If an adjoining farmer strives to keep his farm comparatively free of weeds, while his neighbor across the road or line fence cares not an iota for causing his neighbor trouble and expense, he may be Grit, he may be Tory, he may be a good church member in the common acceptance of the term, but cannot be an excellent citizen.

Enclosed you will find a leaf and seed-pod of a weed that is bidding fair to occupy gardens and orchards, but I do not know the name of it, though I have observed it for years.

[Note.—The specimen enclosed is Round-leaved Mallow, which multiplies very rapidly, especially in old gardens.—Editor.]

The Lonesome Boy.

We have long given over the attempt to put old heads on young shoulders, experience having taught us that it is useless for us to expect in children the sober judgment of matured manhood or womanhood; and yet we know that as the child is, so is likely to be the adult. The farmer, knowing this, often looks into the future with misgivings enough, as he sees his son watching eagerly for quitting time, in order that he may be free to don his Sunday best and hurry away to spend the evening amid the slippery places of the crossroads or the village. Too well does the father know that his boy will not likely return from such surroundings either rested in body, quickened in intellect or improved in morals.

Now, such behavior on the part of the farmer's son is not always to be ascribed to lack of interest in the home, or to depraved morals. There are very few boys

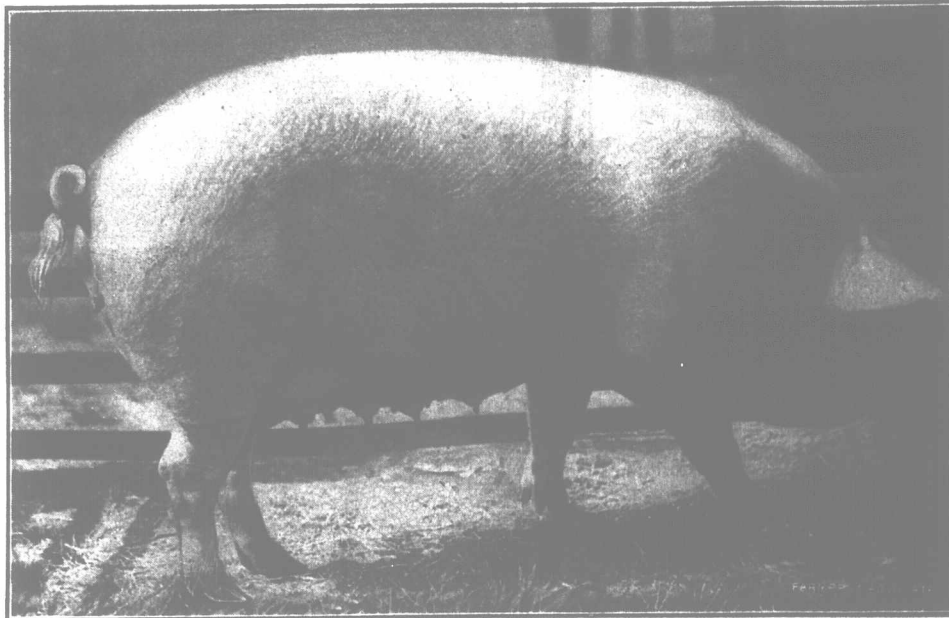
who do not wish to help their fathers, and who are lacking in the ambition to see their farm home abreast of any in the neighborhood, while the naturally vicious, or the morally depraved are, fortunately, seldom found among boys. On the other hand, a boy should not be expected to take the interest in the duties of the farm that we look for in the father. The farm work and the maintenance of the home are the father's business. He has become a man, and he has put away childish things.

But the things that the father has put away are the very things peculiar to his growing son, and are as much his son's duty as can be the problems which engage the father's mature mind. When the father forgets that his boy is a boy, with a boy's interests

and a boy's needs, he need not wonder if his son becomes indifferent to the father's interests and necessities. A farmer, in order to succeed, must give his whole attention to his work, and utilize every means that will promote his ends. In this absorbing devotion he, too often, forgets his children and their special nature. He feeds his stock, knowing that it pays to do so. They will neither work their best nor go to market profitably without study and care on his part. Too often he leaves his child to get along without helping him by giving any serious study to boy problems or to boy nature. He will send the boy to a back field and expect him to work there as diligently as if he were forty instead of twelve. The boy reports, "Oh, the work is all right, but it's lonesome," and, in spite of everything, he comes to look forward to the good fellowship that he finds waiting for him away from home. Lonesomeness is the bane of many a farmer's son, and is the unhappy cause, in many instances, of wrecked farms and blighted manhood.

The cure is not the bringing of company to the farm. Large social gatherings mean too much labor for hands that are already full enough. The remedy consists, rather, in the father's seeing that the son has a full share in all the available social life of the farm. The boy should never be asked to labor alone for any considerable length of time. Every effort should be made to fill the boy's heart full to overflowing with a sense of good comradeship. In nine cases out of ten this will result in infinite gain to the father who regards his family as by far the most important of his possessions. A boy must have his chums or become an imbecile or a criminal, and happy is the father who takes the pains to win the honored place of being his son's most trusted chum. By so doing he will have secured for his farm an intelligent and trusty helper, and for his home and his heart a wealth of love and devotion worth all the gold in Australia.

O. C.



Yorkshire Sow.

First and sweepstakes, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1906. Owned by D. C. Platt & Son, Millgrove, Ontario.

what they were, but likely were ignorant as to the baneful effects to future farmers. Since the date mentioned—yes, for many years—ragweed has spread over Middlesex and Elgin Counties. Many farms are covered with it as thick as hair on a dog's back, as the saying goes. On roadsides in many places it forms a luxuriant hedge between the gravel and the ditch, and between the ditch and fence it has a free territory.

Many farmers have allowed this weed to get the mastery of them; have become supine on the subject, and console themselves that it is not such a bad weed after all, that it does little harm in a crop, and the aftermath is just as beneficial to the land as a coat of manure. There is certainly a new phase in scientific agriculture.

Not exceeding fifteen years ago, I saw the first ox-eye daisy on the side of the highway in Dorchester Township. It now occupies the roadsides, to the exclusion of grass, and has entered many farms to such an extent that the pasture fields are beautiful and white in June. I have seen the mower taken out and run over them, which has done nothing to curtail them. Another weed that has made great progress since I saw the first one is wild teasel. It has travelled many miles; is a biennial; do not think it would give trouble in a cultivated field, but on roadsides, in fence-corners, and where trees have been thinned out in the woods, it presents a forest almost impenetrable with thorns. In a few years, golden-rod has not only had full and undisputed possession of fence corners, but now luxuriates in pastures and meadows. When in full bloom, as at present, it does not look so bad, but when the frost strikes it, and the yellow and green has faded, the grayish, dry stalks present a picture to the eye and landscape grotesque and unsightly, lowers the