

Harvesting in Essex.

The sound of the reaper is again heard in the land. Fall-wheat cutting started in this section on July 11th, and is now (July 15th) quite general. Quantity and quality are well up to that of former years. Although spring opened earlier than usual, yet harvesting did not commence until several days later than 1909. Copious showers on the 12th inst. has given sufficient moisture to overcome the drouth that was beginning to affect the crops somewhat seriously in certain localities. Tobacco, of which there is a very increased area planted, is making rapid progress. Recent rains have proved the salvation of raspberries, etc. Cattle are in great demand, but very scarce. J. S. Ainslie, Comber, disposed of his herd, 31 in number, a few weeks ago, for over \$3,200. A considerable number of hogs have been shipped lately, but the supply is not equal to the demand.

Essex Co., Ont.

A. E.

Saskatchewan Alfalfa Competition Popular.

The Saskatchewan alfalfa-growing competition has caught the popular fancy to a degree that was hardly expected, even by those most interested in the plan. The number of inquiries for information in regard to the rules of the competition has been large, and those who have sought expert advice in the growing of this important crop have not been few. Last spring, Superintendent Angus MacKay, Indian Head, who is one of the first and most successful growers of alfalfa in Saskatchewan, offered to give a sack of inoculated soil to any person who would pay the freight charges on it, and more than two hundred requests in a short time was the result.

Dairymen Get Demands.

For some time the Manitoba Dairymen's Association have tried to induce the railway companies to remedy grievances in regard to the shipment of milk and cream. For a time nothing was done, and the association executive laid the matter before the Railway Commission in Winnipeg on May 13th.

The demands included a reduction in rates to conform with rates on American roads; agents to accept delivery of milk at platform or baggage room at point of shipment and give receipt; and return of empty cans by way bill so that lost cans may be traced.

The Railway Commissioners on hearing the evidence agreed that these requests were reasonable. They gave the railway companies thirty days to make satisfactory arrangements with the dairymen. When representatives of the association met representatives of the railways, the latter did not care to grant all the demands. The dairymen, however, stood firm. Finally the C.N.R. and the C.P.R. gave in. Cans will be loaded and unloaded at shipping points and receipt given. At flag stations receipts are received from the train baggage men. No receipt is given for empty cans. All cans must be clearly marked.

The question of rates on cream is not yet settled. The dairymen want same rates on sweet and sour cream, and also want the tariff on the same changed to cover 5, 10, 15, 20, etc., miles area, rather than 10, 25, 50, etc., miles as at present. Sweet cream is wanted for the manufacture of high-grade butter, and dairymen do not feel that it is fair to charge double rates on the better-grade raw product.

Controlling Foul Brood in New Zealand.

"New Zealand," writes our Australian correspondent, "is the only country in the world where the State has power to compel the beekeeper to use a frame hive, the means by which foul brood—the great menace of the industry—can be readily detected. Beekeeping cannot succeed unless foul brood is effectively controlled. The New Zealand law quickly placed the industry on a firm footing."

Commenting upon this, a leading Canadian beekeeper writes: "As far as I know, this is quite correct as to law, but there is this to remember, a movable frame enables us to detect. Yet, the modern system, with interchange of combs between hives, with often interchange of combs in supers after extracting, and with danger of robbing in modern manipulation, the danger of spreading the disease is very much greater than with the old natural swarming, brimstoning, etc., system. In Ontario there are very few box hives. In Quebec, more."

The Manitoba Horse-breeders' Association is waging a vigorous crusade against the practice of keeping stallions in stud without proper enrollment and registration of the animals. On June 29th five charges made by the Association were heard in Mr. Justice McMicken's court, at Winnipeg. The several owners pleaded guilty to failure to enroll stallions and to posting notice of said enrollment, and were fined.

Where the potato goes the bug finds its way. Potato-growers on our Western prairies are gradually making personal acquaintance with the Colorado beetle. Their one-time immunity is no more.

GOSSIP.

J. Deane Willis, who is coming across to judge Shorthorns at the Canadian National Exhibition, has been secured to render the same service at the Iowa State Fair, according to the Breeders' Gazette.

The belted Hampshire hogs advertised by the pioneer Canadian importers and breeders, A. O'Neil & Son, of Birr, Ont., near London, are attracting widespread attention, and the demand for them is reported to be steadily increasing. Messrs. O'Neil also advertise for sale 25 choice two-year-old, high-grade steers, suitable for immediate shipment, and also a few real good yearling steers of the same class, which should find ready purchasers, with present market prospects.

THE WESTERN FAIR, LONDON.

The management have just completed the work of preparing and shipping their billboards to the different railway stations throughout Ontario. One thousand dollars' cash increase in the live-stock department of the prize list alone this year should induce a good show, and every effort is being put forth to accommodate the large number of exhibitors, both new and old, who will be in attendance at the Western Fair, London, Ont., this year. Prize lists, entry forms, and all information, may be obtained from the secretary, A. M. Hunt, London, Ont.

ALMA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.

Alma College (St. Thomas, Ont.) Commencement Exercises included a full week's programmes and functions, among which were undergraduates' musical and elocution recitals; domestic science dinner; Y. W. C. A. anniversary; graduate musical recitals; elocution graduates' recital; exhibit of paintings, drawings and china; physical culture drills; banquet by juniors to seniors; class-night play; field-day games; meeting of Alma Daughters' Board, Alma Daughters' banquet, reunion reception given by Principal and Mrs. Warner; Alma Daughters' concert; Miss Louise Hinds, reader. Two new exercises were introduced by the seniors, namely: planting the class tree, and the senior loving-cup service.

A matter of unique interest in connection with Alma Daughters' Day was the formal presentation of the Jubilee Gates to the College Corporation by the Daughters. These gates and fence are granite and steel, and cost \$1,210. The Baccalaureate sermon was preached by Rev. R. Whiting, B. A., London. Principal Warner presided, and Miss Henwood acted as registrar at commencement-day exercises. Miss Nelson read the Valedictory. Dr. Silcox, Principal of Strath-

ford Normal School, addressed the graduates. Principal Warner also briefly addressed the students and graduates. The registration for the year numbers 202.

BOOK REVIEW.

"THE WYANDOTTES."

We are in receipt of a revised edition of a book called "The Wyandottes," published by the Reliable Poultry Journal, Quincy, Ill. It consists of 160 pages, 8 1/2 x 11 1/4, and is printed on first-class paper. It is edited by J. H. Drevenstedt, a breeder and judge of twenty-five years' experience; is fully illustrated, and is contributed to by the leading breeders of this type of fowl in America. The text and illustrations are based on the changes to appear in the 1910 American Standard of Perfection, and treats of all the varieties of this beautiful and useful breed. The history of the origin of the breed, and the steps in its development, are fully recorded. The desirable color-markings on the various parts of the body, and the form sought in each variety, is clearly set forth. Improvement, breeding, and management suggestions of value are given. The price of the book is \$1 per copy, postage prepaid. It should be a very valuable textbook, welcomed by every person interested in this particular breed.

TRADE TOPIC.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS AT SHERBROOKE FAIR.—The prize lists for Canada's Great Eastern Exhibition, at Sherbrooke, Que., have just been published, and are being mailed. Owing to the fact that the price of admission has been raised to 50 cents, the directors are making a special effort to increase the attractiveness of the show. Ten vaudeville acts, \$3,500 in prizes for horse races, six bands to furnish music, and various special prizes and features should, together with the strongly maintained regular departments, guarantee a very successful show. A special prize of \$50 is to be adjudged to the County in the Province of Quebec whose exhibitors shall together win the largest amount of prizes. This amount will be paid to the Agricultural Society of the county. The entries in the bread-making competition promise to break all records. This year two of the large flour mills have offered valuable prizes. The judging competition will also have a number of entries. Farmers' sons enter this competition in large numbers. The demand for space up to date is larger than it was at this time last year. For prize lists and information, address H. E. Channell, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 728, Sherbrooke, Quebec.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

PRUNING MELON AND CUCUMBER VINES.

Kindly advise me how to prune cucumber or melon vines. G. W. P.

Ans.—When the melon vines begin to run freely, it is well to nip off the terminal buds of the main vines when they reach four or five feet in length, to induce the formation of laterals, upon which the fruit is mostly produced. We have never heard of anyone pruning cucumber vines when grown out of doors, though we have heard of the vines being trained and pruned when grown under glass. Any subscriber who has tried it, under either condition, will confer a favor by detailing his practices and the results, with explanation of the conditions under which he might consider it advisable.

BINDWEED.

I am sending a weed which we cannot get rid of, and would like to know the name of it, also how to get rid of it?

HARRY PETER.

Ans.—Though the specimen was not received in a perfect condition for identification, it is quite evidently field bindweed, the hardest weed to eradicate that infests Canadian fields. The one redeeming feature is that it is not hard to keep from spreading by seed. Its running rootstocks, however, are very deep-running and hardy. Cultivation sufficient to destroy most other weeds, only seems to make bindweed thrive all the better. It will yield, nevertheless, to thorough, persistent cultivation, repeated about every five days for a whole summer. This should be given either on a bare fallow or a hoed crop, preferably the former. The cultivation up to about July may appear to have the discouraging effect of invigorating the weed, but about August its vitality will show signs of weakening, and by autumn the weed will either be eradicated or so reduced in strength that it may be easily finished the next year. Small patches may be smothered with tar paper, held down well at the edges, but on extended areas, cultivation is to be recommended. Do not trifle with this weed. It is a desperately bad one.

MARKETS.

Toronto.

LIVE STOCK.

At West Toronto, on Monday, July 18th, receipts numbered 109 cars, comprising 2,304 cattle, 269 sheep, 28 calves. The quality of the cattle was generally good; trade good, with prices firm, especially for butchers'. Exporters, \$6.25 to \$7.15; bulls, \$4.75 to \$5.50; picked lots of butchers', \$6.75 to \$6.85; good loads, \$6.25 to \$6.50; medium, \$5.75 to \$6; common, \$5 to \$5.75; cows, \$3 to \$5.25; milkers, \$40 to \$65, and one Holstein, \$85; calves, \$3 to \$7 per cwt. Sheep, \$3.50 to \$4.50. Hogs, \$9.50, fed and watered, and \$9.15, f. o. b. cars at country points.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards last week were as follows:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle	186	201	387
Hogs	221	3,464	5,685
Sheep	3,085	1,626	4,711
Calves	2,713	1,145	3,858
Horses	685	157	842
	9	77	86

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the corresponding week of 1909 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle	167	176	343
Hogs	2,437	3,165	5,602
Sheep	2,828	763	3,586
Calves	2,622	429	3,051
Horses	500	183	683
	1	148	149

The above figures show a total increase of the combined receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the week, in comparison with the corresponding week of 1908, of 44 cars, 83 cattle, 1,125 hogs, 807 sheep, 159 calves; but a decrease of 63 horses.

On Monday, at the Union yards, the receipts of cattle were heavy, but at the City market for the rest of the week the supply was light. At the Union yards, trade was good (although prices were 10c. to 25c. per cwt. lower), as not a hoof out of the large number on sale was left unsold. At the City market, the bulk of the cattle on sale were common to medium quality, and sold at about the same prices, quality considered.

Exporters—Prices ranged from \$6 to \$6.10 for only three or four loads at the latter price, export bulls, \$5 to \$5.25; export heifers, \$5.75 to \$6.80.