

THE FARM BULLETIN.

MORE REVELATIONS OF THE MILK SCALES.

Eden Bank, B. C., association for May had the record for 241 cows of an average production of 917 lbs. milk; 3.7 test; 34.1 lbs. fat. In each of the 20 herds some individual cows gave over 1,000 lbs. milk, while the three best single yields were 1,630 lbs., testing 3.2; 1,750 lbs., testing 3.5, and 1,780 lbs. milk in the 30 days. The best herd average was from a lot of 20 cows, yielding 1,284 lbs. milk; 3.4 test; 44 lbs. fat. Such animals must be a pleasure to handle, a source of pride and satisfaction, as well as of good cash profit.

A good Ontario record for the same period is at the Central Smith association, where a herd of 20 cows averaged 1,096 lbs. milk; 3.2 test; 35 lbs. fat. The best cow in that herd gave 1,465 lbs. milk, testing 4.0, and the lowest yield in the same herd was 400 lbs., testing 3.2.

A contrast to the above is at St. Antoine, Que., for the same period, where 60 cows averaged only 654 lbs. milk; 3.3 test; 21.9 lbs. fat. The 60 cows gave a total yield of 39,244 lbs. milk; 1,317 lbs. fat. If they had milked as well as the cows at Eden Bank, B. C., they would have given an additional weight of actually sixteen thousand pounds of milk and over seven hundred pounds of butter-fat during the one month!

Are there not other places where there are still some poor cows left? The poor cows are most quickly detected by systematic weighing and testing.

Ottawa.

C. F. W.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM AT LACOMBE, ALBERTA.

Most of our readers are aware that the Dominion Department of Agriculture has, within the last two or three years, added to its system of five experimental farms, two branch stations in the sunny Province of Alberta, one at Lethbridge, in the southern part of the Province, in the midst of the irrigation district, and another at Lacombe, on the Calgary-Edmonton Railway, intended to serve what is now popularly known as Northern Alberta, but which rather constitutes the central portion of the Province; for it is only a matter of a few years until another station will be called for in what is really the northern part, up in the Peace River Valley or beyond. The Lethbridge farm is in charge of W. H. Fairfield, while the Superintendent at Lacombe is G. H. Hutton, B. S. A., an Ontario farmer, and who graduated some years ago from the Ontario Agricultural College.

The farm is well situated three-quarters of a mile south-west of Lacombe. It consists of one hundred and sixty acres of land, of which practically every acre is fit for grain production. The soil is a medium clay loam, running to sandy loam, rich, fertile and easily worked. The Department of Agriculture secured possession of the property in the winter of 1907, and work began in April of the same year. During last summer, buildings were put up, the land laid out for future use as an experimental farm, and some general crop such as oats and hay produced. The buildings consist of a residence for the Superintendent, a commodious frame house; a cottage for the farm hands, a horse barn 40 feet by 70 feet, and an implement shed. The manager's house is situated some distance back from the old Calgary-to-Edmonton trail, the land rising gradually from the front to the buildings. A lawn and flower garden of several acres is being arranged directly in front of the house, while the area between the lawn and the trail, a field of fifteen or twenty acres, is being laid off for experimental work in grasses.

The experimental work with the cereal grains is, of course, the most important yet under way at Lacombe. A large area is devoted to this branch. The work, in part, consists of variety tests and the determination of the most suitable cultural methods for producing the ordinary grains. Experiments, for example, are under way to ascertain when packing can be done to best advantage, what dates of seeding give best results in yield and quality of product, and so on. All the ordinary field grains, winter wheat and rye, spring wheat, oats, barley, peas, potatoes and corn, are being grown in plots of one-sixtieth of an acre each. In addition, some larger areas of the leading varieties of wheat, oats and barley are being grown for distribution purposes.

A good deal of attention will likely be given for the present to the growing of alfalfa and clover. One acre was sown to alfalfa last spring after land had been thoroughly inoculated with soil brought from the Lethbridge farm, where alfalfa has been growing for some time, and the appearance of the alfalfa plot this spring would be a revelation to those who have the impression that this great fodder plant cannot be grown in these latitudes. The crop is growing and vigorous. Two cuttings will be made this season.

which ought to give a total of at least four tons from the acre. A few acres also were seeded down to red clover last spring. This is scarcely showing as much vigor and bottom as the alfalfa, having been winter-killed to some extent, but it will give a fair yield by cutting time. It is intended, when the alfalfa gets more thoroughly established, to supply farmers with soil from this field for the inoculation of their own lands with the alfalfa bacteria before seeding.

Considerable work is being undertaken in tree-growing, both fruit and forest trees. A nursery has been arranged, in which several thousand trees of species adapted to the location have been set out, Manitoba maples, poplars, spruce, jack pine, etc. The orchard that is being laid out is quite large, large at least for this part of the country. Several hundred trees of the standard varieties have been planted this year in regular orchard arrangement.

No feeding experiments have been undertaken as yet, but this line of work is clearly called for. The results of feeding tests at Brandon, Man., last winter, and the interest which has been aroused in the results all through the West, indicate the need for much further experiment and demonstration, and the inauguration of such tests at Lacombe would be welcomed by the stockmen of Alberta.

DEATH OF HON. THOMAS BALLANTYNE.

In the death of the Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, of Stratford, Ontario, which took place on June 29th, at the ripe age of 79 years, Canada has lost one of the most stalwart friends of her agricultural and stock-raising industries. Born in the Town of Peebles, Scotland, in August, 1829, he was manager of a co-operative store at Innerleithen, at the age of 21 years. In 1852 he came to Canada with his father and mother,



The late Hon. Thomas Ballantyne.

following two older brothers who had taken up land in the Township of Downie, in Perth County, where Thomas taught school for several years. In 1856 he married Mary, daughter of Robert Ballantyne, of Downie, and a fine family of seven sons and one daughter were born to them, all of whom survive them, Mrs. Ballantyne having died in 1902. After his marriage Mr. Ballantyne commenced farming on a property adjoining the farm now owned by Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. He quickly saw the opportunities for dairying in this Province, and, starting a cheese factory at Black Creek, he soon began dealing in cheese and shipping for export to British commission houses. Meeting with success in this enterprise, he made it his main object thereafter to improve the quality of the dairy products of the Province, and to develop the system of co-operative dairying, which has added so greatly to the prosperity and wealth of the farmers of wide sections of the Province, very much of which is due to his good judgment, indomitable perseverance and personal liberality in expenditure of time, means and influence in aiding an industry in which his faith was unflinching. Largely through his influence and efforts, he saw the cheese factories of Canada increase from a few to about a thousand, most of which are managed by farmers themselves. In 1867 he attended the first dairy convention in the Province, and was elected a director, and was subsequently nine times elected President of the Association, being also its first

Honorary President. Mr. Ballantyne was for many years a breeder of pure-bred stock, first establishing a fine herd of Scotch Shorthorns, and later a superior herd of Ayrshires.

His public work began as Clerk of the Township of Downie, of which he was later elected Reeve. He was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1878, for the riding of South Perth, and sat continuously till 1895 for the same constituency. In 1891 he was elected Speaker of the House, and was the first to preside over the Legislature in the new Parliament Buildings in Queen's Park, Toronto. "As Speaker," remarks Col. Clark, Clerk of the Assembly, in his "Sixty Years in Upper Canada," "partisan feeling never entered into his decisions, which were always arrived at with caution." An excellent conversationalist, speaking as aptly in a public assembly as when at his fireside, it is declared he possessed an excellent repertory of political and general information.

ENGLISH VS. CANADIAN FARM-LABOR CONDITIONS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been in this country about sixteen months, and I find it is a common idea amongst Canadians that Englishmen are not used to hard work, or the rough-and-ready life you get on a farm. I was born on a farm, having never worked at anything but farming, and I would like to say, through your valuable paper, that I prefer working in Canada rather than in England. It is all very well for a Canadian to say that an English farmer employs two men and a boy on a 150-acre farm. If he were there, taking the place of one of these men, he wouldn't think it any too many. He must not forget that an English farmer doesn't do any work, or, at least, the majority of them, and that all the grain is sowed in rows about eight inches apart, and that has to be hoed up, every row. They also have all hedge fences, and they have to be clipped every year, and there are ditches up the side of nearly every fence, and they have to be cleaned out every year, and that makes a great deal of work which we don't get much of in this country. Now, in the parts of England which are well populated—and that's nearly all of it—the farmers never board the men, as they always board and sleep at home, and as many of these men have to go from two to four miles to work, they have to carry their food with them. They have to get to work at 6 a. m., and they get half an hour at 9 a. m. to get a lunch, and then they get an hour at noon for the dinner, which they have had with them since they left home at five o'clock in the morning. They then work till half-past five or six p. m., and have to walk back to their homes before they get their supper. To get a hot dinner, or to be in a house to get it is an unknown thing to many of them, and after they have got through these little trials, and handled at least twice the crop that we get in this country, they have the pleasure of drawing about \$3.50 per week, with the privilege of paying for their board, bed and washing out of that; or, if married, keep up a home, and support a wife and family. I would advise all those who think we don't work in the Old Country to take a trip over and be convinced. They'll find no snap when they get there. What does a farm laborer get in Canada? If he is a good, honest man, he is sure of a good situation, plenty of good food, and good bed and good wages, and not too much work; because a Canadian farmer helps do the work, therefore he knows how much a man can do, and how much he can expect from you. I tell you it's a pleasure to work on a farm here after working on a farm in England. I think most people who know the conditions of farm life will agree with me that the English who have come from farms are well acquainted with the rough-and-tumble of a farm. I would not say as much for them from the cities, for every person knows that it is otherwise. I thank you for the space in your valuable paper, which is taken by almost every farmer in this district.

EXPERIENCED ENGLISHMAN.

Ontario Co., Ont.

FAIR DATES FOR 1908.

July 11th to 17th.—Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.
July 13th to 17th.—Brandon.
July 21st to 24th.—Highland Society Show, at Aberdeen.
July 21st to 24th.—Regina.
August 29th to Sept. 11th.—Canadian National, Toronto.
August 29th to Sept. 5th.—Sherbrooke, Que.
Sept. 2nd to 10th.—Nova Scotia Provincial, Halifax.
Sept. 11th to 19th.—Western Fair, London.
Sept. 18th to 26th.—Ottawa Central.
Sept. 22nd and 23rd.—St. Thomas Horse Show, St. Thomas, Ont.
Sept. 29th to Oct. 2nd.—New Westminster, B. C.
Nov. 28th to Dec. 10th.—International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago.