

Timely Notes for September—No. 1.

NOTABLE SAYINGS AT THE DAIRYMEN'S MEETINGS.

"I remember that when thirty years ago a man talked about scientific farming, the farmers would turn up their noses. . . . But all that is changed, and we have not only that excellent College—the best educational institution in the country—but other Government farms have been established at Ottawa and elsewhere for the encouragement of agriculture. . . . The feeling is now strong among public men, as well as among many farmers, that we cannot have too many institutions in the way of model farms and agricultural schools, which give a most practical education to those who patronize them, and that, too, at the least possible cost."—PRESIDENT A. PATTULLO.

"Science is knowledge—ordinary knowledge—made exact and systematically arranged. It is very important to the farmer to know what his land contains, what crops are best suited to that soil, and what treatment is necessary to keep the land in best condition. . . . But how are we going to get this knowledge? We must get it by practice, by digging it out by hard personal work and observation, or we may get a great deal of it from the various agricultural books and journals that are published."—MR. C. C. JAMES.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, let me urge you, if you wish to become more prosperous dairymen, to grow corn, for it means more cattle, a larger production of flesh and milk, and an increased fertility of the soil, since by feeding the crops upon the farm, the plant food for the most part is retained for succeeding crops."—MR. F. T. SHUTT.

"With the farmer it is particularly true that seeing is believing. Demonstrate a thing by an object lesson and he can understand it; demonstrate it by theory, and it remains as clear as mud to him. . . . I have found that farming, as a rule, does not pay. The experience of the great mass of farmers in this country is that, when their debts are paid, they have very little in their pockets at the end of the year. . . . These are the three great points in farming—practical methods, based on experience, and guided by business principles. . . . The farm I have contains 120 acres under cultivation. . . . What we should call a very light soil. . . . I determined upon a change, and made my plans with a view to procuring the best results with the least labor. The first change was to reconstruct the buildings, putting up spacious stables and silos. The object was to produce milk, beef and pork. . . . The crops of the past year have been 800 tons of corn, 80 tons hay, 70 milch cows; 10 dry cattle and 30 pigs. The feeding this year is 50 milch cows and 90 fattening cattle, young and old. . . . The saleable products for the year up to the 1st of May were: Milk, \$2,300; pork, \$350; fowls, \$350; increase of fat cattle, \$1,800; total, \$4,800 the year's crop; purchased feed, \$2,000. The cost of labor was \$1,200; expenses, wear and tear, repairs of machinery, etc., \$200. This leaves a profit of \$1,200. Every day's work is accounted for as paid for in hard cash out of the returns of the farm. What does the profit of \$1,200 mean? It means that those working on the farm made \$2 for every \$1 paid to them. That is a point that should be seriously considered by every farmer in this land. How much does the farmer receive for every day's work he does on the farm? If he pays \$1 a day to a man, how much does that man produce as a profit? Taking the average farmer of the average district, his receipts for his day's work do not amount to \$1 a day. How can the profit be increased? is the great question for the farmers to consider. . . . Increase the profit of the farm and you increase the value of the farm."—MR. D. M. MCPHERSON.

"We must make the conditions of the cow in the stable as nearly those of summer as possible. There must be equality of temperature and regularity of feeding and milking, and then the results will be regular. When we lay aside what our fathers taught us, and get at the facts, as they exist for us, we shall find that the stable life of the dairy cow is an artificial condition. The dairyman of the future will be as far advanced as the stable will be advanced, and the stable life of the dairy cow will be the greatest strength of the dairy industry."—MR. JOHN GOULD.

HELP THE MINISTERS.

Just about this time many will be called upon to put down their names towards the support of their minister or missionary student. Do it willingly and generously. The life of a preacher of the Gospel is anything but easy in most parts of the Northwest, and he cannot live upon the wind any more than you can. He certainly deserves as good a salary as the school teacher. If you don't consider \$10 or \$20 a year too much for your school tax, it is hard to see how you can consider it too much for your minister. Again, when you want to sell a farm, don't you always put it down as an inducement to buy that it is close to church and school?

GENERAL.

Don't burn your straw this year. Try and make something out of it, either by feeding it to animals in conjunction with grain, by selling it, or by giving it to someone else who can make use of it.

If you have a field infested with wild oats or stink-weed or other annuals, harrow it well immediately after hauling off the crop, then plough it late, ploughing down the weeds that will have started into life this fall.

Patronize your local show and exhibit something—even a bushel of potatoes. "INVICTA."

The Highland Society's Show.

The most important show of Scotland is that of the Highland Society. It was held this year at Aberdeen. The entries, on the whole, were satisfactory, although not up to last year's number at Edinburgh, but, as one would expect in that great stock centre, quality of exhibits was the outstanding feature. The cattle entries numbered 314; for horses, 324; sheep, 314; swine, 52; poultry, 365; dairy produce, 56.

A visit of the Duke of York, President of the Society, lent an additional attraction to the show. The presentation to His Highness of Mr. Amos Cruickshank and Mr. Duthie was an event of special interest to breeders.

HORSES.

*Clydesdales.*—There was a splendid turnout of the premier draft breed. The stallion exhibit was very good. Montgomery Bros.' Baron's Pride was the successful horse in his class. He was bred at Springhill, got by Sir Everard; he has the rarest quality of bone, and is every inch a show-ring animal. The second prize was captured by Prince of Garthland, the Prince of Wales' sire, owned by Matthew Marshall, Stranreer. The 3rd prize horse was a splendid 4-year-old—Prince Albert of Rosehaugh—owned by Mr. Douglas Fletcher. Several valuable horses had to leave the ring unrewarded, except by praise of spectators.

The 3-year-old class was well contested. Last year's two-year-old Highland winner, Holyrood, owned by the Marquis of Londonderry, was the first prize winner, in strong company. He is got by Gallant Prince, out of a Darnley mare. S. Park came 2nd, with Prince of Erskine, got by Prince of Albion. For the 3rd place came Goldmine, by Goldfinder. He was a winner as a yearling, and may have had a better place this year had he handled himself with more grace. He was shown by R. C. Macfarlane, Greenburn.

Two-year-olds and yearlings commanded quite as much attention as their older brothers.

The brood mare class was not large, but contained quality. Mr. Leonard's Pilkington's Queen of the Roses, by Prince of Albion, made a worthy leader. She was in fine form and had a Macgregor youngster at foot. Con. Stirling's noted Brenda was a good second, while Messrs. Ferguson, Lumbhart, Old Meldrum, secured the 3rd award with Lady Dora.

In the yeld-mare class Montrave Maud was a good first. She is a daughter of that noted showing winner, Moss Rose, which was awarded the Cawdor cup for dam and progeny. All the younger mare classes compared well with those already mentioned.

*Hackneys.*—The Hackney classes called for some very fine discrimination on the part of the judges to satisfactorily allocate the awards. Among the prize-winning exhibitors were Mr. Gilbraith, Messrs. Crawford, Dumfries, Dr. Mackay and Mr. G. R. Shiach, Elgin.

CATTLE.

*Shorthorns.*—Very few Shorthorn admirers who witnessed the show of this breed would be inclined to dispute the excellence of the Shorthorn section.

In the aged bull class, Mr. Graham, of Edengrove, carried off the first ticket with Fairy King, which has been a general first prize winner this year. He was bred at Alenwick Castle, and sired by Royal Arthur. A creditable second was taken by a beautiful 4-year-old, None Such, bred by Mr. Hill, Langside, Fifeshire. He was shown by Mr. Thos. Lambert, Elrington Hall, Hexham. Mr. Milne came 3rd, with a grand 3-year-old Waverley, bred by the late Mr. Andrew Strachan.

There was a splendid array in the younger bull classes. The 2-year-olds were not wanting in this respect. A splendid winner was found in an improved young sire, Pride of the Morning, got by Star of the Morning. Two bulls from Col. Smith's, Minmore, were respectively 2nd and 3rd. The former is Goldspur; he was bred by Mr. Duthie. He is a beautiful red, and much stronger behind than his more successful competitor, but in some other points he lacked superiority.

In the yearling class the judges are said to have erred in decision by placing Lord Polwarth's Imperial Gold in first place. He is a neat, level bull, but lacks in size when compared with Duke of York and Champion Cup, which were awarded 2nd and 3rd places. The former was bred by Mr. Strong, Crosby, and shown by Mr. Handley. Champion Cup was bred at Bapton Manor, and is now owned by Mr. Harrison.

The cow class was good. The first prize was awarded to a Campbell-bred cow shown by Mr. Geo. Harrison, Underpark. She is a cow of great character, with capital head and neck. Mr. James Carnegie, Ayton Hill, came second with Rock Cistis, first prize winner at former shows. Lord Polwarth was 3rd with Heroine by Royal Rigby.

The 2 year-olds and yearlings had a good entry. The prizes were largely taken by men already mentioned.

*Aberdeen-Angus, Galloways and Highlanders,* being near home, turned out well with good specimens. The numbers were hardly up to those of last year, owing to the dispersion of some of the largest and best herds.

*Ayrshires* have made a better showing on previous occasions, owing, no doubt, to the fact that their home is a long distance from the show ground, and not from any lack of popularity of this breed. The cow class specially was small.

SHEEP.

Black Faces, Cheviots, Border Leicesters and Shropshires were the principal breeds represented. The principal feature of the Shropshire classes was the success of Corston sheep and Corston blood. All the classes were headed by Mr. Buttar's sheep. The 2nd place in the old ram class was taken by the Earl of Strathmore, Home Farm, Glamis, with a sheep of his own breeding by Corston the Fourth. The 3rd sheep was also from Corston, being bred by Mr. Mansell, Harrington Hall, Shifnal. In the yearling class the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th tickets went to Corston sheep. Mr. Buttar was the only exhibitor of ewes.

The Improved Large Yorkshire Hog.

BY J. E. BRETHOUR, BURFORD, ONT.

It has been the custom among the pork raisers of this and other countries to supply the markets with very fat, heavy pork. Why such a practice should become so universal is somewhat difficult to understand. Feeders seldom considered their porkers ready for market before they were swollen out in all directions with fat, fat, fat! In this condition the pigs reflected credit upon the feeders; they were very handsome, if a pig is ever entitled to that epithet. They also "opened well" and presented a fine appearance when dressed and hung up. At this time the pork supply had not assumed the enormous proportions of the present day, and when pork was asked for by customers, nothing else was expected to be given them but something "good and fat." Not at all strange to say, people have found out that pork can be produced in a very much more palatable and nutritious condition by being less fat; hence the present preference for what might be termed half-fat bacon. Mr. Sanders Spencer, in a recent article in the English Live Stock Journal, said:

"Almost every variety of pig bred in England has been declared by its breeders and admirers to be the only 'beau ideal' bacon curer's pig. In this interested praise of one's own specialty there is, doubtless, much to admire, but the disinterested opinion of the bacon curers of England, Ireland, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Canada may, perhaps, be of more practical value, from the fact that their opinions are based upon experience in handling millions of pigs each year, while most of those who strongly champion the cause of their favorite breed may actually rear one or two hundred pigs per year, the best of those being sold for breeding purposes; therefore the owner's experience of procuring bacon curer's pigs is not extensive."

Those who have been sufficiently interested in the pork producing industry to notice the current articles in agricultural papers, written by pork packers, would see that the long, deep side, not overly fat, is just what is wanted. Short, thick, chunky pigs cannot find an outlet except in the lumber shanties during the coldest weather. It is only reasonable to conclude that pig breeders must pay more attention to the wants of their customers—the consumers of pork and bacon—or else other kinds of meat will be more extensively used and the demand for pork will grow less and less. Much of the success of the development of the export trade will depend on producing an article suited to the demands of the British market, which we well know calls for what is known as the "bacon curer's pig." The following extract from the National Provisioner of New York is exactly to the point:

"The difference between Irish and American bacon, and the superiority of the former, is not a matter of 'cure' and 'cut,' but of 'breed' and 'feed.' The ruling breed in Ireland is the Yorkshire White—very uncouth-looking animals, with long necks, heads and legs. When dressed, with their heads and legs off, they look much better, and one decided advantage over the American is that they cut 'lean,' and throughout the fat and lean is much more evenly divided."

There is no doubt but that what is said of the popular Irish pig applies equally well to the Canadian, as the Yorkshire fills the requirements in every particular. This breed has been tried in all parts of the world. Ireland and Denmark hold, perhaps, the highest positions as producers of superior pork and bacon, and it is mainly to the introduction of large numbers of Improved Large Yorkshires into those countries that they have achieved such a high position in the markets of England. This breed answers the requirements of the pork packers in every respect. It is light in the head, has light neck and shoulders, well sprung ribs, with good heart girth; a narrow, well-fleshed back, and thick loins; great length, full flanks, and hams well let down. The meat consists of a very large proportion of lean, while it is a rapid grower, and will mature easily at any time.

Apart from answering the purposes of the pork packer, the Improved Large Yorkshires possess qualities which commend them to the breeder. Being the direct descendant of the original English