

EDITORIAL.

The exports from Ontario alone of Alsike clover during the past season, according to the estimate of the Steele, Briggs, Marcon Seed Co., one of the largest exporting firms, were of an aggregate value of \$350,000.

The Indian wheat crop is reported as being below the average on the whole. In the central provinces it is about up to the average, but in the important regions of the Northwest it is fully twenty per cent. below the usual quantity.

The Iowa legislature has done a most admirable thing in passing a law compelling public eating houses and hotels to conspicuously announce the fact where they serve oleomargarine to their patrons. A worthy example for other states to follow.

A Royal Commission is now enquiring into the cause of agricultural depression in Great Britain. Mr. John Speir, a tenant farmer of Newton, is on the commission for the west and south-west of Scotland. Mr. Speir was a farm delegate to Canada in 1890, and subsequently contributed to the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. A better selection could not have been made for the commission.

A good farmer will never undertake to till more land than he can thoroughly cultivate. It is the aim of too many farmers to get as many acres in crop as possible without paying sufficient attention to the manner in which it is put in. The farmer should bear in mind that well-tilled land is constantly drawing plant food from the subsoil, while a half-tilled field is growing poorer every day.

Not long ago the newspapers contained despatches from England to the effect that the British Minister of Agriculture was disposed to admit Canadian store cattle so soon as he was satisfied of the freedom of this country "from tuberculosis." At the time this was thought to be a telegraphic blunder in the use of the word "tuberculosis" for pleuro-pneumonia, because if the British Minister of Agriculture were open to conviction at all he could not gainsay the clear case made out by the Canadian Government of the non-existence of "pleuro" in the Dominion. Our able correspondent, Scotland Yet, in this issue devotes a good deal of attention to tuberculosis in Great Britain, and significantly says: "What is proposed is that farmers and all interested should agitate to have tuberculosis scheduled the same as pleuro-pneumonia is, and that compensation be paid for every animal slaughtered." Is this the beginning of a new crusade?

According to the Agricultural Journal of April 2nd, London received in the week ending with that date a good supply of American, Argentine and Russian wheat, together with 10,300 quarters of Australian wheat.

In view of this fact, we can hardly credit the good news which has been going the rounds of the papers of late, that Mr. Van Horne predicts that wheat will increase to \$2.00 per bushel in the near future. Mr. C. Wood Davis, of Kansas, made similar predictions two or three years ago.

There also arrived from Turkey, in the same time, 15,501 quarters of oats. We do not usually think of Turkey as an oat-producing country, still there are very extensive mountain regions where the rainfall is heavy, and the growth of oats might easily be increased.

The United States sent 3,826 quarters of peas, and 4,819 quarters of linseed cake came in from the River Plate district.

Mr. C. R. Valentine, the well-known butter expert in Australia, and at present special dairy commissioner of New Zealand, is very enthusiastic over the prospects of the butter industry of Australia, but is evidently laboring under a misapprehension in regard to the dairy industry of Canada, and does not realize the great efforts which are being put forth by our dairy associations to further the cause of butter-making, nor the fact that Canada not only makes all the butter which is consumed by her own people, but also has an export trade with Great Britain, which is rapidly increasing, for in the course of an article in the Australasian he has the following:

"There is a good possibility of a trade with Canada in spite of the attention which the Dominion is now paying to the development of her dairying resources. In winter Canada is subject to the same necessities of stall-feeding which enable Australia to compete with the North European export trade, and the imports of American butter, which were once large, are now rapidly falling off."

The Farmers' Institute System.

Elsewhere appears a letter from Mr. G. L. Page, of Drayton, in reply to one from Mr. Rutledge, previously published in the ADVOCATE. On their merits as an educational factor, farmers' institutes are certainly entitled to government support as well as for the reason which Mr. Page points out. It is idle, however, to shut our eyes to the fact that there exists a deplorable lack of interest regarding institute work in many places. No doubt, as Mr. Page points out, there are successful institutes, but what is needed is a better system in order to make this excellence general. Mr. Page asks for information as to how the distribution of bulletins and agricultural reports is made. On this point the Minister of Agriculture writes us as follows:—

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Replying to your question as to gratuitous distribution of bulletins and reports, I beg to say that the department has always endeavored to supply those who request it with copies of these publications. While we are always able to supply the bulletins, we cannot make any positive statement with regard to the reports, for the reason that the supply is limited, and we endeavor to make some calculation as to how many will be required. As the number of members of the Farmers' Institute and Dairy Associations are known, the issue is made to cover their membership. We are, however, willing to supply copies if they are available.

Yours very truly,

JNO. DRYDEN.

Toronto, April 10, 1894.

The fact that Canada (more particularly Ontario) scored such phenomenal triumphs at the World's Fair, was not alone due to the fact that we have successful stock raisers, cheesemakers and fruit growers here, but was a tribute to the splendid system by which the Ontario exhibit was collected and sent to Chicago. Even though our victory were repeated every year, that would be no argument whatever that our institute system may not be improved, nor that we may not pick up serviceable ideas in New York State, Ohio, Minnesota or Wisconsin. With the good sense and pluck characteristic of Canadians, we can probably make better use of some of their methods than they have done themselves. Our business is to take a good idea anywhere and put it into practice. The Ontario Institutes should certainly be as well attended as those of Minnesota; but are they? In that state for the whole of the past winter series the attendance averaged from 400 to 500, the very lowest being 125, while as many as 900 farmers have attended a single institute meeting. We have need to wake up in Ontario. Our place is at the front end of the procession. To stand still is to fall behind, and that we must never do.

During the month of March, England imported 3,151 tons of Canadian hay, and the general opinion expressed by exporters is that the demand will increase.

According to the report of the Statistician of the United States, the attempts which have been made by the agricultural department to teach the Germans how to cook and eat corn bread have been a failure. In spite of the encouraging reports sent to the department, the fact remains that although a national shortage of bread stuffs, famine or war may increase the consumption of maize for bread, in all cases it will only be temporary. The Germans do not eat hot bread, and the other ingredients necessary to make corn bread palatable are too expensive and not within the reach of the poorer classes, for whom the bread is mainly intended. Maize bread does not harmonize with the rest of the diet generally preferred by the Germans. Rye bread will always be the bread for the majority of the Germans, and bread made from the very choicest of wheat flour is demanded by the wealthy classes.

The Texas Live Stock Journal predicts a cattle famine, and gives as some of its reasons the following:—"The hard drought of the past few years, the large 'die-offs' of past winters and the never-before-heard-of shipments of cattle, calves and yearlings to market during the same period, all go to show that the producing power of our ranches has decreased to an alarming extent, to say nothing of the practice of spaying cows which has been so extensively carried on of late years. In many parts there are not one-fourth as many cattle as there were four years ago, while in other parts there are but little over one-half the usual number. It is likely that this scarcity will be severely felt by the coming summer. At present large numbers of cattle are being marketed on account of the drought last summer and the consequent scarcity of feed." It will be a welcome change to cattle feeders if this expected shortage should have the effect of stimulating prices somewhat. The feeling this spring has been greatly depressed.

A Popular Engraving.

In the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we announced the completion of our new engraving, "Canada's Columbian Victors," and its reception both by the Press of Canada and the United States, and the high encomiums passed upon it by those to whom it has already been sent as a premium, have exceeded our most sanguine expectations. It is indeed gratifying to find such a spontaneous, hearty and universal appreciation of our efforts. Like "Canada's Pride," issued by the ADVOCATE a few years ago, "Canada's Columbian Victors" is evidently destined to become a household word not only throughout the Dominion, but beyond its bounds. From scores of commendations we select a few as follows:—

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"The publishers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Wm. Weld & Co., of London, Ont., and Winnipeg, have just published a handsome and life-like engraving, entitled "Canada's Columbian Victors." The picture is a gem of artistic design, and contains the portraits of a large group of pure-bred Ayrshire cattle that won distinguished honors at the World's Fair, Chicago, last summer. Canadian live stock breeders and dairymen, especially, will appreciate the commendable enterprise which has actuated the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in thus giving the public such a permanent memento of Canada in that great prize ring. Out of \$2,035 in prizes, Canadian Ayrshires won \$1,885; United States, \$150. It is also highly creditable to Mr. F. Brigden, who is, without doubt, the leading live stock artist in Canada. In the way of live stock portraiture we have seen nothing finer than this, the shading and grouping being artistically done, and the individual characteristics faithfully brought out. We might mention that the cattle portrayed in this engraving were from the herds of Messrs. R. Reford, St. Annes, P. Q.; R. Robertson, Howick, P. Q.; Thomas Guy, Oshawa, Ont.; W. M. & J. C. Smith, Fairfield Plains, Ont.; D. Drummond, Petite Cote, P. Q.; Thos. Irving, "Logan's Farm," Montreal, P. Q.; Joseph Yuill, Carleton Place, Ont.; William Stewart, jr., Menie, Ont."—[The Weekly News, Toronto, Ont.]

"The publishers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE have just issued an engraving of a group of pure-bred Ayrshire cattle, which won such a large number of the prizes at the Chicago fair. It is a handsome engraving, and will serve as a permanent memento of the success of Canadian cattle at the greatest exhibition the world has ever seen."—[The Advertiser, London, Ont.]

"It is a handsome engraving, and will serve as a permanent memento of the success of Canadian cattle at the greatest exhibition the world has ever seen."—[Daily News, Berlin, Ont.]

"The FARMER'S ADVOCATE has issued a capital plate of the prize-winning Ayrshires at the World's Fair, which will make an interesting addition to the adornment of every farm house in Ontario."—[Algoma Pioneer, Sault Ste. Marie.]

"In live stock portraiture we have seen nothing finer than this."—[The Arcadian, Wolfville, N. S.]

"Some of the Canadian cattle which won so many prizes at the Chicago Fair last year have been put into a lithograph, of which the artist is Mr. F. Brigden. This handsome cattle picture may be had from the publishers, The Wm. Weld Co., London and Winnipeg."—[Monetary Times.]

"Exceedingly handsome and lifelike."—[Coleman's Rural World, St. Louis, Mo.]

"It is a beautiful and artistic piece of work, and provides a means by which the stockmen of Canada may preserve a memento of the greatest achievement of Canadian stock."—[Windsor Review.]

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

"Canada's Columbian Victors came to hand, and I have to thank you for same, as well as for another copy of Canada's Pride. The Ayrshires are splendid." R. P. MCGINNIS, Iberville, P. Q.

"Please accept thanks for your premium, Canada's Columbian Victors, which I have just received. It is a very handsome premium, and more than I could reasonably expect." GEO. ALLAN, North Nation Mills, Ont.

GENTLEMEN,—The premiums you sent are now all safely to hand—thank you. The barley and oats came some weeks ago, and are in appearance all that need be desired; and the picture, 'Canada's Columbian Victors,' came to-day, and I think is one of the finest and most creditable premium pictures I have ever seen sent out by any publishing company, and with much less boasting and more real merit." Yours very truly and respectfully,
W. R. SCOTT, Allan's Mills, Ont.

Any reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE can obtain a copy of this beautiful engraving, by sending us the name of one new subscriber, accompanied with \$1.