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EDITORIAL.

Horse-racing is to be crowded off the track of the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto this season by a review of cadets from all the overseas dominions of the Empire, and of troops, by the Duke of Connaught.

As a means of effectually reaching the people, "The Farmer's Advocate" takes the palm, in the opinion of a Middlesex man, who invested \$1.20 in a condensed poultry-and-egg advertisement, and received in response 150 letters of inquiry.

With roads blocked, trains stalled, coal supplies held up, and the only farm water supply in a vein sixty or a hundred feet below the spout of a frozen pump, that well-worn phrase, "the grip of winter," takes on real and rather terrible significance.

During this unusual winter of severe cold and violent storm, it has hustled the prob man to keep ahead of the weather. As a rule, about the time his promise of fair weather reached rural subscribers of the city dailies, another storm centre or cold wave had spread across the continent, not infrequently arriving ahead of its prediction. Under these circumstances, the probabilities have been more in the nature of a chronicle than prophecy.

If the harness and implements have not yet been overhauled and repaired, now is the time to do this work. Time is not so valuable now as in the busy days of seeding operations. "The early bird catches the worm." This is particularly true with the sowing of the seed, and any time lost then in making repairs which could easily have been made in winter means smaller yields at harvest time and smaller returns in the end. Have everything in working order when the time comes to take the field.

Without minimizing what has been undertaken in Ontario for the furtherance of elementary agricultural education, lucidly set forth by Director S. B. McCready, on another page of this issue, one cannot avoid reaching the conclusion that the work thus far is simply preparatory to what is needed—a thoroughgoing reform that will reach the foundations of the system, and particularly the Normal and Model School training of the whole body of teachers who assume the serious responsibility of teaching in the rural public schools.

On the subject of protecting the pure maple product from the unfair competition of pretended maple syrup bearing misleading brands or labels, discussed at length in last week's "Farmer's Advocate," John H. Grimm, of Montreal, writes us that, out of some 55,000 syrup-makers in Canada, over 45,000 have already signed petitions to the Government at Ottawa for effective legislation. Thousands of others would gladly sign such petition if given an opportunity, and, at least, they can write their local member in the House of Commons urging action on the subject. Mr. Grimm does not, of course, object to the use of cane syrup and molasses, but they should be sold for exactly what they are, and not misquoted as "maple" products.

An Unfounded Prejudice.

Prejudice against silage retreats from point to point only as driven by the incontestable facts of experience, but every inch of ground has to be fought. Forced to concede that silage was unrivalled as a cheap, bulky, succulent feed for dairy cattle, silo opponents took strong ground on the beef-cattle question, contending that, for best results in feeding steers, only the hard, ripened corn would do. Results with silage made from well-matured, strong-grown corn convinced some, but many still swore by ground grain, dry fodder and roots. Experience and experiment finally won the day, proving that the best of beef could be most economically made with good corn silage. But a strange new theory raised itself to demand rebuttal. Somehow, an idea has been spread that, while silage is all right for fattening cattle, it is an undesirable feed to carry through steers for finishing on grass. How such a notion could gain headway, it is hard to see, for, of all the prejudices against silage, this is one of the most foundationless. As a matter of fact, we have always found the exact opposite to be the case, silage-fed cattle scouring less and showing less effect from the change to grass than cattle that had been wintered on dry feed. But a few feeders, in some unexplained manner, had been led to the conclusion that silage-fed cattle did poorly on grass, and, in the absence of specific experimental data, raised their voices assertively. "Do you know of any experiments on this point?" they asked, and, when none could be cited off-hand, they felt quite sure they were right. Unfortunately, we cannot lay our hands upon records of any experiments touching this especial point, but we present in another column the testimony of Thos. McMillan, a hard-headed, successful and observant cattle-feeder, who for twenty years has been feeding silage to steers, the bulk of them being finished on grass. Mr. McMillan's report is that from silage-fed cattle they have obtained their very best gains on grass, as would be naturally expected.

If there ever was any apparent justification for this absurd idea under discussion, we surmise that it would be with milch cows, rather than fattening animals. We occasionally hear a cheese-factory patron boast that he receives bigger cheese checks than his neighbors who have silos, inferring therefrom that silage is injurious. But what does it really indicate? Simply that the neighbors with silos get much more milk per head during the winter season, their cows being stimulated to a prolonged lactation by the succulent feed. Is it surprising, then, if they should in some cases give less milk in the summer than those which had rested four or five months? Compare the total year's production on a basis of either pounds or dollars, but especially dollars, and see who comes out ahead. Compare, likewise, the gains on two ear lots of steers, one wintered on silage, the other on unhusked corn fodder from the same field, both lots to be finished on grass, and see which makes the better gains. Only inferior silage, injudicious feeding, or some unobserved inferiority in the cattle, will provide the former lot scoring a decided advantage. This last, persistent hogey, like the whole troop that has preceded it, will be relegated to Limbo by the logic of weigh scales, feed records and time-cards. More beef per acre can be produced with the silo than in any other way. It can also be produced more satisfactorily and at a smaller labor cost per pound, than with any other feed but pasture. The beam

of the weigh scales tells the tale. Where knowledge supplants guesswork, silos are permanently built.

Action at Last.

There is strength in united effort. For the past few years different agricultural interests in the Province have been asking the Provincial Government, through the Minister of Agriculture, for increased consideration of their special industry. For the most part, the petitions fell on deaf ears, until, during the present season, demands have been made by all classes of agriculturists, stock-breeders, cereal-growers and agricultural educators. These men are not "kickers" or "knockers." They merely stated their needs, and at last these have become so important, so strong, and so urgent, that they have been heard by the Departmental Head, and action has begun, stallion legislation is considered, supplementary estimates provide \$116,500 for improvements at the Ontario Agricultural College (\$75,000 for a new dining-hall, \$15,000 for new dairy stables, \$16,500 for additional land, and \$10,000 for an electrical plant); \$2,500 goes to field-crop competitions, which makes \$16,200 in all for agricultural and horticultural societies; demonstration farms, \$6,000; district agricultural representatives, \$8,000; O. A. C. and Macdonald Institute, \$8,150. This Department of the Government seems to be awakening from its long slumber, and, while it is not the desire of those engaged in agriculture to be "pap" fed, they should keep up their demands until the Government, and the Minister of Agriculture himself, realize the full importance of this Department. Standing together, agricultural interests are strong enough to make an impression on any Government. In this form they have even received recognition from the present Minister of the Department. It is strange what strength will do.

Good Management Necessary.

Every farmer has a business, and no matter whether he is working and managing a ten-acre truck garden or a thousand-acre grain or stock farm, his prosperity depends upon his ability to manage, upon his clear thinking, and upon his putting into practice the ideas which he has thought out for himself or gleaned from the results of other's experiments.

There is no time in the year which requires that the work be carefully managed more than the spring season, and there is no season for which agriculturists should be better prepared. Planning the operations ahead is often of great advantage, for it brings up endless little things which can be attended to now before the rush of seeding is upon us. A sufficient amount of the best available seed is of first consideration, and, if not already on hand, no time should be lost in securing it and having it cleaned ready to sow. This is only one of many things which will come to the mind of the man who stops to think and plan for the coming spring days. The thinking man is the one who succeeds, and now is the time to exercise the "gray matter." Most men's success does not result from their superior advantages, due to their natural surroundings, but rather to their ability, which is, after all, a result of thinking out and putting into practice sound ideas; in short, it is enterprise, initiative or management. Management is the exercising of the mind to facilitate the work of the body, make it easier, more quickly done, and more remunerative.