

as if something should be done to correct this evil.
Elgin Co., Ont.

JOHN LUNN.

The Road Congress in Detroit.

(Continued from Page 1746).

United States Representative D. W. Shacklesford, Chairman of the House Committee at Washington on Roads, delivered one of the most vigorous addresses at the American Road Congress at Detroit, in which he cleverly joined issue with the powerful touring car "interests," whom he charged were aiming at the construction and maintenance at public expense of a few "ocean-to-ocean" highways of great perfection for the well-to-do touring class, leaving the rest of the people to build their own roads or do without. He made a sensible and powerful plea for "business" roads that will keep easy transport between the farms and the towns and railway stations, so that crops may be marketed easily and economically and town buyers receive their supplies at less expense. What was wanted was not a few good roads but a general system of good roads—a million miles of business and post roads to be built in five years and he asked for support of the Congressional Bill to that end, which he believed the mass of the people favored.

One of the most serious problems considered in the Congress was that relating to the apportioning of federal, state and local aid in road-making and the question of control in order to ensure efficiency and freedom from party politics. In Canada the same issue will crop up as between provincial and federal authorities. In the judgment of United States Secretary of Agriculture Hon.

D. F. Houston, if federal aid is to be extended to building and improving roads, there should be co-operation of the State in a larger measure in financial support and in construction and maintenance.

In the second place, it should be understood that the Federal Government should have adequate supervision and control over the enterprise in each community and guarantee the efficient expenditure of its own fund.

In the third place, the Federal Commissioner should deal exclusively with efficient agencies provided and supported by the States.

In the fourth place, the plan should provide for the apportionment of funds among the States on the basis of certain essential factors.

And, finally, the primary undertaking should be to improve those community roads which are essential for the marketing of products and for the betterment of the physical, intellectual and social side of rural life.

The heads of the various State Highways Commissions, who have been aiding the Ontario Commission in their work of enquiry, were entertained to a luncheon presided over by Hon. Dr. Reaume, and in the course of an eloquent speech by Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture in Quebec, an invitation was extended the Congress to meet in Quebec City three years hence.

In a fine address by John T. Doyle, Secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, attention was called to the imperative need of taking road management out of politics and having construction and maintenance carried on under thoroughly efficient direction.

One result of the Congress will probably be a joint effort on behalf of Canada and the United States to obtain more uniform laws pertaining

to road-making throughout the different Provinces and States.

A resolution adopted, endorsing the compulsory use of wide tires and road drags, favors wherever practicable the use of convicts in road construction and maintenance, and long tenure in office of experienced and efficient highway officials.

The Canadian representatives at the Congress, including W. A. McLean, Provincial Highway Engineer, whose thoroughly practical work in Ontario has attracted much favorable comment, have secured a fund of valuable information, which will be worked out in Ontario and other Provinces in so far as applicable.

J. W. Page, of Washington was re-elected President and J. E. Pennypacker Secretary for the ensuing year.

At the re-opening of the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, last week, Principal Grange extended a cordial welcome to the students for the ensuing term, of whom there will be a record number, including over 150 freshmen. Archdeacon Cody, who was present, congratulated the students and faculty upon the improved equipment of the college, and President Falconer, of the Provincial University, concluded with timely words of counsel.

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates, from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the Bureau, that the condition of the cotton crop on September 15 was 64.1 per cent. of a normal, as compared with 68.2 on August 25, 1913, 69.6 on September 25, 1912, 71.1 on September 25, 1911, and 68.6, the average on September 25 of the past ten years.

Gossip.

HIGH PRICES FOR ARGENTINE SHORTHORNS.

At the recent Palermo show, the champion Shorthorn bull sold for £6,896, by auction, at Buenos Ayres. The reserve champion made £3,980, and the winner in the two-year-old class drew £3,668. Other sales were made at proportionate prices. This is good news for breeders in England, who were looking forward to the autumn sales.

At the recent sale of the famous Holker herd of English Shorthorns the catalogue including many representatives of the Oxford, Bates' Duchess, and Wild Eyes tribes, the highest price obtained (250 guineas) was paid by E. Ercroft, for the five-year-old cow, Holker Oxford 14th. Two other cows sold for 200 guineas each, and ten others for 100 to 150 guineas each. The whole offering of 46 head averaged £87, 10s., approximately \$435.

Volume 80, of the American Shorthorn Herdbook, has been issued from the press and, by courtesy of Secretary Roy G. Groves, Stockyards Station, Chicago, a copy received at this office. This volume contains the pedigrees of 8,000 bulls, numbered from 359001 to 367000, and 12,000 cows, numbered from 115001 to 127000. This volume is now ready for general distribution, the price to non-members being \$2 at the office of the association, or \$2.30, prepaid. Volume 81 has been sent to the printer, and will contain 20,000 pedigrees.

Prospects for an auspicious opening to the National Live Stock, Horticultural, and Dairy Show, to be held at Toronto next month, are most encouraging. The entry lists are closing up rapidly, and exhibitors are planning to come from all parts of the Dominion. Live-stock men are co-operating enthusiastically with the management to make the first year a success, as this is the first occasion when the various branches of the live-stock and agricultural industry will be brought together at one time under conditions that will make for maximum results. The gaps in the programme are being rapidly filled up. There will be a special display of farm equipment, machinery, and appliances, and various demonstrations and tests will be made to bring right to those interested the salient features of the most approved methods now in use. Mr. A. P. Westervelt, manager of the show, is engaged with a large staff completing the organization, and reports that all entries must be in hand by November 1 to ensure proper classification and care in arrangement.

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.

Current Cuttings.

Is it possible to take shoots of currant bushes and keep them over winter, to be planted in the spring. We have taken your paper for about four years now, and like it fine. A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Cuttings are usually made early in September, but it is not too late yet. Tie the cuttings in bundles and bury them with two or three inches of soil over the butt ends. They may be planted in nursery rows and covered with mulch just before winter sets in, or may be stored in moss in the cellar until spring.

A Waste of Pulpwood.

In the manufacture of chemical wood-pulp by the sulphite process, one-half of every cord so treated is dissolved by the liquor in which the wood is boiled, and is discharged into the adjacent rivers as waste liquor. According to the latest bulletin on pulpwood, issued by the Forestry Branch, Ottawa, the amount of pulpwood subjected to this chemical treatment in 1912 was almost two hundred and ninety thousand cords. One-half of this amount was absolute waste. The average price of a cord of pulpwood is six dollars, so that this waste, reduced to its money equivalent, represents a loss to Canada of over eight hundred thousand dollars.

Nor is this the only loss, for by this process 140 pounds of sulphur are required to dissolve the waste materials out of each cord of wood. Some of the gases generated in the process are recovered, but most of the sulphur passes off in the waste liquor, and no method has yet been found to recover it for use a second time. Sulphur costs twenty-five dollars a ton, and the loss in this particular is equivalent to a money loss of over half a million dollars on the total amount wasted.

In view of the fact that each year more pulpwood is being manufactured into pulp by this process in Canada, the utilization of this waste liquor becomes an important problem. Even the most practicable method so far devised does not

recover enough valuable products to make it pay.

The waste liquor contains many materials, such as oxalic acid, tannin extracts, dyestuffs and alcohol constituents, which, if they could be easily recovered, would make the liquor of great commercial value; but in spite of the tremendous amount of work which has been done on the subject, especially in Europe, the problem still remains for the most part unsolved. As the liquor also contains carbohydrates, it should be possible to obtain turpentine, and eventually it may be possible to obtain rubber from it. In furthering the solution of such problems, and in eliminating other forms of wood waste, the new Forest Products Laboratories being established by the Dominion Government at McGill University will doubtless play an important part.

One use of the waste liquor mentioned above, that has been tried at Grand Mere, Quebec, where large pulp and paper mills are situated, consists in its utilization for street-watering. Experience has shown it to be as efficacious in keeping down dust as oil is, while the objectionable odor of oil is quite absent.

Lumber Products, 1912.

There was ten per cent. less lumber cut in Canada during 1912 than in the preceding year, the total quantity amounting to 4,389,723,000 feet, board measure, valued at \$69,475,784. The shingle and lath production amounted to \$5,239,941, and square timber netted \$1,825,154, making the total value of lumber and allied products in 1912 equal to \$76,540,879.

Spruce is Canada's most important conifer, or "softwood," for it made up over one-third the amount of lumber and lath cut in 1912, and also constituted over three-quarters of the pulpwood production for the same year. Succeeding it on the list are white pine, Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar, and birch.

Birch is Canada's most important hardwood, and takes precedence over many conifers, or "softwoods," as well. It was sawn in over 2,000 mills, and formed 28.5 per cent. of the square timber cut in Canada. To this large percentage of birch was due, in some measure, the phenomenal increase of 89.9 per cent. in the cut of square timber during 1912, this being the first increase since 1877.

Other "hardwoods" increasingly used, are maple and basswood, both of which are also common in the farmer's woodlot. Although the "hardwoods" constituted only 7.1 per cent. of the total lumber cut, the supply of trees is by no means exhausted, for, unlike the conifers, there was an increase in the amount of such woods cut in 1912 over that of 1911.

Further information can be obtained from the Forestry Branch, Ottawa.

The Spice of Life.

Visitor.—"I'd like to know why on earth you call that white pig 'Ink'?"
Farmer.—"Because he's always running from the pen!"

A READY ANSWER.

A visitor from the great metropolis had been sightseeing in the Quaker City with a neighbor of that place.

"People don't die very often over here, do they?" he remarked.

"No, only once," replied the Quaker calmly.

HARD ON FATHER.

Supper was in progress, and the father was telling about a row which took place in front of his store that morning. "The first thing I saw was one man deal the other a sounding blow, and then a crowd gathered. The man who was struck ran and grabbed a large shovel he had been using on the street, and rushed back, his eyes blazing fiercely. I thought he'd surely knock the other man's brains out and I stepped right in between them."

The young son of the family had become so hugely interested in the narrative as it proceeded that he had stopped eating his pudding. So proud was he of his father's valor his eyes fairly shone, and he cried:

"He couldn't knock any brains out of you, could he father?"

Father looked at him long and earnestly, but the lad's countenance was frank and open.

Father gasped slightly and resumed his supper.

A ONE-LEGGED ROUTE.

Strickland Gillian, the poet and lecturer, was on his way from Gainesville, Texas, to Oklahoma City one night last summer. The porter on the sleeping car, Gillian says, had an overdose of both gin and hookworms.

When Gillian awoke in the morning one of his large and ornate shoes was by his berth, nicely shined. The other shoe was missing.

He called the pickled porter and asked: "Why did you shine one of my shoes and not the other?"

"Boss, I didn't see but jes' one shoe."

"Well, you must have known there were two."

"No, boss I didn't know you-all had two shoes."

"Come off! You did know it. You must have known it."

"Hones', boss, I didn't know it. They's a right smaht ob one-legged gemmen travels on dis hyah line."