

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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is published every Thursday.
It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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an enlightened agriculture, so that they would have acquired a taste for agricultural reading and knowledge, we do not believe this great loss would have come to that state. The children of to-day are the farmers of to-morrow. Upon their education and mental bias of to-day will depend the character of their farming to-morrow. There is no use of 'crying over spilt milk,' but the educational sentiment of New York and every other State should take steps at once that there should be no more spilling of good milk. To this end, make the elements of agriculture a part of every day's exercises in the common school. Familiarize the youthful mind with sound doctrine in reading lessons, if nothing more can be had. The effect will remain to give an impulse in thousands of instances towards the farm. Better save one good farm boy to the farm than import a half-dozen ignorant substitutes."

CALF CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The winning of the grand championship over all pure-breds, grades and cross-breds of fat cattle at the International Live-stock Exposition, by the high-grade Shorthorn, fifteen-months-old, 1,090-pound calf, Roan King, raises the question as to the wisdom or propriety of such a course. In 1906, this high honor at Chicago was won by a Hereford calf, Peerless Wilton 39th's Defender, which this year returned to receive only third in his class. But does that signify? The task of carrying over a fat beast, of whatever age, is admittedly most difficult, and it would be almost a super-human achievement to win two grand championships at Chicago with the same animal, no matter at what age it was first fitted, and there would seem to be no valid reason why a steer finished for the block should not receive recognition, whether fifteen months old or three years. At any rate, Mr. Durno's decision was generally popular, and illustrates the marked tendency towards the production of early-maturing, handy-

weight butchers' cattle. There has been a rooted conviction, long prevalent, that these young cattle lack flavor, being neither beef nor veal. That is true of the half-starved things killed at six or eight months, but not of the well-fed, ripe year-old. Such an animal, receiving a ration in which milk forms a part, produces the very choicest and spiciest of tender steaks, and when people realize this more fully, there will be a much greater impetus given to the production of meaty, thick-fleshed baby beeves.

THE SPHERES OF THE WINTER FAIRS.

As the echoes of the December live-stock exhibitions subside, it is timely to reflect upon their value and their respective spheres. When the live-stock exposition at Chicago was launched, some eight years since, on its present gigantic scale, a few disquieting thoughts were entertained that the Canadian fat-stock show at Guelph would be quite outclassed. In dimensions, it certainly has been; but in educational value, the distinctive features of the Ontario fair, and its replicas at Amherst, N. S., and Ottawa, Ont., only stand out more pronounced.

The International is a great show—a perpetual revelation. Phenomenally successful from the start, each succeeding year turns a more impressive page. In scale and quality of exhibits, it annually sets new records which only itself can surpass. Surpass them it does, however, with certainty and ease. Record-breaking rings are successively outclassed, as though they had been mere State or County exhibits. Champions of previous years go down by the pairs and half-dozen. High-class show-yard material of eight years ago is hardly looked at now, while the second-raters have been almost eliminated from the stalls. The International early won continental acclaim as the climax of American live-stock exhibitions. It is the prospective goal of every ambitious exhibitor, the cynosure of all stockmen's eyes. It is the American exhibitors' centering point, the objective toward which all hopes verge. It is more than that. It is a standard-fixer; an educative exponent of the progress of live-stock husbandry toward ideals of perfection in animal form, and of early maturity in the case of meat animals, as witness the winning of the grand championship for two years in succession by steer calves—last year a Hereford, this time a Shorthorn. But, to be educational in its most practical sense to the individual visitor, this show is rather large. A Canadian visitor misses the lectures and the carcass demonstrations. True, there is a block test, and this year there was a carcass talk, but it is fairly lost in the vast scale of everything else.

In the Canadian Winter Fairs, at Guelph, Ont., and Ottawa, Ont., and Amherst, N. S., we have unique institutions which serve their spheres as well as or better than Chicago fills its place. These smaller shows, though big enough, are not too large to comprehend, and they take in nearly everything in which a farmer is interested, from cattle to poultry, seed grain, and the milking competitions, which, by the way, should be increased in point of accommodations and extent. The block test and dressed poultry exhibits, with their lessons, are here matters of general interest, and more can be made of them than at Chicago. Add to this the practical addresses and discussions in the farmers' parliament, in the lecture-rooms, and we have winter shows capable of immense educational benefits. That these are appreciated, is proven by the large attendance of farmers and their families who attend year by year. The Canadian winter fairs occupy a position of great and growing importance in our exhibition scheme. They evidently will never be displaced by larger institutions of the Chicago order, though this show, too, renders an invaluable service to American agriculture and animal husbandry.

As I have been taking "The Farmer's Advocate for some time, I am prepared to say that it is the most useful paper printed on agricultural subjects. It has been well named, as it discusses every point on all subjects relating to farm practice. Wishing you every success.

Oxford Co., Ont.

W. S. H.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

THE CANADIAN FORESTRY SITUATION.

In the "Wood Building," where also the Militia Department carries on its multifarious concerns connected with the defence of the country—the Lord forgive us our warlike proclivities!—and at whose wide main portal an armed sentry moves to and fro with measured step, we found R. H. Campbell, the quondam secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association, now the Superintendent of Forestry, since Mr. E. Stewart relinquished his engagement with the country and went to the general office of a strong lumber syndicate in Montreal, to direct the company's affairs fortuneward. Mr. Campbell has always been an enthusiastic worker for forestry, one who could impart to those about him somewhat of his own helpfulness—and on this occasion his greeting for old friends and co-workers could not be more cordial.

We have long felt that the forestry policy of the country needed to be carefully formed, coordinating all the local and federal interests, and stretching, with its benefactions, to the utmost limits of exploration, conservation, reparation, and development. We are too near to the National Conference, when all the literature of the country teemed with forestry education; and, therefore, need only speak of the progress made in the interim towards organization and a public policy which may save us the reproach of other countries that have foolishly deprived themselves of their forests and the immense contribution they make to water power, their actual economic bearing on the wood and lumber trade, and their beneficent influence in the tempering of severe climatic conditions and the production of better field crops.

It was the opinion of all those who foregathered at Ottawa in 1905 that the time was opportune for the formation of a general forestry policy for Canada. We had the experience of the great Republic to the south of us, many of whose once fruitful plains are now arid and unproductive, over whose exposed plateaus great wind-storms sweep unimpeded by bush or forest, to the great detriment of animal life; whose wood-working factories have to look to the stranger also for material, which was theirs in abundance for all time, if only properly administered, and the field fertility of many of whose divisions is vastly impaired by a general and wanton denudation. We then looked over our own domain and found the older portions of it, here, almost completely stripped; there, greatly impaired in their woodlands; the new illimitable regions of coniferæ directly menaced by fire and ax. We had data placed before us by experts to show that our great watersheds were in imminent danger of loss of power, and that the fertility of our fields, the comfort of our homes, the beauty and monetary advantage of our country, needed instant administrative action; and we decided by formal resolution, served there and then on the governing power, in the persons of the Representative of the King, Earl Grey, and the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, himself the President of the Conference, to shut the door here in Canada against the great national wrongs writ so broadly across the forestry policy, or want of policy, of other lands.

Well, things have gone along slowly enough since that meeting, with its enunciation of desiderata, and we were, we confess, beginning to be somewhat impatient of delays, particularly when we recalled the favorable disposition of the Prime Minister, and his ability to put them to the practical test. We confess, however, that this visit to the Department cheered and encouraged us; and we now believe firmly that all this talk eternal will give place shortly to a real forward movement for forestry.

We found, as we have said, Mr. Campbell in the Wood Building, occupying there a large suite of spacious apartments, and presiding over a public department which controls from fifty to sixty subordinates in bureau and field. Messrs. Stewart and Ross have gone, but the services of a competent forester have been secured—one who knows the scientific and practical sides of this great enterprise, and can represent its needs everywhere. A successor for Mr. Ross, who has returned to university work, has been found, and from his services much is expected in the West. Several new men to satisfy the technical demands of the Bureau are at the moment perfecting themselves in the Forestry Schools of the continent, and Chief Campbell thinks that he will be able to give intelligent supervision to the vast field before him in the very near future. The localities requiring expert service first will, of course, first be served. He informs us, too, that it is the policy of the