

## GOVERNMENT AID TO AGRICULTURE AND STOCK-BREEDING.

When a government sets out to foster any particular industry others have to be in receipt of like assistance or they must suffer for the aid afforded to their neighbor. We have nothing to do with politics and do not wish to have. We have no wish to find any fault with the Government for helping the manufacturing classes by means of a protective tariff, but what we do say is, that having done so, it would only be right that something should be done for the farmers and cattle-men to make things even. Their products cannot be protected because they have a surplus which has to be thrown on the world's markets and the home-marketed product will not bring a fraction more by the pound or bushel than can be realized for this surplus. But though they cannot be protected, farmers and stockmen can be very materially assisted by government measures not involving any enormous outlay.

The project of establishing experiment stations in various parts of the Dominion is an admirable one which should meet the warmest approval by every one interested in the advancement of agriculture throughout the country. Institutions of this kind, started and managed on a large scale, while they could not fail to furnish valuable instruction to the farmers, need not be enormously expensive. Of course no one would expect them to be self-supporting, but there is no reason why the revenue arising from experimental farms should not contribute a considerable amount toward their maintenance. The success that has attended the efforts of Professor Brown and his colleagues at the Ontario Experimental Farm sufficiently proves the utility of such institutions, but what has been done at Guelph should be done at half a dozen different points throughout Ontario and Quebec, at points showing as widely varying conditions as to soil, altitude and climatic conditions, while no time should be lost in thoroughly experimenting at different points in Manitoba and the North-West, and solving questions about the probable answers to which there is now a wide diversity of opinion. There can be no doubt in the mind of any sensible man who has seen the country, that from the forty-ninth parallel away up to the North Saskatchewan the proportion of really good, rich, productive soil is very large, quite exceptional in fact when compared with any tract of equal extent to be found anywhere on this continent. The problem to be solved is, "What crops will pay best on this almost limitless area of rich prairie soil?" It is a well-known fact that the climatic conditions are not identical with those of lower latitudes, and it is for the Dominion Government to find out by practical experiments made by thoroughly competent and intelligent men just what can be done at different points throughout this vast area in the way of crop growing. Some farmers have had their wheat frozen, while others have harvested theirs in prime order. Of course the man who harvests an abundant crop of good wheat says the farmer who had his crop frozen was a "shiftless" man or a "fool," and quite possibly he is right, but of course the unfortunate victim of an early frost does not say so. He is more apt to say that the country is

"no good," and many will believe him. What is wanted is a series of careful practical experiments made in different parts of the territory upon the accuracy of which farmers throughout this country and Great Britain can implicitly rely.

In the matter of encouraging stock-breeding there is much that can and should be done by the Dominion and Local Governments. Bulls and stallions should in all cases be licensed and inspected. Breeding stations should be established, where for a moderate figure farmers could procure the services of well bred and carefully selected stallions, bulls, rams and boars. The cost of maintaining these establishments would not be greatly in excess of their revenues, and the benefits accruing to the stock-breeding interest would be well-nigh incalculable.

There can, in fact, be no doubt that there are various ways in which the Government can materially further the interests of agriculture and stock-breeding without incurring any very serious outlay.

## THE ORIGINAL HORSE.

In reviewing Wood's book on "Horse and Man" the London *Live Stock Journal* says:—

"I may here mention that even when the horse did appear, it was very unlike the beautiful animal of the present day. It was even smaller than the Shetland pony, had a head and neck very large in proportion to the body, a coarse and heavy mane, and was altogether a clumsy sort of animal. This we learn from the wonderful engravings upon bone or antler executed by those born artists the Men of the Caves. To them we are indebted for portraits of the mammoth deer, horses and other animals, drawn with a freedom, a truth, a vigor, and a fire of which our best animal artists might be proud.

"The various breeds of horses which we possess at the present day are, so to speak, artificial, and are due to the constant influence of man. When deprived of this influence, they soon display a tendency to retrograde to the ancient type, their bodies and limbs gradually dwindling, but their heads remaining of their original size.

"Every now and then a horse is born which exhibits traits of its ancestry, just as fancy rabbits of the purest lineage are apt to produce young which can hardly be distinguished from the semi-wild rabbits of our warrens. In point of size, the beautiful little pony Lady Jumbo, which was exhibited in 1882, afforded a good example of the primitive horse. When shown at Islington she was only 30 inches in height, and was brought from the London Bridge Station to Islington inside a four-wheel cab.

"Sometimes a horse is born with three toes on one foot. In the autumn of 1883, while staying in Boston, Mass., I saw a horse with eight hoofs, the second (*i. e.*, the forefinger) phalanges being almost as perfectly developed as the third and fourth. The supplementary hoof, although it did not quite reach the ground was nearly as large as the actual hoof. Unfortunately—so are we swayed by custom—the owner had shod all the hoofs alike, a piece of barbarism which I lost no time in denouncing.

### CLIMBING POWERS OF HORSES.

"A curious instance of this capacity occurred to a friend of mine, a mighty Nimrod, who has hunted in many parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.

"He was stationed with his regiment in India, and was fond of going out alone to hunt, mounted on a little Circassian horse. On one of those excursions he lost his way and, finding himself at the foot of a rocky cliff, determined to ascend it so as to find his bearings.

"So he dismounted, and began to climb up the rock, leaving the horse with the bridle over its neck. These horses are trained to stand still while the hunter goes off on foot in search of his game. When Col. D— had mounted about half way up the precipice, he heard a scrambling sound beneath him, and on looking down saw his horse in the act of following him.

"The rock was very steep, but the horse could climb it as well as the man. There was one part of the ascent of which Col. D— sent me a sketch. In one place the rock projected into a sort of buttress, nearly smooth and perpendicular, and it was necessary to work round it before reaching a firm footing. A narrow ledge ran round it, just wide enough for the toes to rest upon, and, by means of clutching with his fingers at any irregularity of the face of the rock, the hunter managed to work his way round the obstacle.

"To his great astonishment, he saw that the horse was following the same track as himself, and had managed to sidle round the buttress in exactly the same manner. The horse reared itself upright, set the toes of the hind feet upon the ledge, clung to the rock with the sharp-edged toes of the fore-feet, and so contrived to achieve the dangerous passage. Of course the animal was unshod."

## PEACE AND PLENTY.

London Free Press.

There is no country in the world that has more indications of prosperity at the present time than the people of Ontario. There has been an abundant harvest.

A glance at our markets now, and at the classes of people who attend them, gives rise to the question, Where are the hard times? Here are people well dressed, well fed, with cheerful, happy faces, and they are prone to grumble and lament their fate that they are not richer. There may be more ostentatious wealth and flaunting prosperity in other and larger places, and our progress may appear slow in comparison, but it has the quality of permanence. There may be more equable climates, but when our seasons in their varying rounds are taken in account, where could temperatures more suitable to our productions be found? And as far as the latter are concerned, we have not only a profusion, as at present, but for quality we can compete with the world. No better beef can be found than right in our markets at this time of the year. The same may be said of mutton and pork. In the way of fruit and vegetables we have a varied supply so cheap that they come within the reach of all. Taking every point, there is no country in the world occupies such an enviable position for general prosperity as the people of Ontario do at the present time.

## A LIEN ON THE GET OF STALLIONS, ETC.

In September, 1883, the Georgia Legislature passed the following law: "That after the passage of this Act, the owner or keeper of any stallion, jack or blooded, or imported bull in this State shall have a lien upon the get thereof for the service of such stallion, jack or blooded, or imported bull for the period of one year from the birth of such get, which lien shall be superior to all other liens, except liens for taxes; *provided*, the fee for such service is not paid within said time; *provided*, the lien herein provided for shall not become operative unless the same be recorded in the office of the clerk of the superior court of the county wherein the owner of the mother resides within thirty days after the performance of the service, and said clerks shall keep a book in which all such liens are to be recorded, and said clerks shall receive twenty-five cents each for recording such liens."