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## EDITORIAL.

### Queen Victoria.

BORN MAY 24TH, 1819; ASCENDED THE THRONE JUNE 20TH, 1837; DIED JANUARY 22ND, 1901.

THE Queen is dead. The Queen is dead. So ran the mournful tidings, with an electric thrill, around the world. Never before in the history of this old earth did such a message awaken so universal a lament in human hearts. Alike in the palaces of wealth and in the humble homes of poverty throughout and beyond the bounds of the greatest empire the world has ever known, the people loved her for her goodness, her kindness, her righteous rule. How Canadians will ever cherish her personal attention to our wounded heroes returning from the South African war, and the people of Ireland her recent self-sacrificing visit to the Emerald Isle! Poets, statesmen, literati, irrespective of nationality, have united their panegyrics to her womanly worth and sagacity and the beneficence of her reign, in which has flourished as never before the intelligence and liberty of the common people. But in all the splendid eulogiums of the press, the agriculturist cannot but reflect that one noteworthy aspect of the Victorian Era has not received attention commensurate with its far-reaching significance, and on behalf of the Canadian husbandman the FARMER'S ADVOCATE ventures a few words, however inadequate, in retrospect.

An adapter of Ben Johnson once wrote: "A farmer Queen the world to farming draws," and so it has been. Agriculture, at the coronation of Victoria, through Great Britain and the world was at a low ebb, but in no department of human effort did the 19th century close with more marked evidences of progress than this great industry, particularly in its main department of live-stock breeding. This we may now say without any suspicion of the todysism with which Anglo-Saxons have been sometimes accused. The love of the Royal Family for the industry was somewhat hereditary. The late Prince Consort (Albert Gotha), though no genius, was a far-seeing, level-headed man, and liked nothing better than his farming operations, in which he was pre-eminently successful, and for which he infused his family with a genuine attachment. We find him an exhibitor at the Smithfield Show as far back as 1843, and probably not a year since passed that the Royal herds were unrepresented in public competitions. The Prince of Wales (born Nov. 9th, 1841)—King Edward VII., we must now call him—is still one of the most extensive and successful farmers and breeders in England, and his son, the Duke of York, is an enthusiastic farmer and breeder, and so with other members of the Royal Family. For over 10 years, the Queen's farms and dairy have been a favorite resort of the family and their visitors. The Princess of Wales has had her dairy at Sandringham, and with her, her daughters have taken great pleasure in dairy work, several of them being adepts as practical buttermakers.

The Royal farms are situated, first of all, at Osborne, on the Isle of Wight, where Clydesdale horses, Jersey and Galloway cattle, Southdown and Dorset Horned sheep have been successfully reared. But it was at the Windsor farms that all the leading breeds and the chief prizewinners have been found. These were: (1) the Home or Dairy and the Shaw farm, (2) the Flemish farm, (3) the Norfolk farm, and (4) the Bag-shot and Rapley Farms. The Shaw farm was bought about 25 years ago, from a Frenchman, Mons. de Shaw (hence its name), and here the dairy cattle and all the Shorthorn herds were kept. The Windsor

Shorthorns acquired great fame at the Royal and Smithfield shows, but a few years ago someone raised the cry that the Royal herds were sweeping all before them because William Tait, the manager, had a long purse with which to purchase prize-winners. So this led him to adopt the policy of exhibiting nothing but what was home-bred, but still the Royal cattle were good enough to sweep the boards. As a matter of fact, they simply asked a fair field and no favors, and so it has been all through. In the early days several good Bates cattle were purchased. Then Booth bulls were largely in use, but latterly the Cruickshank type held sway. The Flemish farm has been the home of the celebrated herds of Hereford and Devon cattle, furnishing many distinguished winners. The Queen was always partial to the land "North of the Tweed," and in 1847 the Prince Consort purchased the lease of the Balmoral Estate (some 10,000 acres), and at a later date secured the fee simple, to which was subsequently added the Braemar domains. Aberdeen-Angus cattle have been the chief pure-bred stock at these farms.

We doubt not but that the British Royal House will continue to sustain its active interest in agriculture and stock-rearing. His Majesty, the new king, has a large stud of Shire horses and Hackneys at Wolferton, Sandringham. He is a successful patron of the Thoroughbred horse, and his herd of Shorthorn cattle at the Norfolk farm, as we have seen, has a great reputation; while the Duke of York, with his Red Polled cattle and other stock, has been highly-successful alike at summer and fat-stock shows.

In conclusion, we may fairly say, that just as Her Majesty in court and home life set the pace and the ideal for society and the people, so did the Royal Family, by their devotion to agriculture, give a bent to popular tendencies in that direction. Men of wealth, eminence and great intelligence turned their attention in these directions, thus giving an impetus to advancement which the inherent merit and true dignity of the avocation fully sustain everywhere throughout the English-speaking world. The advantages thus accruing to agriculture have been incalculable, and they have come without any patronizing spirit, on the one hand, or dependence, on the other, but rather through the inspiration of intelligent example in thorough accord with the best traditions of the progressive Anglo-Saxon race.

### A School of Agriculture Needed in Manitoba.

Our Federal and Local Governments annually devote very considerable sums for the purpose of inducing immigration to Western Canada, and so long as a reasonably good class of settlers is brought in, there need be no quarrel with such a policy, because the country needs more people. Not only will increased population benefit the commercial and professional interests, but will, by enhancing the value of farm lands, benefit every farmer already located in the country. Besides, the increased trade in both exports and imports created by increased population must assist in the reduction of freight rates, cheapening the cost of living and increasing the profits to be obtained from the products of the farm.

While it may be well enough for the Provincial Government to devote funds toward immigration purposes, still, if a greater effort were made to assist those already located here, the immigration question would very shortly settle itself. The policy of a Government should be framed to benefit the country not only to-day but to-morrow, and in neglecting to provide for the higher elevation of the agricultural portion of the population, the Government is neglecting one of its greatest opportunities. Every intelligent successful farmer is a more valuable asset to the Province than many immigrants, and in addition, doubtless does more

actual immigration work than the salaried immigration agent. For the sons of these men, what is being done? With the rapid advancement of agriculture in other countries, the future promises an ever-increasing keenness in the competition, and to be successful the farmer of the future must be educated, and that education cannot be obtained in the common school through teachers having little or no sympathy with agriculture, nor can it be learned while the boy is taking the place of a man and putting in 12 hours a day, with a couple of hours extra for chores.

Public funds are liberally voted for the higher education of the professional classes, and rightly enough, but why should not equal attention be given to educating the agriculturist, upon whom depends every other interest.

An agricultural school established in connection with a small farm, operated on a practical scale, is what is wanted, where farmers' sons could receive an education that would be of practical everyday service to them in their life work. No elaborate college such as Ontario now possesses would be necessary at first. A winter short course might be made a prominent feature, for which a very expensive equipment would not be necessary.

At the Agricultural College of Wisconsin, where the short course is made a strong feature, there is an increase in the attendance this winter of 20 per cent. over last year, there being 295 students taking this course, 234 of whom are residents of the State and 60 coming from other States, and one from Canada. This large attendance is ample evidence of the popularity of the short course. The dairy school would of course be affiliated with the agricultural school, whereby its efficiency could be greatly increased and its expense proportionately decreased.

Another advantage of such a school to Manitoba, and the whole West, for that matter, would have regard to the labor question, which is, and will be, of the greatest importance. Extra help at harvest time will be a necessity for years to come in all the wheat-growing sections. To supply this extra help during the summer months, we draw largely from the young men of Ontario and the Eastern Provinces. These men stay a few months, and earn good wages, but as there is nothing for them to do during the six months of winter, most of them drift away east again. Now, if there was a practical school of agriculture here, with a winter short course, free tuition, and board at cost, many of these bright young men would be quick to take advantage of it, while the Province would be incidentally assisting them to get over the winter, and at the same time giving them a training that would qualify them to become better settlers and citizens of our own Province. Another class that would be greatly helped, providing the practical working side of the farm were developed as it should be, is the young man from the Old Country, who possesses a good general education, but who has no practical knowledge of farming as applied to this country.

The present Local Government went to the country with an agricultural-college plank in its platform. Was it only for ornament, or will the coming session reveal some practical development along this line? We believe we are voicing the sentiments of many of the most intelligent and successful farmers of this Province in advocating the establishment of a Provincial School of Agriculture.

### More Valuable than the Price.

Want of space confines our review to only a small part of the contents of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE Christmas number, the full list of which would occupy a column at least. We can recommend the number to our readers, and if you have friends in this or distant lands, send them a copy: it is many times more valuable than the price.—*Dufferin Leader.*