

In beautifying school grounds, much has remained to be done. Prizes at fall fairs for collections of plants, weed seeds, or hand-selected seed grain, were advocated. With the numerous agencies at work for good, a great improvement should be recorded during the next few years. A writer in "The Farmer's Advocate" had asked whether Farmers' Institutes had not outlived their usefulness. His opinion was that they had not; that only the fringe of agricultural problems had been touched.

Tree-planting around the homes was advised. Forests were being cut down, giving the winds free sweep, lessening the rainfall, and lowering the water-level of lakes, rivers and wells. By keeping live stock out of present wooded areas, and by planting rough land to trees, much could be done to improve conditions.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the speakers and others who had assisted in making the meeting a success. It was unanimously proclaimed the best ever held in the district.

A World's Butter Record.

The Jersey cow, Jacoba Irene 146143, whose portrait appears on this page, is reported as having finished a record of butter production for two years, December 11th, 1906, to January 24th, 1909—dry 45 days—unequaled by any cow of any breed, her milk production being 31,505 lbs. 9.6 ozs.; butter-fat, 1,744 lbs. 13.4 ozs.; butter (85 per cent. fat), 2,053 lbs. 15.3 ozs. Her record for the year ending Jan. 24th, 1909, under the rules of the American Jersey Cattle Club, authenticated by Illinois Experiment Station, is: Milk, 17,253 lbs. 3.2 ozs.; butter-fat, 954 lbs. 2.4 ozs.; butter (85 per cent. fat), 1,122 lbs. 9.3 ozs. In the last three successive years she has produced 42,064 lbs. 14.4 ozs. milk, 2,332 lbs. 3.4 ozs. butter-fat, and 2,745 lbs. 4.9 ozs. butter (85% fat). Her average butter-fat test for the year 1908 was 5.53 per cent. She has, in addition, dropped her owner a healthy, living calf each year, and is said to be safe in calf again. The value of the butter product of this cow for the year ending Jan. 24th, 1909, at 30 cents per pound, amounts to \$336.82, and her skim milk and buttermilk, at 20 cents per 100 lbs., comes to \$32.60, making the total value of her product for the year \$369.42. Her best day's milk is given as 69.8 pounds; best seven days' milk, 467.5 pounds; best seven days' butter, estimate 29.3 pounds, 85 per cent. fat.

Fraud in Horse Registration.

Judging from the outcome of the first prosecution for improper registration of stock, the Canadian records soon will be free from names of animals not entitled to be registered. A case against W. B. Williamson, a horse dealer, of Toronto, which has been under consideration for over two years, recently was sifted out at Toronto.

The directors of the Clydesdale Horse-breeders' Association, hearing allegations that a mare, Jane Austin, had been improperly registered, took steps to locate the guilty party. A detective was given charge of the case, and soon direct evidence was secured to prove what those in charge of the records believed to be the case.

The conviction of Williamson should serve as a warning to all dealers in pure-bred stock, and to those who have stock registered from time to time. Other cases of a similar nature are promised for the near future. The indications are that the public will be properly protected in future as regards the purchase of breeding stock.

Government Aid to Agriculture.

The December issue of Census and Statistics Monthly summarizes the appropriations in aid of agriculture in Canada, for 1908, as follows:

Dominion appropriations	\$1,053,000.00
Provincial appropriations:	
Ontario	747,970.00
Quebec	261,300.00
Nova Scotia	68,700.00
New Brunswick	35,465.00
Prince Edward Island	9,528.78
Manitoba	94,700.00
Saskatchewan	224,889.00
Alberta	162,764.50
British Columbia	31,980.00
Grand total	\$2,690,297.28

Rural Mounted Police Idea Endorsed.

At the annual meeting of the Cobourg Central Agricultural Society, your editorials regarding rural mounted police in the Province of Ontario were endorsed with unanimity, and their delegate to the annual Fairs Association meeting, to be held in Toronto on the 10th and 11th of February, was instructed to bring the matter up for discussion. A. J. RUSSELL.

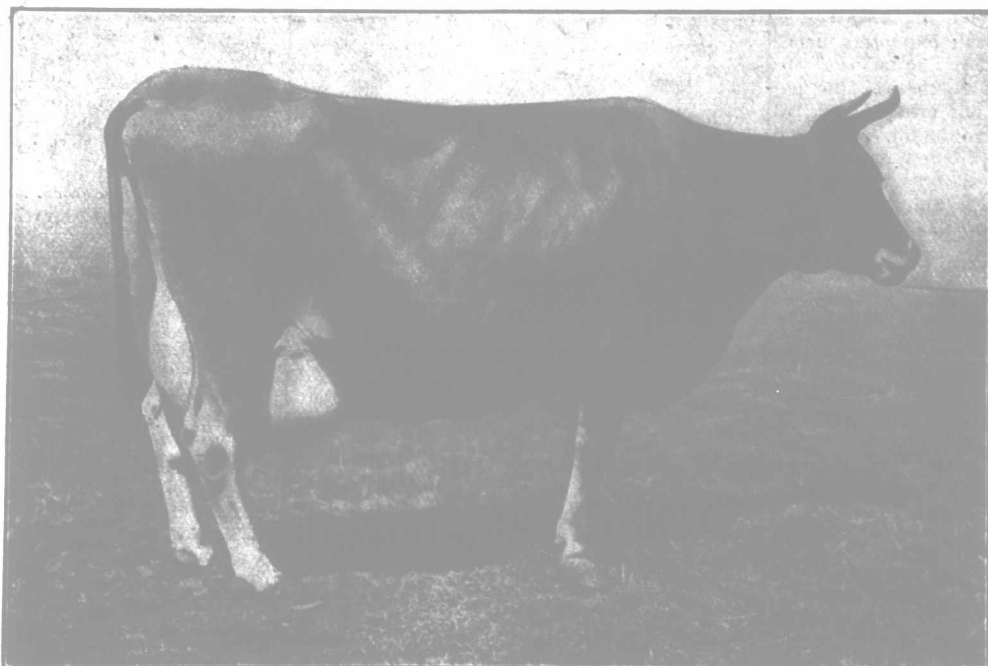
New Holland Co., Ont.

Urging Removal of Sheep Quarantine.

A petition is being circulated among Canadian sheep-breeders, urging upon the Dominion Minister of Agriculture the desirability and importance of endeavoring to secure early removal of the American quarantine of 30 days against Canadian sheep. As a result of the imposition of the present regulations, on June 15th, 1908, it is stated that the leading Canadian breeders have suffered a loss of 90 per cent. of their business. The petitioners request the Dominion Government to make every effort possible to rid the country of the contagious disease (scab) which the American Secretary of Agriculture claims we are harboring, and which, it is admitted, has existed to a limited extent in certain parts of Ontario. Unhindered access to the American market is declared to be of utmost importance to the breeders of pure-bred sheep in Canada, which should be to the Western Hemisphere what England has been to the world in the production of pure-bred stock.

Canadian National Directors.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian National Exhibition Association, held in Toronto last week, the following were elected directors for this year: Agricultural Section—Hon. John Dryden, Messrs. Robert Fleming, H. R. Frankland, John G. Kent, Samuel McBride, W. J. Stark, Thomas A. Graham, Claremont, and Robert Miller, Stouffville. Manufacturers' Section—Messrs. George Booth, S. E. Briggs, C. A. B. Brown, John A. Cooper, W. K. George, George H. Gooderham, Noel Marshall, and W. K. McNaught, M. P. P. At a meeting of the directors, Mr. G. H. Gooderham was elected president.



Jacoba Irene.

Jersey cow; claimed to have scored a world's record of butter-production. Owned by A. O. Auten, Illinois.

Fruit-growers Prepare Plans.

Enthusiasm prevails among the fruit-growers of Niagara peninsula, and, with such organization as now exists, the tendency is to hold out for just treatment from express companies and others who have to do with the handling of the products of the gardens and orchards. At the meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit-growers' Association, held in St. Catharines last week, officers and committees for 1909 were appointed as follows: President, W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines, Ont.; 1st Vice-President, E. D. Smith, Winona, Ont., for County of Wentworth; 2nd Vice-Pres., Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines, for County of Lincoln; 3rd Vice-Pres., W. M. Hendershot, Thorold, for County of Welland; Secretary-Treasurer, C. E. Fisher, St. Catharines.

Directors were elected, representing the various sections by townships.

Express and Freight Committee.—Wm. H. Bunting, E. D. Smith, A. E. Kimmins, Winona; J. W. Smith, Winona; F. A. Goring, Homer; Murray Pettit, Winona; W. M. Hendershot, Thorold; J. M. Metcalf, Grimsby; H. Fleming, Grimsby; T. H. P. Carpenter, Winona; E. L. Jemmett, Beamsville; Robert Thompson, St. Catharines; W. B. Bridgman, Winona; J. W. Brennan, Vineland.

Entertainment Committee re Pomological Society Convention.—Murray Pettit, Robt. Thompson; A. H. Pettit, Grimsby; W. H. Bunting; H. L. Roberts, Grimsby; W. M. Hendershot; C. E. Fisher, St. Catharines.

Experimental Spraying Committee.—J. W. Smith, Winona; W. C. McCalla, St. Catharines; Robt. Thompson; J. W. Tweddle, Fruitland.

and H. S. Feart, Experimental Farm, Jordan Harbor.

Government Grant Committee.—F. D. Smith, W. H. Bunting, C. E. Fisher, F. A. Goring, W. M. Hendershot, W. B. Burgoyne, St. Catharines, with power to add to their number.

County Grants Committee.—W. H. Bunting, F. A. Goring, C. B. Hare, St. Catharines, and C. E. Fisher.

Foot-and-mouth Disease Quarantine Ameliorated.

It was announced from Ottawa, on January 29th, that the cattle quarantine, imposed as a result of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States, had been relaxed to the extent of allowing hides, horns, meat, straw and hay from the United States to come in, so long as the origin was not one of the six quarantined States. This sort of freight is now allowed to enter Canada after passing through the affected States, providing it is in closed cars. On the same day, despatches from Niagara Falls, Ont., stated that customs officials at the Canadian end of the international bridges were notified that the embargo against horses and every living animal, except cattle, had been raised. Of late, certain modifications had been made to the embargo, which at first was very rigid, excluding vehicles of all kinds and all animals.

Agriculture in Orkney Islands.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Favorable weather in the early months of 1908 was the means of enabling farmers to get well through with their winter plowing, so that when fine weather came the end of March and first of

April, they were ready for the spring work, and the middle of the latter month saw farmers busy sowing oats. But a heavy fall of snow, to the depth of 18 inches on the plain, intervened, rendering the ground very wet for two weeks or more, and it was about the middle of May before the rest of the oats were sown. Swedes were sown under favorable conditions in the end of May, but here wet weather again intervened, and some were sown as late as the 15th of June, while the yellow turnips were sown in the latter half of the month.

July was fine and dry, and crops made good progress, and the hay crop was secured in excellent condition. A good deal of hay was made in Orkney, although the crop was not extra bulky per acre.

After a fine summer, harvesting commenced in the first week of October, and was the finest in the memory of the oldest people. The crop was ready to cart as soon as the reaping was done, and in a short time it was all secured in good condition.

The bulk of straw is less than last year, but grain is far superior, oats being, on an average, about 4 qrs. per acre, and weighing from 40 to 44 pounds per bushel, and selling at 15s. per qr. Bere is also a good crop, weighing about 48 pounds per bushel, and at present is selling at 19s. per qr. for the standard weight. Potatoes, as a rule, are a good crop; likewise, turnips.

Store and fat cattle sold well all autumn. In spring, fat cattle were selling about 35s. to 36s. per cwt., live weight, in Aberdeen; the price lately has been about 38s. to 40s. per cwt.

Lambs sold for 3s. to 4s. less than last year, the average price for half-bred lambs being about 20s. Fat sheep were also down in price. There was keen demand for good horses all year. Small foals met a dull trade, but better sorts fetched up to £12. Pigs have been selling at 4½d. and 4½d. per pound.

Summing up, the season of 1908 has been a fairly prosperous one for Orkadian farmers.

Orkney Islands, Scotland. C. M.