

EDITORIAL.

To Our Agents.

The large annual exhibitions, fall fairs and agricultural shows generally will soon be taking place, and promise to be as well, if not more largely attended than ever. In the past, many of our agents have been most successful at these gatherings, and we would again remind them to be prepared for the opportunity. Let us know what fairs you wish to attend, so that we can assign them to you, and have you supplied with the necessary outfit. We will supply the FARMER'S ADVOCATE from now till December 31st, 1894, for 35 cents. We prefer our present subscribers, their sons, or those heretofore acting, to undertake the work of securing subscribers. We are prepared to offer liberal inducements. Please write us at once for terms and sample copies.

In England a Royal Commission has been several years investigating the subject of bovine tuberculosis, but their report has not yet made its appearance.

Sixty delegates from various parts of England waited upon Mr. Gardner, President of the Board of Agriculture, asking for more stringent regulations in the effort to stamp out swine fever. He promised them a new Order.

The Russian Government proposes to hold an International Exposition of Fruit Culture and Products at St. Petersburg, under the auspices of His Majesty the Czar, beginning September 22nd, and closing November 12th, 1894.

The total attendance at the late Royal Show, Cambridge, for the six days was 111,658, the largest turnout being 63,981, on Thursday. The gate money amounted to £8,306 7s. A loss was expected, but according to our latest advices, a substantial profit was counted on. The previous show at Chester netted a profit of £3,000.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a very thoughtful communication from Mr. J. C. Snell, upon an important subject, viz., the purpose and management of fall shows—a topic dealt with by Mr. R. E. King, in the ADVOCATE for June 15th. In vigorous terms Mr. King charged that our agricultural shows are a failure as "educators" and do not supply the needs of the times. He contended that it was not enough to show the results of the labor of the grain grower, or breeder: the fair should teach how the results were attained. To what extent is it practicable to embrace in the functions of a fair the work of a farmers' institute? Substantially, that is the reform for which Mr. King asks. Our columns are still open for the discussion of this timely subject.

That the abnormal growth of city populations, at the expense of the country, contains an element of peril to the State and individual life was painfully illustrated by the recent great strike in Chicago. Not to mention the perils of bloodshed, accident, conflagrations, etc., the paralysis of the railway service of a city may in a few hours cut short the food supply and means of subsistence of millions of people. The centralization of the monopolistic dressed meat trade at one or two points resulted in hundreds of cities and towns throughout the States depending for their daily supply of meat on Chicago, and with the railways all tied up, the supply was unexpectedly and suddenly cut off. There is greater safety to the State in a large population devoted to some form of husbandry.

The conditions under which farming can be made to pay have altered, but too many have not readjusted their methods to the new order of things, consequently their returns have grown less, but habits of living, etc., have become more expensive. Hence the mortgage remains a burden, and instead of being paid off, is renewed, probably at a heavy rate of interest. Tremendous efforts are being made in the direction of securing legislation that will insure the farmer fair play, but let not the other side be neglected. As the Ohio Farmer very aptly put it recently, one thing can be done, and that is "to meet the reduction of income by a corresponding reduction of outgo, and this must apply to cost of production as well as habit of living. When the 'good time coming' gets here we can again take up our discarded luxuries and expensive methods."

Our Illustration.

Our front page illustration (reproduced from the London (England) Live Stock Journal) represents Dowager III., a Shorthorn dairy cow. She was bred by and is the property of Mr. C. A. Pratt, Rushford, Evesham, England; calved February, 1887. She was winner of the first prize at the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Warwick, in 1892, and at Chester, in 1893, as best Shorthorn dairy cow by actual test. She has also taken many prizes at other exhibitions. Her last year's performance at the "Royal" was 44 lbs. 9 ozs. of milk in one day, from which 1 lb. 10½ ozs. of butter was made. This is the type of cow the Canadian farmer is in need of at the present day, and if care is given to breeding and training, there is no reason why we should not see many herds of them throughout the country. Almost every Shorthorn herd has some excellent milkers, and if these are developed and given the attention which strictly dairy breeds have received, what may we not expect as a result? Heretofore the ideal in the mind of breeders, as a rule, has been the show ring or beef types. Few Shorthorn breeders have given the dairy qualities of their herds the attention due them, yet we occasionally find a cow of that breed comparing favorably with even the best of special purpose dairy cattle. It certainly becomes every Shorthorn breeder to give due attention to this matter. As experienced a breeder and as conservative an authority as Wm. Warfield puts this subject as follows, in his standard work on "Cattle Breeding":—

"Now, it is a matter of common observation that a special shape of the whole beast is typical of the two kinds of cattle. The beef type is the blocky, square-framed animal; the milk type, on the other hand, is wedge-shaped, with the base to the rear, and tends to angularity. In these types are to be seen well-marked types of correlation. But it does not follow—and here was the fallacy of the old theory that because an animal bred for milk alone would gradually assume one type, and one bred for beef alone, another—that the two qualities could not be compositely produced in a single animal; least of all, that the organs of nutrition were appositely correlated with the organs of beef and milk production, which was the thesis sought to be maintained. On the contrary, it is obvious that both milk and beef production are co-ordinate functions of the animal body, and that while one may be abnormally developed at the expense of the other, the natural state is one of balance."

To our mind, the conclusion of the whole matter seems to be this: That every man, according to his conditions, must decide for himself whether his herd shall be special purpose dairy cattle, special purpose beef cattle, or the much abused general purpose cattle in which, as Warfield put it, the milk and beef producing functions are in a "state of balance."

Judging Fruit by Points.

The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture has established a scale of points for judging vegetables. Pamphlet forms, containing cuts and scale of points for two or three of the finest varieties of all the different vegetables, are being issued for the use of the Incorporated Agricultural Societies. This is one advance needed by all agricultural societies, as very often men are appointed to judge at shows who differ very widely in their ideal of a perfect specimen, and by having an authorized scale of points to guide them, much less unjust decision will often be given. As an example of their plan, we give scale of points given for "Beauty of Hebron" potatoes and tomatoes:—

Size—Should be 4½ inches long and 3½ inches wide for perfection—30 points.

Form—Should be according to engraving, as given in pamphlet—30 points.

Smoothness—Free from deep pits, warts or excrescences—30 points.

Quality—Fresh appearance, freedom from coarseness and bright color—10 points.

Total—100 points.

The following is the scale of points for tomatoes:—

Form—Should be according to engraving—40 points.

Color—Should be bright red or purplish pink, according to variety—30 points.

Size—Should be not less than 2½ inches and not more than 3½ inches in diameter—15 points.

Quality—Firmness, ripeness and freedom from green spots or cracks—15 points.

Total—100 points.

Another Turn of the Screw.

The British embargo against foreign live cattle being pretty firmly established, another agitation is now under way. A deputation has been before Mr. Gardner, President of the Board of Agriculture, urging the Government to assume the function of detecting and prosecuting cases of selling foreign dressed meat as of home production; but the herculean nature of the task evidently staggers the Minister. The country is doubtless being flooded with foreign dressed beef. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE has repeatedly pointed out that shutting off live beef would be playing into the hands of the dressed meat magnates. The free trade beef eater of Britain is, however, not specially concerned about the source of his meat supply, but he wants it good, and, of course, cheap. Neither does he care where his wheat comes from. It is all one to him—whether grown by the paupers of India, the Russian serfs, the people of the Argentine, or the loyal colonists of Canada. It is just about the same with regard to his meat. However, it is not the consumer who is now worrying about "foreign meat," but the British beef cattle producer. This new agitation is, therefore, a very natural sequel to the scheduling order. A demand is now being made for a repeal of the fourth paragraph of the Fifth Schedule of the Act of 1878, which directed that when the Board of Agriculture was satisfied, "with respect to any foreign country, that the laws thereof relating to the importation and exportation of animals, and to the prevention of the introduction or spreading of disease, and the general sanitary condition of animals therein, are such as to afford reasonable security against the importation therefrom of diseased animals, then, from time to time, the Board of Agriculture, by general or special order, shall allow animals brought from that country to be landed without being subject to slaughter or to quarantine." To abrogate this clause means the unmistakable and permanent shutting out of Canadian cattle, except for slaughter or quarantine.

Our Scottish letter, which appears in another column, brings the intelligence for the breeders and feeders of Canada that the English experts have discovered three more "lungs" affected with pleuro-pneumonia, in their late special investigation of Canadian cattle landed there. It is also alleged that the animals out of which these affected lungs were taken came from "Woodstock, Ont." Had they hunted Canada over, they probably could not have secured their "cases" from a more unlikely quarter than the County of Oxford. Were it not for the seriousness of the slander, it would doubtless amuse the breeders and feeders of that great agricultural county. But it does seem most extraordinary that one never hears, until our beeves reach Britain, of such an alarmingly contagious and deadly malady as pleuro-pneumonia, in Oxford or elsewhere in this country, nor in the course of shipment, no matter how many or how closely the animals are associated. And, then, strange to say, two of these wonderful cases turn up at Liverpool and one at Glasgow; but all the rest miraculously escape contagion! Dr. McClure, V. S., whose energetic protest appears elsewhere in the ADVOCATE, may well express surprise that, notwithstanding over ten years' intimate acquaintance with the herds of that district, this greatly dreaded pneumonia contagiosa had eluded his observation, escaping to England "unbeknownst" to everybody. The Doctor also deals with other aspects of this subject in a manner that will cause his communication to be read with a great deal of interest, notably the rational explanation he gives of the "discoveries" alleged to have been made by the British experts in their diagnosis.

Wheat As a Stock Food.

In view of the continued low price of wheat, large quantities of it will doubtless be fed during the coming fall and winter. The note which appears in our "Questions and Answers" department indicates this, and should bring out a good many practical replies from our readers, on the value of wheat as a food for horses, cattle, hogs, etc.; preparation and methods of feeding, quantities that may with safety be used, and any precautions that should be observed in its use. The lessons learned in actual experience will be most helpful in writing upon this important feeder's topic.

"To the young man or woman, fairly well educated, who will add some technical knowledge of our special schools of agriculture to their requirements, there is no more promising field of enterprise than farming; but to insure that satisfaction in its prosecution which makes any occupation enjoyable, business spirit must be put into it, and toil must be sweetened by an appreciation of the attributes which make rural life attractive."—Chas. W. Garfield, in American Cheesemaker.