

## EDITORIAL.

Depression ought to doom the scrub to extinction.

Now is the farmer's golden opportunity to secure good, pure-bred stock.

In farming operations to-day steadiness of purpose must be combined with a watchful outlook on the tendencies of supply and demand in the world's markets.

Prof. I. P. Roberts, of Cornell (N. Y.) University Experiment Station, favorably known to many readers of the *ADVOCATE*, has been chosen President of the New York State Agricultural Society.

Mr. S. C. Stevenson, manager of the Quebec Provincial Exhibition, to be held at Montreal this year, has taken time by the forelock by sending us an announcement regarding that show, the dates of which are Sept. 12th to 21st, next. He says the premium lists will shortly be issued.

Don't neglect the first opportunity of filling the ice-house—if it is not already done—because you may not get another this season. Pack it away carefully, with plenty of sawdust. If you are dairying, and have not an ice-house, an out-of-the-way box stall or part of the waggon or woodshed may be used one season. It is best at the north side of another building. Try it this year, and you will never be without ice in the future.

The New York State Legislature has been applying the pruning knife upon the excessive growth of salary expenditures in the Agriculture Department. The Joint Legislative Committee authorized by the last Legislature to investigate the State Commissions reported Jan. 23rd, and said, in regard to the Department of Agriculture, that salaries were being paid beyond the needs of the service. The last Legislature reduced the appropriation for this Department \$10,000, yet the service was not impaired.

The Scottish Farmer reviews a lengthy paper by Mr. Allan C. Young, Stevenage, Herts, in which he suggested an import duty on corn as a remedy for agricultural depression. "Above all," concludes our contemporary, "it may at once be conceded that protection is an impossible remedy, solely because of the strong armies arrayed against it. Our southern friends will be better employed seeking to remedy abuses and remove burdens affecting land, which are well within their ken, leaving quixotic enterprises, like a return to protection, to dreamers and fossilized disciples of a cult long since dead and buried."

In reviewing the bacon trade of England during the past year, the Grocer reports increasing supplies, notably from America, Irish and Danish produce being quoted at 60s. to 72s. per cwt. in the earlier months; 54s. to 64s. later on, and 46s. to 50s. at the close. "Another factor in the situation has been Canadian pea-fed bacon, which has come into close rivalry with the salted meats of the Continent, by being both plentiful and at a moderate figure, and has been strongly preferred by buyers when Danish and Irish cures have been held for an advance, the top quotations for first quality at no time going higher than 54s. to 55s., now and then receding to 50s. and 48s., and closing at 36s. to 40s. per cwt."

We notice by a note in the Australasian that the Agricultural Department of Australia is alive to the commercial interests of the butter trade. Owing to complaints having been made that mixed butter was being shipped from that country and sold in London market as "prime Victorian butter," which would likely damage the export trade in that article, the Minister of Agriculture has directed the Government dairy expert to keep a careful watch over intended shipments, and to brand any such butter as "mixed." It has also been alleged that in some cases brands intended as an imitation to a large extent of the brands of factories noted for the superiority of their butter were being placed on boxes shipped to London, where only experienced buyers would recognize the slight difference. This matter, too, has been asked to be looked into by the "expert." The Minister expects to receive assistance in preventing its recurrence from the Registrar-General's office, by refusing in future to register any colorable imitation of an existing trade mark or brand.

## Lessons from the Conventions.

As the season for the annual conventions is about over, a retrospect may not be amiss at this juncture. That the wholesome stimulus of conventions has done and is doing a great deal of good all will agree. They have brought together the leading men of remote districts, having varying conditions, so that the different aspects of the particular industry in whose interest they meet may be considered in all their bearings. This has been done to some extent in each of the conventions we have visited this season, although too often much time was taken up with subjects of a general nature, leaving less opportunity for the consideration of the special line in which the members were engaged, and with which most of those present were only too anxious to deal. *This is essentially an age of specialties.* The people who attend conventions are in a large measure not the class whom a general talk will benefit,—not but what there are often valuable hints thrown out in many of the addresses,—but an annual convention, be it held by fruit growers, poultrymen, bee-keepers or dairymen, should, to do the most good, be more of a special nature. In looking over the different conventions, we have no hesitation in saying that the fruit growers and poultrymen occupied much less time with side issues than any of the others. Their programmes were very systematically arranged, only special topics by thoroughly practical men being taken up. When the allotted time for the topic in hand expired, the next published subject was considered with dispatch and closed on schedule time. The Good Roads Convention was an admirable gathering, in pursuing closely the object in view.

It is simply wasting valuable time to devote perhaps an hour to what may be some man's hobby (however useful in its place), but which is wholly foreign to the purpose of the organization, not even having the merit of dealing with an adjunct of the industry involved, as was done in one instance, if we remember aright, at the Bee-keepers' convention. We noted also great loss of time in a couple of cases with what were aptly styled "vexatious discussions" over trifling matters.

In connection with dairying, there are many lines which go to make up the whole, but to occupy so large a proportion of the time in which creamery or cheese-factory men meet to exchange ideas, discuss new discoveries in the art of dairying proper and plan for the future, with talks on miscellaneous farm topics, hog raising, care of manure, road-making, etc., at the expense of the former, is hardly the best course. These lines of work come very properly within the domain of the Farmers' Institute; and as our extended reports of these gatherings indicate, have been very generally taken up throughout the Province. Were there no organizations such as institutes, we would see more reason for these associations taking up such subjects somewhat generally. Is it possible that we are getting too many organizations?

Judging from the programmes, and from the fact that winter dairying has now so closely allied cheese and buttermaking, the Western and Eastern Dairymen's Associations might well include the work of the Creamery Association, thus saving the heavy expense of running the latter.

We are pleased to know that there is reason to look for better work next year, as two associations have instructed special committees to prepare programmes and have them in the hands of members a considerable time before the next annual conventions. This is a timely move which will, if properly carried out, result in getting much more practical work put through in the time allotted. In other cases the president, secretary, or a small sub-committee, might first be delegated to outline a programme to be in turn considered by the general executive. Topics should be well classified, so that the same ground will not be traversed at different times.

We believe these organizations would be justified in devoting still more special attention to what might be designated the commercial or trade aspects of these various industries, such as shipping, transportation, selling, markets, etc., and in guarding against the insidious inroads of bogus products of any kind, such as oleo and the like, which have thrown the United States dairymen into a life-and-death struggle.

A commendable feature at this season's conventions was the endeavor to improve the quality of our productions, and to foster honesty in every branch, so that Canadian products will have only the highest reputation in foreign markets. In our judgment, "booming" the expansion of dairying has about reached its limit. The present momentum of the cheese business, at all events, should be sufficient to carry it forward fast enough. The prime requisites now are to keep up quality, keep down cost of production and improve transportation facilities; but we need no more "booming."

It goes without saying that these organizations should be kept well under the control of thoroughly practical men, who know the difficulties of the actual workers and possess also the needed administrative qualifications. Infusions of fresh blood from time to time are required to keep these bodies out of ruts. New men bring new ideas and infuse new life.

The Government support which has been liberally accorded these associations will doubtless be continued, providing that grants are judiciously expended along educational lines and the industries concerned manifest a healthful development.

## Our Illustration.

Our front page illustration represents three grand specimens of the present popular breed of horses, the Hackney, the property of Mr. Horace N. Crossley, Sandy Bay Stock Farm, Rosseau, Muskoka, Ont. Owing to several conditions now existing, to speak of horse breeding conveys an idea of an industry not eagerly pursued, because not remunerative; but this is only true in regard to sorts of horses for which the supply exceeds the demand. It is not long since the present condition of things came about, due largely to the fact that while science, in the introduction of machinery, reduced the need of horses, many capitalists turned their energies and finances into the raising of common, easily-produced ranch plugs, which have flooded the markets in numbers almost incredible. This line of action, as might be expected, depressed the business of producing common horseflesh at paying prices on our more valuable lands.

It will have been noticed in the recent great horse sales of New York and Buffalo that the high-stepping cob and carriage horses have sold for long prices, and in many cases these have been got by Hackney sires. It is the wise plan to produce the article that the moneyed people want, and the product of the Hackney sire is being eagerly sought in our large cities of this and the old land.

Standing in the left-hand background, Rosseau Performer is of the strawberry-roan color, foaled 1893; was imported by the proprietor in 1894. He is a splendid all-round mover, and, as the illustration shows, is of good conformation. He won first prize in strong company at the last Industrial Exhibition, which success we hope to see continued. His dam was Fanny III., by Phenomenon, and second dam by Pride-of-the-Isle.

Fanny III. has won twenty first and second prizes, and has bred over twenty foals. She is now in her thirty-sixth year, and when seen last spring by Mr. Crossley was in splendid health. We might say just here that long life is a distinguishing feature of the Hackney breed, as it is not uncommon to find both horses and mares breeding up to a very old age. This is a satisfactory proof of their enduring constitution.

Enthorpe Performer (2973), the sire of Rosseau Performer, won 2nd prize at the London Hackney Show in 1891 and the reserve and highly commended at same show in 1892. Enthorpe Performer's sire, Matchless of Londesboro (1517), won 2nd at London Hackney Show, 1891, and recommended in 1892. As our readers are aware, he won the \$500 championship cup for best Hackney at the New York Horse Show two years in succession, thus making it the property of his owner, Dr. Webb.

Althorpe Countess (6357), gracing the right-hand background position in the illustration, of the strawberry-roan color, is full sister to the foregoing Rosseau Performer. She has a very noticeable family resemblance to her brother in make-up and action. She was also imported in 1894.

Althorpe Duchess (6358), occupying the foreground position, was sired by Coxton (2398), by Fireaway (249), by Achilles (2). She was foaled in 1892, imported by Mr. Crossley in 1894, and as a prize winner, has no mean position. In England she won (1892) 1st at Althorpe, Belton and Scunthorpe, and 2nd at Burringham, Caistor and Brigg. In 1893 she won 1st at Eastoft, Scotter, Scunthorpe and Winterton. She is a real beauty, and goes high, rapidly and gracefully.

Mr. Crossley, who has just been elected Vice-President of the Shire Breeders' Association, has on hand a number of Hackneys, among which is that grand mare Lady Cockling, whose portrait appeared in the *ADVOCATE* of Oct. 15, '93, and whose produce have been noted winners in England, among which we may mention Althorpe Queen, winner of thirty-five prizes, and for whom 300 guineas have been refused. He also owns a nice stud of first-class Shires, a representation of which graced the front page of the October 1st *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. This breed, too, stands high in the estimation of the English people, who are acquainted with their real qualities. In this issue we give the results of a recent English Shire horse sale, which ran well up in the thousands in some cases, and in no instance was a mean price paid.

Mr. Crossley's winter address is 91 Woodlawn avenue, Toronto, Ont., where he has recently purchased a commodious dwelling.

Keep close up to the work of getting out the manure from yards and pens. Much time, labor and sweat are saved by hauling it out on the sleighs, and piling it for roots or spreading it on the land for a grain crop, than if left till spring.