

cheaper than the Canadian farmer can raise it. Corn as an example: It can be laid down in Dundee or Aberdeen from Chicago cheaper than in London, Ontario. The home feeder can send to London, England, the Canadian store steer of his feeding in better order than the Canadian animal fresh from the Atlantic trip. He has all the winter months to work on. The long rail route to Halifax and the rougher sea voyage practically bars us out of the market the whole winter. Canadian cattle forwarded then usually go by American ports and are slaughtered on landing.

The cattle that are going to pay are the well-bred ones, fed well from the day they are dropped right on till the day they leave the farm. If they are fit to go coming two years old so much the better. The money is in good, early maturing animals.

What about sheep and pigs? The latter have been paying well the past year, and probably more will be raised this year. Sheep are also doing fairly well. The price of wool has advanced somewhat, and lambs are in good demand. Good heavy sheep in good condition for shipping have been paying. Mutton is the very best flesh food, and is more largely used in England than here. Every farmer should have a few sheep. They will pick up food that would be otherwise wasted, and the droppings are most valuable as manure. Sheep love the dry hill tops and the herbage that grows there, and if they have that and plenty of pure running water they will do well.

The breeders and importers of pure-bred sheep have had a good demand the past year, especially the medium-wooled sorts; but all have done fairly. Some farmers make sheep the main stock and do well with them.

In looking over the stock list to replace grain growing, do not despise the sheep. Give them a place, and you will not regret it. And now what will your line be? What stock will you keep? Generally a farmer will do best with what he takes most interest in. That for his main line, but do not despise the others. Mixed farming—mixed stock-raising will often do best—but stop the all-grain trade and give the stock a show.

The Northwest Ranch Cattle.

From latest accounts there is every reason to believe that the ranch cattle will pull through in good shape. At Balgonie, Rush Lake, The Saskatchewan, Gull Lake, Crane Lake, Biscarath and Dunmore the stock are in a fair way to come out in good shape. Bantry reports are not so favorable, as a prairie fire swept the country late last fall, consuming everything in the shape of grass and a large quantity of hay. Namoka lost rather heavily as well.

The Brandon Fair.

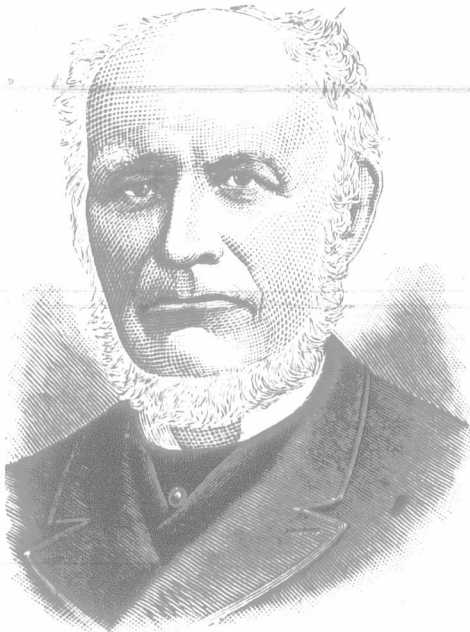
At a meeting of the Directors of the Agricultural Society, held on the 25th January, Mr. I. W. Vantassel was elected President; S. A. Bedford, 1st Vice-Pres.; Hy. Nichol, 2nd Vice-Pres., and E. Fitzbuckle, Secretary. The accounts, which have been audited, were then presented to the meeting, and showed that the Society was in a much better financial position than ever before.

The new Board showed the greatest interest in the success of the Society, and decided to hold the next show on the 24th and 25th July, 1890. The prize list will be prepared at once, so that it may be distributed early in the spring. The Board is determined to do all in its power to make the fair of 1890 a success, and ask the hearty co-operation of the farmers and business men, which we hope will be heartily given.

Hon. Robert Read.

We present on this page a portrait of the Senator, the Hon. Robert Read, of Belleville. He is one of the number who accompanied the delegation appointed to wait upon the Postmaster-General concerning the charge of postage on publications issued less frequently than every two weeks. Our readers will, no doubt, have retained fresh in their memories the report we gave on page 101 of the April number of 1889.

The Hon. Senator is an extensive farmer, and keeps a large number of dairy cows. He caused the first cheese factory to be erected in Canada, east of Oxford County. Although elevated to the Senate, he is not above his business, but devotes a considerable portion of his time and talent to the interests of agriculturists. We heard him opposing measures that would have caused the expenditure of millions, but could never have been of any benefit to our country, excepting the contractors and a few favorite individuals. Also on the occasion of our deputation, he frankly told the Postmaster-General that he came to advocate "fair play."



He has fought for the farmers' interests, and deserves their thanks. Would it have been right to pass the act that was introduced, compelling the publishers of monthly publications to pay postage, and at the same time allow all political papers to pass free of postage?

It has ever been the policy of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to elevate the thoughts of its readers more towards that which is right and just, than toward party or sect squables. The high, ennobling, enriching field of agriculture, untrammelled by party or sect, has been our field. We trust that you, as intelligent men, will inquire fully into these acts we have alluded to, and hope also that you will soon awake to your own interests by sending to Parliament more men like the honorable gentleman whose portrait adorns this page. The time has come when farmers can no longer afford to blindly follow a party. They must consult their best interests in all political matters. If they do this and act as a body, the national depression which now exists will soon pass away. With a prosperous agricultural class, the country must prosper generally; as the roots are to a tree, so are the agriculturists to the nation. For several years the farmers have suffered loss or have not

advanced; few indeed are making suitable interest on the money they have invested. It behoves every man in the land to enquire as to the cause, and help to remedy the evil. But not until the farmers agree to unite to fight for their cause will they receive the consideration they ought. If they would unite, every man and every cause would be compelled to bend to their will. Systematic organization and determination of purpose is the great need of agriculture to-day.

What Our Seedsmen Write Us.

Steel Bros. Co., Toronto, write:—We gladly comply with your request, and herewith hand you necessarily condensed reports of some new varieties of seeds we are offering this season.

Oats.—The American Banner oats have done remarkably well in Canada the last two years, in many cases producing ninety bushels per acre. The grain of this oat is large, white and plump, weighing from thirty-six to forty-five pounds to the measured bushel, and ripening early, the straw being stiff and strong. These, with Wide-Awake oats, are the leading varieties for the year. Farmers in Ontario, as well as the Northwest, will find in these two varieties something really reliable and worthy of trial. Our practice is never to recommend a thing more than it deserves, and we have no hesitation in placing these varieties at the head of the list.

Barley.—Of this we have nothing new, but carry some very fine samples of Chevalier and Six-rowed, raised by that noted farmer, Simpson Rennie, Esq., of the Prize Medal Farm, Scarborough.

Mangels.—This season we are fortunate in procuring from Europe a New Giant Intermediate Mangel, which comes to us very highly recommended, as producing enormous crops, and an excellent keeper. We find the average of mangels increasing yearly, and it will continue to do so, as our farmers turn their attention more to dairying.

Carrots.—Now, sir, you will pardon us if we take up considerable space here, for we, like the rest of mortals, have our hobby, and here it is. We have no wish to bore you, but when one has a really good thing and knows it, to keep it to yourself is a sin—a positive crime. Now listen to the praises of our New Short White Carrot, which please do not confound with common white Vosges. Mr. Alfred Brown, of Bethel, raised roots of this carrot weighing eight and one-half and nine and one-quarter pounds, and nine feet of drill produced a heaped bushel; consequently, having such magnificent roots he swept the board at all county fairs. Professor Saunders, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, says they produced "the finest crop we ever grew." This carrot took first prizes at Industrial, Provincial and numerous other fairs, and they are without doubt the largest and heaviest cropping carrot grown; thirty tons per acre have been raised. We have no hesitation in saying there is nothing to equal it, and we hope all your readers will give it a trial.

Grasses and Clovers.—We are informed, both by our travellers and numerous correspondents in the Northwest, that there is a growing demand there for grasses and clovers that will stand their climate, and with this in view we have given the subject considerable attention, and are now offering, illustrating and describing in our 1890 catalogue those varieties most likely to succeed there. Sainfoin and Lucerne are probably what will suit the requirements of this vast and growing country, the great tap root of