

## MARKETS.

*Every reader is invited to write something for this department that other farmers ought to know. Do it while you think of it. Put it on a post card if you haven't time to put it in a letter.*

## FARM GOSSIP.

## A Midsummer Outing.

(Editorial correspondence.)

Leaving London, Ontario, on July 4th, on a trip to Winnipeg and the West, via Chicago and St. Paul, a "Farmer's Advocate" representative found the fine County of Lambton water-soaked from repeated rains, and with its prospects for the usual big crops of corn heavily discounted, but with a big hay crop in sight and with pastures promising to last the summer through. Should warmer and brighter days soon set in, the corn crop may yet surprise the doubters and score a fair success. The State of Michigan is in the same boat, the corn crop trying to keep its head above water, but having a hard time, while cultivation for the killing of weeds is out of the question. A day at the Chicago Stock-yards, the greatest aggregation of the sort on earth, is a revelation to the man who sees it for the first time, and grows on the annual visitor amazingly. It is becoming more and more the acknowledged center for the live-stock men and interests of the continent, not only as a market for meat-producing animals and the distribution of pure-bred stock, but for an annual international exhibition of breeding and butchers' stock unequalled in the wide world, as well as for abattoirs and packing-houses on a mammoth scale and of matchless proportions. Apart from the interest to a stockman of the stock-yards and their concomitants, he quickly tires of the babel of 15-story towers built by men, and the rattle and roar of the street traffic, and gladly gets out into God's country, with its fields and flowers and wooded hills. Soon the traveller finds himself in the rolling lands of Wisconsin, where corn and oats have this season made luxuriant growth, the only trouble being that the latter have grown too fast and gone down to an extent that will doubtless discount the yield of grain considerably.

A day at beautiful Madison, the State Capital, is a genuine treat. Here is a small city of over 20,000 people, and with few manufacturing industries, and, happily, with no saloons, but favored with being the home of the State University and Agricultural College and Experimental Farm. The Capitol occupies the center of the square, a pleasant park, which the principal hotels and business houses face, while private munificence at great expense has provided many miles of carriage drives along the shores of the beautiful lakes by which, on three sides, the city is bounded. The University, which annually attracts some three thousand students, is furnished with magnificent buildings (which are being steadily extended), is well manned with teachers of more than continental fame, the Agricultural College having on its staff such noted men as Professors Babcock (inventor of the Babcock butter-fat test) and Henry (author of "Feeds and Feeding"), Woll, Farrington and Russell; while animal husbandry and the experimental farm are under the able direction of Prof. W. L. Carlyle, a Canadian product and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, who has made his mark as an authority in these lines and is doing excellent work in each. His extended experiments in the breeding and feeding of hogs for profit, of which a report may soon be looked for, will be of much interest to stockmen, as will also the record of the fine herd of dairy and dual-purpose cows now being carefully worked out. The experiments in the culture of grasses and other forage and fodder crops are also of much importance, the production of rape measuring four to five feet high the first week in July, being a revelation even to a Canadian familiar with the crop. Seeding to clover with oats to be pastured off is in much favor here, having proved a great success, the dairy cows doing splendid work on the oats pasture and sheep being especially fond of it, the only precaution necessary being to avoid pasturing with cattle while the land is so wet as to be cut up by the hoofs of the animals. The oats serve the purpose of shading the young clover plants and the root-lets help to hold the soil from shifting.

The twin cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis, their boundaries joining, boast of a population of over 400,000, the former being the home of the State Capital of Minnesota and the latter of the State University, the buildings for the accommodation of several of the departments of which, including the School of Agriculture, are located in St. Anthony Park, midway between the two cities. The situation is splendid, commanding a magnificent view of surrounding country. The buildings are extensive and of high-class char-

acter, while capital work is being done in the Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, the former under Prof. W. M. Hays, who is conducting very interesting and useful experiments in plant-breeding, and the improvement, by hybridizing and selection, of different varieties of grains and grasses. Prof. Boss, successor in the Department of Animal Husbandry to Prof. Thos. Shaw, who has returned to agricultural journalism, while still retaining connection with the University as lecturer, is doing good work in the breeding and feeding of cattle and sheep. To a Canadian visitor it was interesting to note that the principal animals in the cattle classes being fitted for the agricultural college competition at the International Exhibition were bred in old Ontario, and are being fed by George Craig, late of Fergus, in that Province, a preference, we presume, attributable to Prof. Shaw, himself a Canadian production, of whose splendid ability and achievements his compatriots of the Dominion are pardonably proud.

The State of Minnesota holds an immense area of excellent farming lands and makes a splendid showing of crops in this favorable season. North Dakota, with its extensive prairie lands, mainly devoted to the growing of wheat, oats and flax, suffered from an unusually wet spring delaying the seeding, but her great fields are clean and well cared for, and the crops, though late and yet short, are healthy-looking and require only warmth to bring forth an abundant harvest.

Crossing the boundary at Pembina in Dakota and Emerson in Manitoba, one on either side of the Red River, we find ourselves again on Cana-



SHATTERED BY LIGHTNING.

dian soil, with a clear shining sun overhead and wholesome breezes blowing, filling the lungs with healthy western ozone and imparting the spirit of cheerfulness, hopefulness and energy which characterizes the people of Western Canada, giving them confidence in themselves and in their country. While seeding in Manitoba and the West was delayed by the wet spring and damage in some sections has been done by recent heavy rains, the outlook on the whole is decidedly encouraging, the crops, though short, being thick, strong and healthy, and requiring only a continuation of the bright, warm weather now prevailing, and of which there is encouraging promise, to make the harvest yield a grand success.

Immigration in a steady stream is still the order of the day, every train from the east, as well as from the Western States, bringing in land-seekers and homesteaders. The Manitoba emigration and ticket office at St. Paul is a busy hive every day, and occupants of the trains coming into Winnipeg from that direction are largely land-hunters.

J. C. S.

## A Lightning-Rent Tree.

The accompanying engraving, from a photo taken by a member of the "Farmer's Advocate" staff, illustrates the terrific expansive power of lightning. Early one morning in July, a sound green elm tree, about two feet in diameter, at the edge of a wood on the farm of Mr. Chas. Beattie, Middlesex Co., Ont., was struck by a bolt of lightning. It was as though tons of dynamite had exploded above to drive the trunk downward into the earth, bursting it into a thousand splinters, large and small, and "buckling" some of the larger pieces down nearly double

## A Vigorous Letter from Annapolis County.

The unusually poor set of fruit is generally attributable to frost during the blossoming stage. A very heavy bloom was accompanied by cold, wet weather and frosts, while wet weather since then has developed the black spot fungus in spite of spraying. For the same reason grain crops started so slowly that weeds were given a chance to grow and as a result grain generally is poor and weedy, though the warmer weather of the past two weeks is forcing it forward. The same applies to the hay crop. Sorrel, buttercups and daisies are this season taking the place of timothy and clover. Old farmers say this is due to the drying up of the roots last August after the hay was gathered. We had a very dry, hot season, especially during that month.

I am glad, however, to strike a more hopeful note in writing of our stock interests. The farmers are awakening to the fact that the old nondescript mixture of all recognizable breeds in both horse and cow is unprofitable, and more attention is given to breed selection for special purpose. It would be difficult to give an approximate estimate of the number of pure-bred cattle in the county, but though very small yet, we hope to see a rapid increase in the near future. Speaking of pure-breds, the writer was astonished some time since when told by a farmer that he had a pure-bred cow—that her sire was "half Durham" and her dam was "half Durham" also—that the two halves made a whole. Ignorance and prejudice regarding pure-breds, however, is rapidly dying out. As a noteworthy improvement in horses, we may speak of the purchase this year by Annapolis County farmers of two Clydesdale stallions for service. These are the first we have ever had in the County and that they are being well patronized is a hopeful indication, as well as the fact that heavy mares are being brought into the County from other parts of Canada.

I would place in order of profit the branches of farming as follows: 1st, fruit; 2nd, stock-raising; 3rd, dairying; 4th, poultry-raising. The latter is only an incidental part of the farm live stock generally, only enough being raised for home use. The raising of hogs is increasing, but fruit-raising, especially apples, claims by far the greater part of the farmer's attention. Dairying is in its infancy, but bids fair to grow.

There are several burning questions demanding Government interference and aid: (a) Better and cheaper transportation for fruit and other products; (b) Better facilities for technical education; (c) Better and more complete system of Institute work or agricultural extension among farmers. These are crying needs and the writer finds it difficult to speak of them and maintain an even temper. In view of wilful abuse of contract by transportation companies, the Government should be whipped for allowing it, while the farmers should be whipped for not combining to stop it.

The Maritime Agricultural College is still advocated and discussed. Whether or not it is needed we have no doubt, whether or not these little Provinces are large enough or are ready for one we leave to wiser heads to determine. Just at present we must say that anything tending toward the improvement of agriculture touches a tender chord in the heart of—  
Annapolis Co., N. S. R. V. MESSENGER.

## Oxford County, Ont.

So far as I can judge, the late spring frosts hurt the hay crop more than any other. Hay did not turn out as well as it looked, although a very fair crop. Those who commenced early had considerable partially spoiled, but with the tedder the bad effects of wet weather in haying are greatly minimized. A great many have purchased hay loaders this season, on account of the scarcity of help. Owing to wet weather, it has not been easy to get the root fields attended to properly. Our mangolds and beets are looking very fine. I never saw potatoes grow faster. We have our turnips all thinned out, except the headlands of the root field, which we sowed in Greystone turnips about the middle of July. When sowed much earlier they are very apt to rot. The pastures are simply luxuriant, and the cows are keeping up to their milk very well. Our average price for the June cheese was 9.46 cents, and if the proceeds had been pooled in the old way the milk would have been worth almost 76 cents per 100 lbs. Cheese is rather easier in price just now. Hogs are keeping up nicely and are going at 7 cents. Farmers ought to be able to make good payments on their mortgages this season. Some of our larger farmers are having quite a job to get through with their haying in time to start fall wheat and barley harvest. These crops are about the best in our district that I have ever seen. Farmers who did not sow any fall wheat are now very sorry for their timidity. Last fall an old farmer was telling me about the ravages of the Hessian fly about forty years ago, and I asked, "What did you do to get rid of the pest?" "Why," he replied, "we did nothing, just sowed the wheat the same as usual and it came all right." The bees are doing remarkably well this season; there was a great growth of white clover. It is really wonderful the amount of honey the bees make in a good season. Literally, ours is a land flowing with milk and honey. Our cheese factory manufactured nearly 28 tons of cheese in June, and we are only one of many. D. L.