

EDITORIAL.

Australia is making an effort to develop its linseed trade with Britain. Mr. J. M. Sinclair, representing the Agricultural Department in London, Eng., sends back a highly favorable report on the Victoria grown linseed, which is said to be superior to the Indian or Russian grown. It would sell readily for 34s. 6d. per 424 pounds.

The Diseases of Animals Bill, to which royal assent was recently given, makes practically no difference regarding the landing of live stock for food purposes in Great Britain subject to the "slaughter within ten days of landing" regulations enforced for the past four years. Stock from the Colonies and foreign countries for exceptional purposes will, however, be admitted after undergoing adequate quarantine.

Prof. Arthur has determined that the spores of corn smut will easily retain vitality for one year, but will germinate at once if they come in contact with the proper receptacle and conditions. The advice of Prof. Shuttleworth, in another department, is therefore timely, as there may be a good deal of corn smut this season. Gather and burn the masses of smut fungus before it has so matured that when disturbed the spores, in the form of dusty particles, fly about in the air.

"The Meat and Dairy Produce Board, Queensland, has allowed a grant of \$8,200 to the Compagnie D'Alimentation, Paris and Havre, of which Messrs. Brun, DeMarchen, and Silvie are members, for the erection of a cold stores receiving depot for Australian produce at Havre. The grant is made under clause 16 of the Act of 1894, which authorizes the Board to spend money beyond the Colony for any purpose in connection with the export of produce from Queensland. One condition of the grant is that the produce for the stores must be drawn from that Colony whenever the Board requires this to be done." Our authority for the foregoing does not state whether the Board draws its funds from the Government or not.

It is reported that grapes can be successfully carried from Australia to London without losing their bloom or flavor, and that satisfactory prices have been obtained for a shipment which left there over three months ago in the R.M.S. Ozco. Mr. Jas. M. Sinclair, the representative of the Agricultural Department in England, has informed it that the 24 cases shipped by that steamer from the Goulburn Valley realized the fine average price of 17s. 6d. per case at auction. Eight cases sold at 22s. each, four at 20s., 10 at 15s., and two at 12s. 6d. The expenses of shipment, freight, and charges in London amounted to about 7s. a case, so that a handsome profit will be realized by the exporters. This success will no doubt lead to larger consignments next season. A leading Australian journal says their fruit export trade seems to have a promising future. If that be so, why not Canada?

Manitoba Crops.

At this writing it seems very difficult to make any definite pronouncement on the crops. Judging, however, from personal knowledge and reports gathered from reliable sources, it is doubtful if the total yield will be more than one-half of what it was last year. In some localities it is doubtful if the wheat average will be over ten or twelve bushels. The causes are not difficult to find. The immense crop of last year left a heavy stubble on the ground, and when winter set in farm work was far behind, everything being left till spring. Spring opened unusually wet, and wet weather continued throughout seedtime. In consequence, most of the seed was puddled into ground that was thoroughly waterlogged, and thousands of acres were drilled in on stubble land without any other preparation whatsoever, and seeding was continued till very late. During the latter part of June and early July we had intense heat. This baked the soil, checked growth, and in many cases encouraged the development of rust, which has been very prevalent in many districts. These conditions have contributed to a light yield. One thing is very noticeable, however: that wherever a field was in a really first-class state of cultivation and seeded in good time and well got in the results are most satisfactory. *Thorough cultivation pays.*

The experience of 1896 adds one more to the many lessons we have had in this country: that to be successful the farmer cannot depend on wheat alone, for while the sun baked, weeds choked, rust devoured, and hail destroyed, the cows chewed the cud of contentment and put milk in their udders and beef on their loins.

Persimmon -- A Royal Race-Horse.

The noted horse of a noted owner is the subject of this issue's frontispiece, which represents the Thoroughbred Persimmon, bred by and the property of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. Great interest has been manifested in him, especially in England, because of his victory in the great 1896 Derby contest. He is a son of St. Simon and Perdita II. As a two-year-old he won two good races, but failed in some other important events because of want of condition. His half-brother, St. Frusquin, came second in the Derby contest. "This is the first time," observes the *English Live Stock Journal*, "a son of St. Simon has secured the Derby. A horse with such a long neck, powerful shoulder, full chest and immense girth, together with his short back and long quarter, as the portrait shows Persimmon to possess, could hardly fail to be a great animal with anything like proper handling. His strong bone, sharp look, and veiny limbs and neck also stand in evidence of his superiority, but his victory in such a contest proves his merit."

A Trip West.

BY RICHARD GIBSON.

A trip of over 1,600 miles at a stretch cannot be undertaken the first time without awakening sensations of wonder and surprise in the mind of the traveler, especially when that route is along the north shore of Lake Superior per the C. P. R. to Winnipeg. The first thing that strikes one is the stupendous undertaking of building the road. What confidence must the projectors have had in our Northwest and in the future destiny of our country! Evermore will I refrain from uttering the cry, "It's costing us too much." When one realizes the immensity of the undertaking, where for hundreds of miles nothing but rock and boulder and forest is to be seen (the coast of Labrador is not more uninviting)—I say when one realizes all the difficulties that had to be overcome, he may be forgiven for honoring the men who employed their brains and time and worldly gear to build a road that has done more to cement the Provinces into one grand Dominion than any other one thing, and that has made that Dominion indispensable to the Empire.

The next striking feature is the apparent absence of all life except vegetable. Neither bird or butterfly, squirrel or moth, things creeping, flying or afoot were to be seen or heard. The sweet song singer of our swamps—even the affectionate mosquito would have been welcome, or the potato bug recognized as an acquaintance. It appears as though the solitude was felt by the birds of the air and creeping things of the earth, and that man's influence and surroundings were more preferable than the delightful solitude of Nature.

The thought could not be suppressed, has kind Nature denied everything to these wilds? While she may not smile upon the surface, yet surely some recompense is in store—something to balance the sterility. There are indications that this is the case, and that it may prove the richest portion of the Continent. At present gold is the cry, and many are prospecting therefor. Projectors, reporters, and capitalists are in evidence everywhere, and if all the tales are true and all anticipations fulfilled, the silver men only need keep shady awhile and gold will be a drug and silver will be the standard, as being the more precious. "Thou shalt not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

Continuing west from Rat Portage, before reaching Winnipeg but little farming land proper is passed, but much that might be utilized for stock raising. Timothy appears to grow well, while clover is conspicuous by its absence. To my mind the most serious objection to prairie soils is this difficulty of growing clovers. Farming continuously without clover appears to me to be like raising calves without milk. I am aware it can be done, but— However, as the soil becomes more compact, and by the addition of potash, lime, etc., thereto, I feel sure the clovers will follow, especially as a legume or wild vetch is indigenous. I got three varieties along the track while the engine was taking water, and I am told there are six or seven in all. These make a great addition to the feeding value of the natural grasses and legumes. Of the former I found a capital native rye grass (*Agropyrum tenerum*)—a true perennial. Another grass spoken very highly of is *Bromus inermis*. It is a leafy, nutritive grass, and promises to take the place in Manitoba that timothy does east. By the kindness of Mr. Waugh, I secured enough seed of each to make a trial, and will report to the *ADVOCATE* after a sufficient length of time to satisfy myself as to their value in Ontario. I must say that I am quite sanguine of the result.

The wheat is badly rusted in many parts, and the general verdict is that there will not be over half the crop of last year, and if it is admitted there it is safe betting that the halfway notch won't be reached.

There was nothing I saw to admire more than the way the people speak of their country. Not a

man can be met but sings its praises. They are more like the Americans in that respect than Ontarians. "The finest country on God's green earth, sir!" may sound harsh and grate a little upon a supersensitive, nervous being, but it has the right ring, after all. "It's a dirty bird that fouls its own nest."

I was sorry to turn back at Winnipeg. Much should I have enjoyed to extend my trip westward, but the fates ordained otherwise—trust it is only a pleasure deferred. I must say the fever is catching. I write nothing of the show, as your regular contributors will send full reports. The Secretary is a hummer—here, there, and all over; never tired, apparently, and never out of humor, and the whole show held well in hand. If the show does not succeed it will not be his fault.

The homeward journey was via the "Soo" and most enjoyable, but as there were neither farms or farming to be described, I dare not venture upon lengthening this further.

A Triple Benefit.

By the time the next issue of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* goes to press the great fairs of Eastern Canada will be in full swing, from Ontario down to P. E. Island by the sea. If the splendid success achieved by the Winnipeg Industrial last month, which was a record-breaker for the Prairie Province, is to be a criterion of those to be held from London and Toronto eastward to the Atlantic, we may look for further eclipses of past achievements. *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* readers are always foremost among the visitors and exhibitors at these exhibitions—provincial, county, and township. We invariably find them out in thousands, on the lookout for what will interest and instruct in the business of farming. We believe our readers may make it greatly to their advantage to attend one or more good exhibitions.

It also affords an excellent opportunity not only to put in a "good word" for the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, but a little earnest work, which we promise will be made mutually advantageous. Our last winter's subscription-campaign was most successful, and during the present fair and fall campaign we wish 10,000 new names added to our lists. A prompt and vigorous effort on the part of our old agents and those (old and young) who now undertake the work will accomplish this. Those who have read the *ADVOCATE* longest like it best. It has stood the practical test of thirty years, and as you have found it of practical value yourself you can safely commend it to others and show the sample copies, which speak for themselves. Further particulars will be found in our advertising pages. An encouraging campaign will enable us to redouble our efforts to make the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* an indispensable adjunct of successful farming. You will be benefiting yourself, your neighbor, and doing the *ADVOCATE* a good turn at the same time. Every new name counts.

The Corn Crop and Silo Filling.

We devote considerable space in this issue to the subject of taking off the corn crop, several readers having sent us the results of their extended experience in silo filling. Not only is the Canada corn area very much larger than last year, but the harvest promises to be earlier, and the favorable season, together with improved methods, gives promise of an enormous crop. Many new silos will be filled, but there will still be a great quantity of stalks to be cared for as dry fodder. We would, therefore, be pleased to publish, for the benefit of our readers, any additional suggestions or plans on either branch of the subject, not already given, which have been found helpful. Our readers will confer a favor by sending us same by an early mail. Meanwhile they will peruse with interest what already appears in this issue.

Destruction by Hail.

One of the worst wind, rain and hail storms in its history swept across the whole Province on August 2nd. As far as can be learned at this writing, the storm gathered somewhere on the Western plains, and some damage is reported in the country north of Regina and Indian Head, N. W. T. It entered Manitoba near Binscarth, doing damage in a narrow strip and sweeping in a southeasterly direction, passing north of Birtle, then striking near Hamiota and Oak River, where fearful damage is reported to crops and buildings. It seems then to have scattered, passing Brandon and eastward of the Brandon Hills, doing some damage at Rounthwaite and striking with terrific force the country between Baldur and Cypress River, where all crops in its path seem to have been leveled. It seems then to have skirted the Pembina Mountains, gathering fury to burst out again about Thornhill and Morden, striking easterly from there to Winkler and through the Minnonite Reserve towards Greta.

Recent advices from the Old Country speak of advances in several lines of Canadian products.