

The Ontario Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees.—Cattle Breeders' \$1; Sheep Breeders' \$1; Swine Breeders' \$2.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c. per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c. per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The name and address of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 20,000 copies of this directory are mailed monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College and each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; that is, to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the undersigned by letter on or before the 15th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animals. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

F. W. HODSON, Secretary,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

LIVE STOCK FOR MANITOBA.

A carload of thoroughbred live stock last week left Ontario for Manitoba, the North west, and British Columbia. The car was consigned from Guelph to Portage la Prairie. The carload was completed at the following places: North Toronto, Myrtle and Smith's Falls. Six Oxford breeders were shipped by Mr. Henry Arkell, Arkell, to Alex. Wood, of Souris, Man. These sheep will be exhibited at the Winnipeg Fair. Two Shorthorn heifers were shipped by Mr. James Russell, Richmond Hill, to Mr. Wm. King, Minnokin, Man.; two cows and two heifers were shipped by Mr. Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, Ont., to Mr. W. S. Lister, Bird's Hill, Man.; a Shorthorn heifer was shipped by the Hon. John Dryden to the Hon. Thomas Greenway, Winnipeg, and a cow and calf from Jas. I. Davidson, Balsam, to F. W. Brown, Portage la Prairie; Messrs. W. H. & C. H. McNish, Lyn, shipped to G. Bradley-Dyne, Sydney, B.C., a Guernsey cow and calf. This is the last car that will be shipped until next fall.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR THE PROVINCIAL WINTER SHOWS.

A number of special prizes have been obtained for the Provincial Winter Show which is to be held at Brantford on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 30th, December 1st and 2nd next. In the cattle department Messrs. Gould, Shapley & Muir will give a special prize of a grain grinder for the sweepstake prize. For the sweepstake prize in the sheep department the Wilkinson Plough Co. have again donated a plough, while in the swine department the Massey Harris Co. have donated a gang plough as a sweepstake prize. Messrs. Matthew Moody & Sons, Terrebonne, Que., have donated a special prize in the dairy department for the most valuable exhibit by any one exhibitor, the value of the animals to be computed from the points awarded in the dairy test.

This prize will be one of their No. 2 grades complete. In the bacon classes \$25 each has been donated by the Wm. Davies Packing Co., Toronto; F. W. Pearman, Hamilton; and the Ingersoll Packing Co., Ingersoll.

Farmers' Institute Department.

Reports concerning the work of the Farmers' Institutes in Ontario will be published weekly under this head; also papers prepared for this department by Institute workers. Secretaries and officers having announcements to make are invited to send full particulars to the Superintendent.

FORESTRY IN RELATION TO THE FARM AND CROP.

By JOHN J. BOUTLIER.

In spite of all that has been said and written regarding the excessive clearing of our country, and the benefits resulting from having a just portion of our land wooded, the work of destruction still goes on, leaving many of our farms unsheltered and with scarcely a tree left either for use or ornament. From concession to concession in many places we have an unobstructed view, and the cold of winter is intensified by the keen piercing winds that sweep across the plains, banking the snow into impassable drifts, and robbing the land of its fertility by the removal of the surface soil. Our streams in many districts have so diminished in volume that grist mills have had to cease grinding for want of water. May not also the lack of rain and moisture, which have been so disastrous of late years to our crops, be traced to the same cause? We are told that "Evil is often wrought for want of thought." Let us hope that in the present instance such may have been the case, and that in the future something practical may be done to preserve from destruction what is still left. Let us treat our wood-lots as we should our young orchards, from which cattle and sheep should be rigidly excluded, with barbed fence wire (and cross wires for sheep) stretched from tree to tree. It is comparatively easy and cheap to

fence a block which is still mulched by the forest leaf. Into this lot so fenced other varieties may be planted, especially the nut-bearing trees, and others of use in manufacturing. Then let us use judgment in cutting. Let the aged and decaying trees give place to the young growth. From the stumps of these old trees, if there are no cattle to destroy them, will often spring up sprouts to replace the old trees.

Many of our forest trees may be propagated by cuttings. Among these are the bass-wood, of value in so many ways, the poplar, and the Russian mulberry. The black walnut and the American sweet chestnut, with which I am now experimenting, may in time be included in the list of native forest trees if planted. There is a constant and increasing demand for wood used in manufacturing, and the supply is decreasing. For the manufacture of cheese boxes, apple barrels, and carriages, there will always be a demand which we could supply if our wood-lots were valued and cared for as they should be; and then how important the shelter afforded, especially to the north and west! How often do wood belts save a crop of wheat or clover! How pleasant in the winter time is the transition from a bleak exposed roadway to one bounded by a belt of wood land! A few years ago the Manitoba maple was unknown in this part of the province, but to day the streets of Belleville are adorned with the mature trees loaded with seeds and inviting you as you drive along to gather and sow them in your wood-lots. These trees I understand were grown from seed. But the proper place for trees is not along our cultivated fields, for their shade is often pernicious to vegetable growth, but in the wood-lot, on the lawn, around our springs, adorning our church and cemetery grounds, around our milk stands, and in the milking yard, are the proper places for trees, and the evergreen sheltering our orchards to the north and west. Our government is wisely legislating in behalf of the forest. We have now an Arbor Day, but tree-planting on that day should not be circumscribed by the school lot; all should observe it, and along our road-sides and wherever a tree might prove useful or beautiful, let the good work be done. Object lessons and charts in relation to trees, their uses and propagation should find a place on our school house walls. Our river banks and other public property should be left wooded and carefully preserved. How often has the presence of trees in the scenery of a country fired the poetic imagination as in the lines:

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood
When first recollection recalls them to view,
The orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wild-wood,
And all the loved spots that my infancy knew."

and the destruction of the same called forth a protest in poetic language:

"Oh woodman, spare that tree,
Touch not a single bough;
In youth it sheltered me,
So I'll protect it now."

Let us therefore value and spare the wood land, not only for its utility but also for its beauty and the intimate relation it bears to our farms and crops.

SOME OF OUR NEWER WEEDS.

By T. C. WHITELY.

There can be no question but that the presence of weeds is a great yearly source of loss both to the individual farmer and to the province at large. It has been estimated, and I think the estimate is well within bounds, that Ontario's loss from this cause is not less than ten million dollars annually. Now, this loss is largely preventable. There is too great a disposition to look upon weeds as a necessary evil, and too little of a disposition to grapple strenuously with the question of attempting to get rid of them. There are numerous examples of clean farms in the country, but is there not too much of a disposition to let the weeds have their own way, and then blame Providence for the poor crops we reap in consequence? It would not be so necessary to speak upon a subject like this in a Farmers' Institute meeting were we not all convinced that the weed nuisance is on the increase, and especially that new weeds, many of them worse ones than those we have had heretofore to contend with, are being from time to time introduced. There is a need of an awakening of public opinion and public action upon this question. True, we have upon our statute book a law against the spread of "noxious weeds," but it is almost a dead letter, and, indeed, the law is behind the times in one respect, for weeds there enumerated are not now our worst ones. Others have come in since that Act was passed which outstrip those in power for mischief. In the states west of the Mississippi there are laws against the introduction of the Canadian thistle, and I am told that these laws are so well enforced that scarcely a specimen of that weed can be seen. What loss it would have saved us if that had been the case here!

The history of agriculture from its commencement in this country has been one of the continual introduction of weeds. Very few plants among the host now enumerated as weeds were natives of this province. Even the Canada thistle, though it possesses that name, is a European weed, introduced probably by the soldiery during the wars of the last century, and getting a foothold about Lake Champlain, spread into Lower Canada and thence into the New England States, where the Yankees gave it the name of the "Canada thistle." The fire-weed, golden-rod, smart weed, beggar's ticks, sheep sorrel, milk weed, maple-leaved goose-foot, with a few others, perhaps a dozen or twenty, all now considered perfectly harmless, were the only ones our first settlers had to contend with. Even such familiar weeds as the lamb's quarter and dandelion are introduced weeds.

(Continued in next issue.)