



The Critic.

A grouse drummed a roll-call below
While a robin piped up in a tree;
A fig for that tune said the grouse, with a croon,
For a high-born critico was he.

With a twitter a sparrow flew down,
The wasp and the beetle came too;
The bee left the rose and the frog from a doze
Was aroused by the loud tattoo.

A grasshopper perched on a straw,
A bobolink paused on the way,
And the burrowing mole peeped out of his hole,
To hear what they all had to say.

"What's the row, Mr. Grouse?" croaked the frog,
"What's to pay?" said the bluejay and wren,
While the geese with a squawk shouted back to the hawk
And were joined by the quarrelsome hen.

"Alack!" said the grouse with a frown,
"I am sick of that malapert's song,"
"What matters to me," piped the bird from the tree,
And he sang there the whole day long.



SALUTATORY.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED in its new dress makes its bow to the public and craves their hearty and generous support. For seven years past it has been known to Canadian farmers, and we have every reason to believe that it has been appreciated. This led us to think that there was a wide field open for an illustrated journal devoted to the interests of the farming community, and we have decided to supply the want. Whether the new venture will prove a success or not remains to be seen. This much we can say, that it will be our earnest endeavor to make MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED worthy of the confidence of its subscribers, and to that end we will bring to their homes, month after month, the best thoughts and the ripest experience of farmers and others thoroughly conversant with agriculture in all its phases. Happily for Canada, the agricultural scientist and the every-day farmer are coming closer together, and the former is every year doing more and more for the latter in aiding him with hints, suggestions, and carefully tested experiments, so that the struggle for a living, which with many farmers is at best an up-hill task, shall be made easier. In this laudable task we will heartily join. We solicit and will always welcome the experience of intelligent farmers everywhere in the Dominion in the shape of letters or special articles. This is a practical age and we will always be glad to give "the floor" to practical men. With the object of brightening up our readers and giving them something to think over we will in each number give articles of general interest, many of them treating of matters more or less allied to agriculture. We intend to make a

special feature of the Household, and mother and the girls will always find under this heading something worth knowing and treasuring up. The young people will also have a column for their special enjoyment. There will be notes on travel, news of the month in a condensed form, wit and humor, and whatever sketch or article can be made more clear and graphic by pictorial art will be illustrated. In fact everything will be done to make these pages bright, entertaining and instructive. We will make MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED the best farmer's and farmer's family paper published in Canada, and we confidently expect that ere long it will be read in every farmer's home throughout this fair Dominion. With this number we issue a handsome Illustrated Premium List which fully explains itself. We are expending a large sum of money upon this enterprise, and we ask our friends to help us make it a success. We know they will, and in that hope and belief we calmly and confidently await the result. There are always certain defects incident to a first issue which we ask our readers to overlook, and we promise that any such will be rectified in subsequent numbers. Our motto shall be "Reliability, Truthfulness, and Loyalty." In closing this Salutatory, we cannot do better than wish you all A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

PRESIDENT-ELECT HARRISON is to send a message to Congress recommending the annexation of Canada to the United States. Next!

THE Provincial Legislatures and the Dominion Parliament will soon assemble. It is to be hoped that legislation beneficial to the farming interests will receive due attention.

It is a matter for congratulation that the number of settlers in Manitoba and the North-West this season is double that for 1887. The total number of foreign arrivals since last spring is approximately given as exceeding 9,400.

THE Chicago bulls, led by "Old Hutch," have lost their grip and the wheat market is now being run by the bears. The decline in prices has been rapid. What a pity it is that the rise in price only goes into the pockets of a few shrewd speculators and does not benefit the grower one cent.

"Two tramps broke into the barn of D. Quick, of Harrow, and his cattle got in and ate so much grain that they all died." The genus tramp is a nuisance of the first water. They are a curse to the farmers and to the community at large. A dose of buckshot is the best medicine for these gentry.

THE appointment of Mr. Thomas Shaw, of Hamilton, as Professor of Agriculture in the Agricultural College, Guelph, in succession to Prof. Brown, has given general satisfaction. The students are highly pleased with him, which is the main consideration. Mr. Shaw is an intelligent, honest, straightforward man and a hard worker.

MR. PILLSBURY, the wealthy miller of Minneapolis, believes that before the next harvest, flour and wheat prices will be much higher than at present, independent of speculation. Mr. Pillsbury may be right and he may be wrong. It would be well, however, for farmers not to swallow the pill offered but to try and get the best price they can at present.

THE Manitoba railway difficulty has been transferred to the legal tribunal for settlement. People will watch with interest the result, not only on account of the importance of the questions involved, but also from the fact that Hon. Edward Blake and Hon. Oliver Mowat are arrayed in legal conflict against each other. When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war.

THE statistics published elsewhere from the report for November of Mr. Blue, of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, will be read with interest. Taken altogether the yield of the various crops per acre has been considerably in excess of the previous year. The reports indicate for the acreage of the new crop of fall wheat considerable falling off in the south-western part of the province and a large increase in the other sections.

THE good work goes bravely on. Premier Fielding, of Nova Scotia, is starting an experimental farm in connection with the School of Agriculture at Truro. The tuition will be free and the students will be paid wages for their work, sufficient almost to cover the cost of their board and class books. With the Dominion Model Farms at Ottawa and in the North-West, and the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, the outlook for agriculture is bright indeed.

TESTS of frosted wheat are being made at the Ottawa Experimental Farm by Prof. Saunders, with the object of showing to what extent it is adapted for seeding purposes. Farmers throughout the Dominion are invited to send samples of any doubtful grain for experiment and an official and reliable report will be furnished, free of charge, as soon as possible. By this means farmers will be in a position to know whether any grain they are sowing is possessed of vitality or not, and they will also be able to estimate, what yield they will have and if it will pay to sow certain grain.

THE annual Fat Stock Show, usually held in Toronto about the middle of December, has been postponed till shortly before Easter, when it will be held in conjunction with the Clydesdale Stallion Show, that is, if a suitable building can be procured. What's the matter with Ald. Frankland's scheme to get a permanent and commodious building in Toronto for these purposes? About the beginning of the year there was a great deal of talk about it but surely it is not to end in a fizzle. If the worthy alderman waits till the new drill shed is built, so that he can get the present one, he will wait a precious long time. Ald. Frankland's laudable efforts should be heartily and practically aided by the citizens of Toronto. Why don't they do so? Will somebody answer this question?

HON. CHAS. DRURY, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, has been making things "hum" since his appointment. He intends to do all he can to place the college on a first-class working footing, complete in all departments. It is understood that he will attend meetings of Farmers' Institutes and Agricultural Societies during the winter, and so, by knowing all the wants of the agricultural interests of the country, he will be enabled to put himself in a position to aid them in so far as that can be done by legislation, or by assisting the various societies in other respects. It is his earnest desire to make all work together—Dairymen, Fruitgrowers, Beekeepers, Poultrymen, and the various agricultural societies of the country—and by securing such co-operative work among them, to promote their general as well as particular interests.