

The Winter Fair at Guelph.

In conjunction with the Toronto Junction Stock-yards project, and the proposed new live-stock pavilion there, with which the names of some officials were connected, disquieting rumors have been abroad for some time as to the future home of the Ontario Winter Fair, which has been so successfully conducted at Guelph. In consequence, a joint conference was held in that city on May 18th, between representatives of the Board of Trade, the Fat-stock Club, City, County and Township Councils, and Hon. John Dryden and F. W. Hodson, the Live-stock Commissioner.

Hon. Mr. Dryden assured the Guelph representatives that the impression that the Winter Fair and Sale might be removed was entirely wrong. There was an agreement with the Government that the fair would be maintained in Guelph, where a large amount of money had been expended upon the buildings. Guelph was better adapted for a successful educational event, like the Winter Fair, partly because of the location of the Agricultural College. Mr. Dryden said he was not connected with the Union Stock-yards project, though he sympathized with the idea of developing a Canadian dressed-meat trade in connection therewith. To aid the eastern part of the Province, an adjunct of the Winter Fair was conducted at Ottawa. The Live-stock Commissioner having explained his position, a resolution of thanks was tendered for the satisfactory explanations.

News from the Capital.

Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist at the Central Experimental Farm, gave special attention to ensilage in his evidence before the Agriculture Committee of the House of Commons, the present session. Roots, he said, made the best feed, but they were more expensive on account of the larger amount of manual labor required in their cultivation. The Agriculturist said that fifteen pounds of ensilage a day, fed to horses, gave satisfactory results. In Quebec, and along the St. Lawrence in Ontario, farmers were abandoning silos because they had not properly built them. Silos should be round, with an outlet at the bottom, and the walls perfectly vertical. The silo should be high and perfectly air-tight. A stave silo, which can be built for \$1.00 or \$1.50 per ton capacity, was best for farmers of moderate means. A cement silo would cost from \$2.00 to \$4.00 a ton. Mr. Grisdale said that clover hay was better fodder than timothy when the former is well saved. This was on the same principle that clover pasture was better than timothy. If a farmer were not depending on the markets for profit, it would pay him to grow clover in preference to timothy.

Giving some comparative figures, derived from tests of the past season, Mr. Grisdale explained that it cost \$33.00 to produce an acre of roots, and \$24.00 for the same area of corn. These sums paid for rent of land, labor, manure and seed. On an average, corn cost 50 cents a ton more than roots.

STEER-FEEDING TEST.

The recent tests in feeding steers resulted in a report in favor of letting the beasts run loose in pens. Eight steers were fed in this way for 129 days. Each steer cost 11.9 cents a day, and the cost of putting on 100 pounds of beef was \$5.22. There was a profit from the steers of \$7.86 per head. The profit from each of nine steers, fed tied, for the same period, was \$6.95 each. The average cost of 100 pounds of beef was \$5.59, which was 37 cents more than in the other class. The stock were grade Shorthorns, and the animals were of a uniform class. An Experiment three years ago, showed that the most economical method was feeding the animals tied. A summary statement to the effect that matured steers were fed loose at \$15.00 per head for 129 days; and tied, \$15.50 for the same time. The labor also cost more in the case of the tied animals.

Evidence was given that three-year-old steers were fed at a cost of \$5.22 per hundred pounds for added flesh; two-year-olds \$4.30, and yearlings, \$4.50. The beef in each case was sold at \$7.90 per cwt.

An experiment demonstrated that it cost two cents a pound more to fat pigs outside, in cabins, during winter, than in warm houses. Many farmers in Ontario had tried the former method, which led to the test.

EVIDENCE RE IRRIGATION.

The Committee will hear evidence this year on irrigation in the West. A large sum has been spent the last few years on artificial watering of lands at the foothills of the Rockies. Heretofore, no formal testimony has been given Parliament.

DATES OF CENTRAL FAIR.

The dates of the Central Canada Exhibition have been arranged this year so that stockmen may show at Toronto and London without being debarred from coming to Ottawa. It is the first time that these three exhibitions have formed a circuit. On this account, Ottawa expects a record exhibit of live stock from Western Ontario. The Central Canada Fair opens September 16th, the second last day of the London Fair. The London Exhibition begins the second last day of that at Toronto. This arrangement is specially favorable to Western Ontario people, because the last trip on which the railways carry stock free will be the long one, from Ottawa home. There is a special gold medal for every breed of stock in the Ottawa prize-list. The gifts of special prizes is the largest

on record. A staff is employed fencing the grounds, and preparing for taking in the new poultry building, which is included in the winter fair building. The park will be cut off, so that it will not be closed to the public in the summer.

FRUIT IMPORTERS MET.

Six members of the staff of the Dominion Fruit Inspectors, headed by Mr. A. McNeill, visited the Experimental Farm on May 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, and conducted meetings in conjunction with Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Shutt and Mr. Macoun of the Farm. Hon. Sydney Fisher and Prof. Robertson were present the opening day, and gave addresses. The inspectors are traveling to spread knowledge as to orchard management. Several local fruit men attended the meetings at the Farm. The subjects taken up were: "Soil Treatment," by Mr. Shutt; "Orchard Insects," by Dr. Fletcher; "Pruning," by Mr. McNeill, and "Grafting and Spraying," by Mr. F. L. Dery.

Mr. Jones' Holstein Sale.

The auction sale of registered Holsteins held by D. Jones, Jr., Vtla Nova, Ont., on May 3rd, was a grand success in every way. Many farmers in the neighborhood had started seeding, consequently the home crowd was not as large as it would have been, but many buyers from a distance were present. As the day was fine, and the cattle in the pink of condition, the bidding was brisk, and good prices were realized. The bull, Prince Yonintje Clothilde De Kol which headed the herd, was purchased by Thos. B. Carlaw & Son, of Warkworth, Ont., at the handsome figure of \$230. Considering his breeding and individual merit, Mr. Carlaw has secured one of the best sires in Canada. The young calves sired by this bull were models in every respect. The average price for fifteen cows and four heifers, coming two years old, was \$110 each. Below is the list of females sold. The bulls were, with the exception of the herd-header, very young, from three days to ten months, and only the latter reached the \$100 mark.

Queen De Kol, 10 years; F. M. Carpenter, Stony Creek	\$125
Maxie, 12 years; J. H. Taylor, Scotland, Ont.	80
Cornelia Artis (3 teated), 11 years; E. Woodley, Waterford	60
Helbon Gentle, 10 years; E. Laidlaw, Alymer	100
Ayde Wayne, 7 years; E. B. Valey, Woodstock	100
Roxie Bess, 7 years; Geo. Rice, Tilsonburg	125
Gentle 2nd, 5 years; P. D. Ede, Oxford Centre	130
Nierop Netherland's Clara, 5 years; P. D. Ede	140
Queen De Kol 2nd's Pledge, 4 years G. Millen, Fruitland	145
Netherland Bess, 4 years; E. B. Valey, Woodstock	105
Helbon Blossom 2nd, 3 years; W. Stillman, Campbellford	130
American Girl, 2 years; R. Connolly, Ingersoll	95
Edna Wallace, 2 years; F. Leeson, Alymer	85
Bessie Gretqui, 3 years; R. Kelly, Hagersville	105
Flora Netherland, 3 years; E. Laidlaw, Alymer	115
Daisy Texal 4th's Roxie, coming 2 years; J. H. Taylor, Scotland, Ont.	105
Bessie De Kol Dorrien, coming two years; R. Connolly, Ingersoll	115
Gentle De Kol, coming 2 years; F. M. Carpenter, Stony Creek	125
Maxie De Kol, coming 2 years; J. H. Taylor	100
Bessie Spink's Princess Clothilde De Kol, 1 year; T. W. McQueen, Tilsonburg	75
Gentle Clothilde, 10 months; M. Richardson & Son, Caledonia	90
Aggie Clothilde De Kol, 1 year; C. E. Smith, Scotland, Ont.	70
Villa Nova's Jewel, 1 year; R. J. Bowman, Springvale	42
Clothilde Pledge De Kol, 3 mos.; M. Richardson & Son, Caledonia	80
Gentle 2nd's Beauty, 3 weeks; P. D. Ede, Oxford Centre	40
Daisy Texal De Kol, 3 weeks; M. Richardson & Son, Caledonia	43
Blossom De Kol, 1 week; L. O. Nelles, Boston ..	81
Bessie Wayne's Buttercup, 1 month; T. W. McQueen, Tilsonburg	85

Prince Edward Co. Notes.

Spring work was not generally begun until May 2nd. Since then it has gone on continually, and the bulk of seeding will be finished by the 20th, if we are not interrupted by rain. The soil is working up well, and farmers are having no trouble in preparing a good seed-bed. Fall wheat wintered well, and there was every prospect of a good crop, but the cold snap about the middle of April damaged it more or less the county over, and practically ruined it in some sections. It is doubtful if it averages half a crop for the whole county. Clover suffered in the same manner, but in a much less degree. Stock wintered only fairly well on the whole, the cold weather being probably the reason.

Prices are, on the whole, fair. Horses are worth from \$100 to \$200 each; milk cows, from \$40 to \$50, and sheep only about \$5. Hogs are on the rise again, local quotations being \$4.60 per cwt. About two weeks ago our largest drover shipped seven carloads to Montreal, and paid the farmers \$6,000 for the same. This is evidence that Prince Edward produces a great amount of pork. Eggs are steady at 13c. per dozen. Dressed poultry is sky-high, chickens being worth from 80c. to \$1.00 per pair. Butter sells at 18c. to 20c. per pound, and potatoes at about 90c. per bag.

CANUCK.

A Budget of British News.

(Special correspondence.)

The weather continues the very best for all kinds of farm work, and although the season is decidedly late, there is now by no means a bad lookout for the general well-doing either of stock or crop. The extensive breadths of bare fallows that were in evidence a month ago, are now bright green with the delicate braird of barley and oats. Clover and grass layers, as also sanfoin and tares, are improving fast, and their progress has been especially noticeable this week. Grass is now becoming abundant, and cattle are mostly turned out. The increasing popularity of potato cultivation is a feature of the times. While farmers, as a rule, have been groaning over low prices and bad returns, potato-growers had, in many cases, been growing rich. Last season was undoubtedly a trying one, and in many cases, most disastrous. But there was a silver, or golden, lining to the cloud, in the shape of higher prices than had been seen for years.

THE WHEAT OUTLOOK.

In regard to the condition of the autumn-sown wheat, very few reports are favorable, while the area, notwithstanding a probable increase in March-sown wheat, is certain to be very small. It is computed that the home-grown crop will not be more than five million quarters, and as our consumption, including seed and other requirements, is now not less than thirty-two million quarters, we must look forward to the requirements from abroad next season reaching twenty-seven million quarters.

TARIFF COMMISSION.

The Chamberlain Tariff Commission is still pursuing its investigations, and some important evidence has been before the Agricultural section in the shape of "Canadian Wheat Resources," from statistics prepared by Mr. C. N. Bell, secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. The following statement, which relates to the harvesting of the wheat crop of 1902, shows in Mr. Bell's words, that "Winnipeg receipts of wheat for the past year greatly exceed those of Chicago, or of Duluth-Superior":

Winnipeg	51,832,000 bush.
Duluth-Superior	42,406,923 "
Chicago	37,940,953 "

Mr. Bell goes on to remark: "It will now be in order, as far as relates to the grain arrivals, at least, to abandon the trite saying that Winnipeg will some day be a second Chicago, for Chicago makes a poor showing as compared with the great wheat-handling center." The report continues: "The wheat acreage in Manitoba alone in 1902 was 2,040,000 acres, and that acreage yielded 58,000,000 bushels of wheat. Four times that acreage, at the Manitoba rate of 1902 per acre, would yield all that Great Britain requires, with 20,000,000 bushels over; and Manitoba contains 64,000,000 acres of land surface from which to select the 8,000,000 acres required."

The Commission also have before it a host of information compiled by Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, but space forbids me giving any further extracts.

The wheat market in London during the past weeks has displayed considerable weakness under a certain pressure to sell cargoes, and in these a decline took place. The pressure, however, having to a certain extent been removed, the market has recovered somewhat and shows certainly more stability at the decline.

CATTLE TRADE.

We are now looking forward to some good consignments of Canadian cattle. The trade at the foreign animals wharf at Deptford has fluctuated a good deal lately.

WAXED CHEESE NOT LIKED.

Some time ago the Dominion Department of Agriculture introduced into our markets cheese which had been coated with a thin covering of wax. From special enquiries made, I find that the innovation is not generally liked by our traders. They complain that retailers will not buy it unless they have some advantage given them in price. They prefer the "old crusty" look of cheese, and, moreover, they say, when the waxed is cut up, it does not keep as well as the other. The cheese trade is very flat at present, and one large dealer in Canadian produce, whom I was interviewing yesterday, said, re waxing: "Considering our losses on cheese at present, tell your people to coat them with gold leaf instead of wax, which is no good, and retailers object to paying the price of cheese for wax." Some of the cheese sent here from the States, is much more heavily waxed than Canadian, and although it certainly has a clean appearance, it is overdone. It looks what we call "faked," and that's enough to spoil the sale.

BACON.

The enquiry for Canadian cures has been somewhat slack, the dealers not taking on very strongly with this kind of meat just now, and as no pinch in supplies is experienced, but rather the reverse, the sales affected have been without any improvement in values.

Hams are selling pretty well at the very moderate prices now ruling for all descriptions, supplies being ample for most requirements.