

evince the certainty of rapid progress. We have seen the granaries overflowing with fine wheat, and astonishing crops have everywhere been realized. Here we see the cattle are thriving, fattening, and looking better even than those in Ontario, convincing us that this country, by judicious management, is destined to contain an immense population. The inhabitants are most hopeful, and as a general rule satisfied.

From Moosomin we visited Wapella, which is situated on a rising ground and commands a fine view of the prairie. In the exhibition then being held we saw white spring wheat as white as the average fall wheat raised in Ontario.

The next place visited was Whitewood. From this point we drove to Dr. Myers' farm, some eleven miles distant, situated on the Pipestone Creek. Dr. Myers is probably the most extensive experimenter in the Northwest. He has a large farm with fine flats and uplands. He has imported a great variety of grain from foreign countries, employs a French gardener, and has expended some \$2,000 on his garden alone, planting it with all varieties of fruits and trees that might be adapted to the country. He has a system of underground heating for the early production of vegetables and fruits, and his vegetable productions we have never seen surpassed. It was a pity to see large quantities going to waste which he had raised in hopes of supplying the various towns along the railway; but he had met with discouragement in freight rates, etc. His house was built after the Russian principle, having two large brick furnaces in the centre. It was so arranged that his verandah was also heated. In this glass enclosed space he had his plants and flowers growing even in the winter. Water did not freeze in his house.

He had a peculiarly-constructed double cellar, and had seeds from the most northern part of Russia and any other part from which he thought beneficial results could be derived. Dr. Myers was one of the most intelligent and best informed men on agricultural affairs that we have ever met. We think it unfortunate for the country that such men do not meet with the encouragement that they deserve.

From Whitewood we proceed to Broadview, and find the stock as good as at previous exhibitions witnessed in the Northwest, with a good showing of vegetables and grain. On Saturday evening we left Broadview for Grenfell, and in the morning we learned that most of the inhabitants of the place had gone out to fight the prairie fire which raged about five miles distant. These fires are one of the greatest dangers that the settlers of this country have to contend against, which they are able to do pretty effectually by having wide or double guards plowed around their stacks and buildings.

#### RECIPROCITY.

It has now been admitted by some of the American officials that reciprocity was abolished by the Americans because it was thought that Canadian sympathies were with the Secessionists. This opinion is now dying out. We are pleased to see that a more amicable feeling now exists, and that in some slight ways concessions have already been made. We hope these may be increased, as a freer intercourse would be of advantage to both Canada and the United States. We believe that the admission of trees, plants, seeds and fruits will be found beneficial to both. They are now free, except cereals.

We may anticipate some great changes, as

our politicians are now dividing, one favoring a stronger connection with the United States under Commercial Union, the other advocating a trade policy with Great Britain and her colonies under the name of Imperial Federation. Both parties have some good planks to stand on. Could not some American or Britisher devise a plan in which we could all join hands for good,—the United States, Great Britain and her colonies—as one English-speaking people, having higher aims than that of individual greed or blood shed. We would hail such with pleasure.

#### Our Prize Essay.

The essays received competing for our prize of \$5 on the subject of *Farm Drainage* were so numerous and so ably written that we regret exceedingly to be compelled to waste so much valuable matter. The principal points given by the essayists, save the drainage of some special soils, are covered by the two receiving the prizes. The Drainage Act and its effects upon the farmer, a very important subject, requiring thorough ventilation, was also touched upon by some of the writers.

The ability with which all the competitors wrote on this subject convinces us that they will be able to write on others equally well. We therefore offer to divide \$65 among them, giving each essayist a remuneration of \$5.00 for an article on any subject that he may consider to be most important to the farmers, or on one which we have most neglected in his estimation. The essay will, however, have to meet our approval, and requires to be clear and concise, occupying from one to two columns in the *ADVOCATE*, unless suitable for continuation.

#### A Grievance Removed.

For some years past it has been the practice of our more extensive breeders of live stock, to hold annual or periodical sales at important centers across the line, and until recently all such exports to the U. S. were admitted free. But for some time past duty has been imposed on herds sent across the line by Canadians, yet Americans were allowed to come to Canada and buy such stock, which was then admitted free of duty. The preceding circumstances prevented Canadians holding sales in any of the neighboring States, which was certainly a hardship. The attention of our Government was called to the fact, and by the efforts of Sir Chas. Tupper, the American Government has removed the embargo, and issued the following orders to their Custom Officers:—

"Under the tariff laws of the United States no discrimination shall be made with respect to the liability to pay duty between citizen and alien importers, and the statute which exempts 'animals especially imported for breeding purposes' from the payment of duty is to be applied without regard to the persons by whom they may be imported, that is without regard to whether the persons are foreigners or citizens of the United States. The question to be determined upon the importation of such animals is whether, upon the proofs presented and an examination of the animals, they are found to be principally valuable for breeding purposes, and that their importation, although for sale, has that object specially in view. If this question is determined in the affirmative free entry should be granted. This rule accords with Article 388 of the general regulations, which, in the case of blooded animals imported into the United States, prescribes that:

'It may be generally assumed on the formal proofs that they are imported for breeding pur-

poses, because there would be no profit in importing them for any other purpose. You are therefore instructed, upon the importation of blooded animals into your port, claimed to be exempt from duty under the said provision of the law, to pursue the same course with regard to those imported by foreigners, as is now the practice regarding animals imported by citizens of the United States.'"

#### Notes from the Eastern Provinces.

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.

New Brunswick has just abolished its Board of Agriculture and connected the Department of Agriculture with the Solicitor-General's Department, to whom the Government and the Secretary of Agriculture is directly responsible. Thus the farmers are ruled out of any direct influence in agricultural matters. The Secretary of Agriculture is a lawyer, and, with the help of the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General, the farmers certainly will be kept well up in law. It seems rather a reflection, to say the least of it, that, among the forty or fifty thousand farmers in New Brunswick that there can't be one found who is qualified to act as Secretary of Agriculture.

The new department, however, has decided to spend twenty thousand dollars in the importation of horses and sheep, to be sold outright to the farmers. The Government at present own some 18 stallions of the different breeds, that are leased each year—the Agricultural Societies chiefly being the competitors. \$150 is the upset price at which each horse is put, and the terms for service not to be above a certain figure. This year two or three of the horses—two Clydesdales and a Percheron—sold for more than double the upset price. A few went for just the price, and two or three were not bid off. It was supposed the Government would give up the Stock Farm, which is not by any means a paying institution, directly—at least it may be indirectly. It was allowed, however, to live awhile longer.

The Nova Scotia School of Agriculture, in Truro, is working its way quietly along under the care of Prof. Herman The. Smith. Last year there were eight students, which, the Professor says, is as large a number in proportion to his constituency as is attending any similar school in America.

This spring they expect to have a farm in connection with the school, and by combining the practical with the theoretical, hope to attract a larger number of students.

Although there is a large amount of capital invested in mining and fishing in Nova Scotia, she has a great many energetic and intelligent farmers, especially among her young men, who are determined to work the business for all it is worth.

Of the latter it is but fair to mention the Page brothers, of Amherst, who are almost the only breeders of Holsteins in the Maritime Provinces, and Mr. Frank Black, a Guelph student, who is now on his way to France to buy Percheron horses. Mr. J. R. Lamy, of the same town, and Mr. Amos Etter, have been spending thousands of dollars in the last two or three years in introducing the best racing blood in horses from the States, and claim they have some of the fastest stock on the continent. How far this will be an advantage to the Province your correspondent sayeth not, but it shows a disposition to be up with the times.

I was somewhat surprised in looking over