

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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We Wish You A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Agricultural Work in 1904

THE year 1904 closes, leaving the farmers of Canada in a fairly prosperous condition. There have been some crop failures here and there, but on the whole farmers have made progress and begin the new year under more favorable circumstances than they did that of 1904.

The year up till October was marked generally by abundant rainfalls, though a few sections in the Maritime Provinces suffered severely through drought. The year closed, however, with not enough rainfall in many places to supply sufficient water in the wells and streams for live stock. This shortage of water is felt in many parts of the country today, and unless relief comes, serious consequences may result. Aside from these drawbacks, which are largely local in character, the close of 1904 finds the farmer's lot a comparatively happy one. The shortage in the wheat crop has been made up by the advance in prices. Though cheese was low in price and the output less than the year previous, but, on the other hand, has forced ahead. Fruit prices early in the season were low. They improved towards the close of the year, resulting in good average values for first-class fruit. The development of co-operative packing and shipping during the year is a feature worthy of note. The extension of this movement will mean larger profits for the grower. The poultry yard has again demonstrated its ability to add to the profits of the farm, when properly managed.

It is, however, in the realm of live stock where the chief agricultural features for 1904 are to be found. The National Live Stock Convention, held at Ottawa last March, marked a new era in Canadian live stock history. That gathering will be remembered more for the means it afforded of bringing the leading stockmen from all parts of the Dominion into touch with each other rather than for the actual work accomplished. Nevertheless it was an important event and marked the beginning of a movement that may have an important bearing upon future live stock history in Canada.

Aside from this era-marking event, there are several features in connection with the practical live stock work of the year worthy of note. The large increase in the importation of horses, chiefly Clydesdales and Shires, and the large decrease in Shorthorn importations are deserving of comment. Never in the history of the Dominion have stallions of better quality been imported from Great Britain than during 1904.

Then, the year has been marked by the bringing in of several fine lots of Clyde and Shire fillies, which means much for the future of horse breeding in Canada. The paucity of Shorthorn importations is hard to account for. Perhaps the new quarantine regulations issued by the Dominion Government last spring had something to do with it, though to what extent is not known at the moment. A more potent reason may, perhaps, be found in the condition of the market, and the fact that more home-bred stuff of good quality is coming forward to supply the demand. Sheep importations were well up to the average, while swine importations were large, especially in Yorkshires and Berkshires.

The show season of 1904 was a successful one for Canadian breeders. Both

of breeding and feeding choice finished heaves an unprofitable one. But if we read the signs aright, a change for the better is on the way.

During 1904 very little legislation for the benefit of agriculture was secured. Perhaps very little was needed. Legislation looking to the regulation of the seed trade, though discussed in the House of Commons at its last session, was postponed. The Minister of Agriculture has, however, promised pure seed legislation the coming session. One important regulation, though it does not properly come under the head of legislation, was that restricting the bringing in of scrub horses from the United States. Had this regulation been in force a few years earlier, horse breeding, especially in western Canada, would have been in a better position than it is today. There is, perhaps, not much to complain of on that score. Prices for good horses of nearly all classes ruled high during the year, and the outlook just now is that they will continue to rule high for some time to come. The work of the Railway Commission, begun last spring, has had an important bearing upon agriculture in smoothing the way between the consumer and producer of farm products.

Agricultural education has made progress. The feature of the year in this connection has been the incentive given to nature study, and the movement towards improvement in rural school life. The formal opening of the Macdonald Institute at Guelph, and of several consolidated rural schools in various parts of the Dominion, have been the mile posts set up during the year that make for progress along these lines. Sir Wm. Macdonald's gift of an agricultural college for Quebec is another event that shows the signs of the times. True, the teaching of agriculture in rural schools has made little advancement. But this must come with the better equipment for training in this branch that is now at the disposal of teachers.

The year has closed without any real solution of the farm help problem in sight. What 1905 will bring forth it is hard to say. Farmers, however, are gradually adapting themselves to the new conditions which the scarcity of help has imposed upon them and will be better prepared in future to cope with this difficulty. The Canadian West continues to be the goal for which thousands of people from other lands are making. New Ontario is not being passed by either. Altogether things are coming our way, and he should be a proud individual who can call himself a Canadian these days.

POULTRY NUMBER

The annual poultry number of THE FARMING WORLD will be issued on Feb. 1st next. This number, as usual, will be of interest and value to every poultry raiser in Canada. Several special features and illustrations will be provided, and we can promise our readers something real good upon this important branch of agriculture.

We would commend this number to advertisers as being an excellent medium for reaching the poultry raising farmers of Canada. A large edition will be run off. Advertisers desiring space should apply at once.

at St. Louis and at the International they cleaned the boards in not a few classes and brought lasting honor to their country. A feature of the show ring, both at home and abroad, was the high stand taken by Canadian-bred stock. This was particularly noticeable in some of the sheep and swine classes. In cattle, also, Canadian-bred stuff has no reason to be ashamed of its record for 1904. This is encouraging and should be an incentive to breeders to place more reliance upon animals of home breeding.

There is one event of the year that should not be overlooked, and that is the revival in the sheep industry. Though its effect is not very marked as yet, it nevertheless is here, and 1904 will be remembered as the beginning of better things for the sheep breeder. Then, the signs are not wanting of a revival in the beef cattle trade also. 1904 was characterized by comparatively low prices for beef animals, though not so low as to have rendered the business