

Editorial.

On the Wing.

THE CANADIAN FAT STOCK EXHIBITION.

The principal fat stock exhibition of Canada has been established in Guelph. It has been in existence for some years, and has been established by the farmers in that locality. It is the fruit of the fat stock market that has been in Guelph over twenty years, and has become renowned as the best in Canada. Buyers have been attracted for the purchase of the best meat, not only for the cities of Canada, but for shipment to the British, and even the United States markets. Guelph has long been celebrated for the large number of really good breeders and good feeders of farm stock in the surrounding country.

We should estimate that about one thousand head of fat cattle and sheep appeared at this market. We believe that every animal offered for sale, whether on the market or otherwise, was disposed of at good prices, some of the prize animals realizing 13 cents per pound. Of course this price was only paid for prime, choice show animals. Large lots were sold at 6 cents per pound, while a few inferior animals only brought 4 cents per pound.

The exhibit of fat stock took place in the Drill Shed, which was fitted up for the occasion. It makes a good, convenient, comfortable place for the exhibition, and at a very trifling expense it might be made capable of accommodating twice as many visitors. The attendance was really good, and although the prizes were not large, the number of animals brought out proved the satisfaction of the exhibitors.

One great reason for the popularity of this exhibition and this market is because it has been established, conducted and maintained by the practical farmers of the locality. Fair, honest awards have been given by the judges, such as have given the farmers confidence. We heard no complaints, which is a very uncommon thing for us, as we have become so used to them from exhibitors at our Provincial and other large exhibitions. See account of the Chicago exhibition in our last issue.

We congratulate the people of Guelph on their long established, excellent cattle market, and on their fat stock exhibit, and would strongly advise them to continue their exhibit, guard their own interests, and keep the management in their own hands. They can see the results of allowing exhibitions to fall under Government control, by referring to the Dairymen's Association. It was commenced by the farmers around Ingersoll. They had an excellent, useful and beneficial organization until they received Government money; from that time dissatisfaction commenced, and this day Ingersoll has to regret the loss of its offspring, and to mourn over the deplorable misappropriation of the funds nominally granted to benefit the dairy interest.

Mr. Hood, of Guelph, was the largest exhibitor of fat sheep; he carried off far more prizes than any other exhibitor in fat sheep. Some of his stock, we understand, had been purchased from other feeders. This plan should be discouraged, as it introduces the speculative system into our exhibitions, to the detriment of the plain, practical farmer, as a good judge can run around the country and select the best fattened animals or even import them.

Would it not be well for the encouragement of the breeder and feeder to award the highest prize to the breeder and feeder of any animal, and reduce the prizes say 25 or 50 per cent. on all animals exhibited that were not fed by the breeder? The

exhibitors of large lots of poultry have for years been in the habit of showing purchased and borrowed birds, to the injury of the real breeder. We should aim to encourage the breeder, rather than the speculator. Mr. Hood exhibited many very superior animals that were bred and fed by himself; particularly noticeable and meritorious were several cross-bred sheep, showing very distinct marks of improvement.

Legislative Agriculture.

Since issuing our December number we have noticed the political, and political-agricultural papers, teeming with fulsome praise of acts done and great promises for future good to be done by further grants from the public exchequer. We would be much pleased to support any measure if it could be shown that it was really intended to benefit the farmers. But we deem it our duty to look to the past as well as to the future, and a very important future presents itself, which should be discussed—as whether the Government money has been expended for the injury or benefit of farmers? or whether more good or more harm has been done by it? We see the petitions sent in to abolish the grant to the Provincial Exhibition. If that exhibition had been doing the good it ought to have done, no such petitions would have been sent. The question arises, Why are these numerous petitions sent in from such influential bodies as the County Councils of Ontario? Simply because the money has been misapplied, and corrupt practices have caused such disgust against the once lauded Provincial Exhibition. Never was so little good done; never has there been such irreparable injury done to the farmers as during the existence of the Model Farm. That was its first name; now it is called the School of Agriculture. The farm is naturally unfit for tests; it is distant from a station; and is a curse to the surrounding country, being filled with Canada thistles, which spread their seeds; the road around the farm was so thick with them that the inhabitants desired to compel the Government to have them cut, but the Government were not liable for the taxes for cutting thistles, as farmers are, so the thistles went to seed. The new buildings erected are not put up near as well as the old ones were. They evince neither artistic skill nor convenience, but are a conglomerated mass of ill-constructed and in many cases useless buildings. They have not the order, neatness, design or comfort that may be found in many farmers' establishments; in fact, they stand as a monumental disgrace, rather than as pillars of honor.

The reports issued from the Model Farm try to show that it will not pay to feed beef cattle, and yet practical farmers make it pay. The dairy reports have been pronounced unreliable, and as for their seed report, it has been worse than incorrect. This last year we saw a crop of hay in one field; the greater part would not yield over three-fourths of a ton, and much of it would not exceed half a ton to the acre; while in an adjoining farmer's field fully two tons were being cut per acre.

We attended at the last stock sale; a farmer wished us to purchase an animal, if suitable. We found the stock not at all equal to that of many other breeders; in fact, many expressed their utter disgust with much of it. Despite this, the first Shorthorn set up was sold at what experienced breeders said was about double its value: it was a coarse white heifer.

Perhaps the most attractive features about the place are the flowers. They looked well and were much admired by those farmers who came from the north; but those who had really seen floriculture, merely passed them by as being principally attrac-

tive by the large space devoted to them. We went to the greenhouse and asked to be admitted. The keeper at the door said that no person was to be admitted that day, because the Grangers had stolen so many of the plants.

The first Manager of this Model Farm was an American. The Government found it necessary to give him \$1,500 to flee the country. The Rev. F. W. Clark officiated for a time, but that would not do. Another Professor was employed, but he became so disgusted that he jumped into the river and tried to drown himself. Mr. Johnstone was next engaged, but political agriculture suited him better than practical agriculture, and he can be often heard on the platform or in the political papers. Mr. Mills and Mr. Brown now hold the fort. Mr. Ballantine's dairy, which was erected on the ground, has not been of much service except to the contractors. The unity, strength and utility of the Dairymen's Association have been destroyed by him and his co-operators; they have rather endeavored to suppress information regarding the dairy interest than encourage it, and now more money is to be asked for under the name of aiding dairymen.

The narrow sphere of utility or profit derived from the annual grant to the fruit growers also shows this. It has been utilized for the benefit of a few rather than the good of the whole. For instance, any one may go on the Model Farm at Guelph, and see the most miserable specimens of ornamental trees that have been planted there—stunted, ill-shapen trees, purchased, perhaps, from a few pet individuals. They are certainly a disgrace to the name of a Model Farm. They have not been purchased from our best and most honorable nurserymen. Most probably they will have them pulled out before next fall, after these strictures are read; but we would ask a fair inspection of them at the present time, for with the exception of the Austrian pines and the fruit trees we doubt if ever such an inferior display could be found on this continent for such an outlay. Perhaps this has been done by the very parties who ask for and wish to control an anticipated special grant for orchard culture. There are many small farmers who can show better culture at much less cost.

We have no hesitation in saying, and without the fear of contradiction by any unbiased and truthful person, that the moneys granted to the Provincial Board, to the Veterinary College, to the School of Agriculture and for the Agricultural Commissioners' report, and its printing and circulation, have all been manipulated to a great extent for the benefit of partisans, and although some good may have been done, the interests of those conducting private enterprises have been injured; and the grants that have been given, with the intention of benefiting agriculture, by many Members of Parliament, have, in fact, often tended rather to its injury. We will give one instance: Mr. P. R. Lamb, of Toronto, has a highly beneficial establishment in that city from which he has been supplying Canadian farmers with very valuable fertilizers made from bones and other refuse that was being wasted. He was compelled to go before the Commission; his accounts were garbled, and such strictures were made on his manufactures as were most injurious to him. No doubt much useful information is supplied, but much injury is done by it and its manipulators, and it must redound to the disgrace rather than to the honor of our country, when thoroughly sifted. For the honor of our country we hold that favoritism, in the issuing of such a book, should be forgotten.

The unsatisfactory position in which our Provincial Board, the Herd Book, the Model Farm