

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL.

A wealthy Englishman, Mr. John Corbett, has donated £50,000 for the establishment of an agricultural school in Worcestershire.

Mr. Octave Ouellette has been appointed Secretary of the Council of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, in place of the late Mr. Ed. A. Barnard.

Steps are being taken in England to organize an association of agricultural and horse shows, in order to avoid the clashing of dates, to arrange for uniformity in prize colors, and to take a common line of action regarding exhibitors and attendants who "misbehave" or transgress regulations.

The Fat Stock Shows which commence with the Provincial at Brantford, Nov. 30th to Dec. 2nd, to be followed by the Oxford Club Show at Woodstock on Dec. 5th and 6th, and the Guelph Show on Dec. 6th, 7th and 8th, promise to be of greater interest than ever before.

Commenting on the lessons of the recent British dairy shows, the *Scottish Farmer* says: "They teach something regarding milk yields and butter tests, and they also suggest reflections on the different breeds of cattle. There is no best breed, but there is such a thing as a serviceable general-purpose breed."

Hereafter all horses at the English Royal Shows are to be subjected to veterinary examination before being allowed to gain a prize, and must be pronounced free from indications of hereditary unsoundness. Hitherto the rule has only applied to stallions and brood mare, but now the rule applies to animals of all ages in the breeding classes.

Mr. Duncan McEachran, Chief Live Stock Inspector for the Dominion, as a result of his observations at British ports of landing while on a visit there during the past season, came to the conclusion that our beef cattle, compared with others, are degenerating for want of fresh blood, and says that something ought to be done to encourage more importations of pure-bred bulls. The Argentine stockmen have been the most extensive purchasers of British pure-bred stock of late years, and their cattle as a result show great improvement on reaching the British markets. "To get the benefit of our nearness to the English market," concludes the Doctor, "we must produce cattle of the most improved and most profitable breeds."

The *Iowa Homestead*, in discussing the bacon hog question from the Western States point of view, says: "With supplies of the various breeds as they are, we believe that, under a favoring environment and favorable feed conditions, where a bacon hog is desired it would be easier, cheaper and quicker to develop him from one of the existing breeds that are plentiful than it would to multiply bacon hogs from one of the breeds, the conformation of which is at the moment more favorable to the purpose, but which are comparatively scarce. We believe, further, that it is vain to attempt, with any stock, to grow the bacon hog unless favorable environment and favorable conditions are supplied." The *Homestead* believes that in those western localities where barley, peas and alfalfa do well, there will be a tendency toward the bacon hog. The successful experience of the Dominion, however, would go to show that slow progress will be made without the aid, to begin with, of the prevalent modern Canadian type of bacon animal, the characteristics having been fixed by a long, persistent and intelligent course of breeding, backed up by our system of feeding and general management.

The Production of Linseed.

It has been a matter of surprise to onlookers interested in the trade of Canada, that so much money is sent from the Dominion to England to pay for linseed oil, when we have a hundredfold more acreage than enough to grow within our own borders all the seed for the linseed oil that is wanted. Its principal uses are for the manufacture of paints, varnishes, floor oilcloths, etc. The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* has been making inquiry into this matter, and finds that the total consumption of linseed oil in Canada is about 28 000 barrels of 50 gallons each, representing 1,400,000 gallons, which, taken at 18 bushels to the acre, and 2 gallons of oil to the bushel, shows a required area of about 40,000 acres to produce the oil wanted in Canada. According to Government reports the flax-growing area approaches 30,000 acres, but this does not appear to be realized, for the importation of oil continues to go on heavily. Imported oil is crushed from seed grown partly in India and partly in South America, and it seems strange that seed grown in these countries can be imported to England, crushed, and the oil shipped into Canada, where there is a protection of 25 per cent., less one-quarter, in favor of the home-grown seed. We observe that several shipments of Dakota and other Western linseed went to England recently, part of which is quite likely to be re-imported, in the form of oil, to the Dominion.

The principal growers of linseed in Canada at present are the Mennonites, and others in Southern Manitoba, the farmers in what may be called the German district of Canada around Baden, Ont., and in Perth county. That there is a ready market available for much larger quantities of seed than is grown is abundantly evident; it is, moreover, a market which is not subject to the violent fluctuations that apply to wheat and other products. The average price obtainable for seed in Western Ontario is about 75 to 80 cents per bushel, and in Manitoba about 70 cents, though it has been over \$1.00; the fiber also can be marketed for various purposes.

Flax-growing is looked upon as drawing somewhat heavily upon the soil, and many complained in past years of being furnished unclean seed, causing weed growth, but the latter difficulty could easily be overcome. The Dingley tariff checked the export of flax products to the United States, by putting \$5 per ton on dressed flax, 3 cents per lb. on hatched flax, and 1 cent when not hatched, each of which were formerly free; and increasing the duty on seed from 20 cents to 30 cents per bushel; but with a paying price at home the latter cuts no figure in the question. Hand-pulling, practiced where the fiber is an object, does not seem to agree with the average Canadian backbone, but in Western Ontario a good deal of this work is done by Indians. In Manitoba the common plan is to cut flax with the binder the same as ordinary grain, and the threshing machine is easily adjusted to separate the seed from the straw.

The climate of Canada is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of flax seed; indeed, we are informed by consumers that Canadian is the finest oil they can buy. It does seem a loss of revenue to Canada that she should be obliged to draw her supplies from other countries when her own producing capacity, if taken advantage of, would more than meet the requirements of her home consumption. It has just been reported that a company is presently being organized with ample capital to crush linseed at Montreal, and we understand that it is their intention to import American seed, which comes in duty free, until the Canadian farmer grows the necessary supply.

Read our important Christmas Number and Premium Announcement in another column.

Going into Winter Quarters.

The change from pasture to winter feeding is always a critical experience for farm stock, and calls for the exercise of good judgment and practice on the part of the stockman.

The temptation to delay the commencement of winter feeding as long as possible is apt to be yielded to by the average farmer, who, mayhap, finds himself pressed with many jobs requiring attention before Jack Frost calls a halt by a seizure of the soil, and the stock are left to shift for themselves till the snow becomes too deep for them to find a living, when they are hustled into perhaps unprepared quarters, and for days, it may be weeks, kept solely on dry feed before settling down to normal winter rations, which on most well-conducted stock farms include a fair proportion of roots, ensilage or other succulent food calculated to keep the animals in a healthy and thrifty condition. All experienced feeders know it is truer economy to hold the flesh and weight gained than by carelessness to allow shrinkage to take place, which occasions loss of time and of money value in regaining what has been lost, while in some cases temporary ailment, and in others permanent or fatal disease, may result from undue exposure. We take it that, as a matter of course, on all well-regulated farms the milking cows have for many weeks been stabled at nights and fed a liberal ration in addition to what they have picked on the pastures during the day, for it is well known that milk-secretion shrinks rapidly if the animals are left out when night frosts prevail and chilly winds blow, and that it is difficult, if not, indeed, impossible, even by patient and persistent coaching, to bring back the normal flow. Not only the cows, but all young cattle, and especially those to be fed for beef during the winter, should be taken up in good time, before commencing to fail, and fed light rations of bulky food, with a little bran and a few roots to keep them thriving until regular winter feeding is adopted.

The working horses, which have received regular exercise and full feed while plowing, until stopped by the frost, are apt to be left standing in the stables when farm work ceases, their regular feed being continued, which is liable to cause constipation, swelling of the limbs, and blood ailment, which should be guarded against by lowering the diet, adding some succulent food (such as carrots or ensilage), and by turning them out for a few hours each day for exercise, if no teaming is on the tapis.

The sheep, which are usually the last of the stock to be housed (being, as a rule, left to find for themselves till the snow covers the grass so deeply that they cannot by scratching get a living), will pay for protection and more generous treatment by holding their flesh and increasing their growth of wool, and in view of this should have shelter from cold rains and drifting storms. Where shelter is not practicable, a daily ration of oats and bran, given in troughs in the field, will go far towards maintaining flesh and thrift. The thoughtful shepherd will not forget at this season to examine the flock for evidences of skin disease and of ticks or lice and make timely preparation for combating those enemies of the health of the flock. Experience has taught us that it is safer to treat for these troubles at the beginning of winter, whether the indications are there or not, believing that prevention is better than cure and that the labor and expense will be repaid a hundredfold in the thrift of the sheep and the weight and quality of wool produced; while if it is neglected and scab or vermin find a footing towards lambing-time, treatment will be found inconvenient, if not almost impossible, and weary months of suffering by the sheep and of shame by the shepherd must be endured before relief can come by the way of the shears and the dipping tank, while a depreciated flock is the inevitable outcome.