

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

## AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Our "Twentieth Century" Christmas Number.

For the last few years we have supplemented the substantial and attractive bill of fare upon which our readers are regularly regaled with a large and handsome Christmas number, which has met with warm appreciation. Plans have been matured to treat our readers to another souvenir issue next month of a character that will sustain in wealth of pictorial and literary matter the high reputation heretofore achieved, which, in its own domain, has caused the Christmas FARMER'S ADVOCATE to be regarded by common consent as surpassing those of any other publication. As we go to press we can only give this brief foreshadowing of the good things to come. As was announced in a previous issue, we are now giving all new subscribers for 1901 the balance of the year free, including the Christmas issue. Our subscribers should secure all the new names they can without delay, and thus secure some of our valuable premiums. Parties wishing to secure the advantage of special advertisements in this issue, should write us at once for particulars.

### More Favorable Outlook.

In an issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE reference was made to the disastrous effects of the "contrary" weather during the past season throughout all parts of Manitoba and the Territories. That outlook was taken on one of the gloomy soaking days toward the end of September, but subsequent personal inspection and enquiry reveal the happy fact that

the extent of injury, especially in some of the western districts, has been overestimated. Along the main line of the C. P. R., from Indian Head to Moose Jaw, including the district contiguous to Lumsden, there has not been near the rainfall that prevailed further east, and the crops in consequence have suffered comparatively little. About Rosthern and Saskatoon, excellent crops have been gathered in very good condition; and a correspondent writing from Prince Albert, under date of the middle of October, says that the crop is safely harvested and a large percentage of it threshed, and the returns, both as to quantity and quality, are all that can be desired. "I do not think," he adds, "I ever saw a better all-round crop than the present one."

In many districts where it one time looked as though the crop was a "gonner," the yields from the thresher have been surprisingly good, and the quality, notwithstanding the hardships which the stocks so long exposed to rains had to endure, has turned out far better than could have been hoped for. There will be, after all, a fair quantity of wheat of good milling quality, even when there are present in it a few sprouted grains to spoil the grade. Such wheat should bring a good price, as there is comparatively little wheat that will go into the higher grades. While our big exporting mills, as well as the local mills, must have sufficient good milling wheat in order to maintain the standard of their flour, those having "tough" or damp wheat will do well to dispose of it as quickly as possible and run no risk of its spoiling on their hands; and now that drying plants are installed at various points, it should be possible to handle damp wheat without much loss.

### Fairs and Their Functions.

[FROM THE MONETARY TIMES.]

In an article on the future of Ontario fairs, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE takes strong ground in favor of arresting the tendency of fair managers to give too much prominence to grand-stand attractions. That journal quotes some twenty opinions of journals and individuals that at both the Toronto Industrial and London Western fairs there was too much side show, too much grand stand, and a declension from the standard of industrial attractions. "Can people be interested in useful exhibits?"—we quote the ADVOCATE: "They were at Toronto when such displays had half a chance, and at London and Ottawa ditto. In the London main building a young woman was running a machine, making common straw hats, and in the old machinery hall the McClary Mfg. Co. had a couple of hands running machines making little tin cups. Both these simple exhibits were surrounded continuously by thronging crowds eager to see and learn something. Why not take a cue from that?" The suggestion is sensibly made that the fair boards devote some of their constructive energies to providing exhibits of this character, and improving the facilities for the display of all agricultural, industrial, scientific and artistic products. Then our exhibitions will be kept worthy the name they have, but which they are in great danger of losing.

Hard things are said of London fair by the article, which especially attacks a "leg show," brazen hussies at the door; "filth and gaming wheel fakers," which it declares were features of the Western Fair. There is no possible defence for indecent exposures of the kind indicated. Nor can any excuse be found for allowing gambling games or apparatus in the grounds. Both are demoralizing, and will surely have the effect of keeping away from the fairs people of good taste and right feeling, however much they may attract the ignorant crowd.

### The Provincial Winter Fair.

The prize list for the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, including the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show, and the Ontario Poultry Show, to be held in the City of Guelph, Dec. 11th to 14th, has been issued, and parties interested may secure copies on application by letter to Mr. A. P. Westervelt, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. The prize list is a liberal and varied one, and there are some new features this year which will add considerably to the interest and educational value of the show. The new building in course of erection on the market square in Guelph, and which it is expected will be completed before the date of the show, will be a very great improvement over any quarters the Winter Fair has previously occupied, in regard to the comfort of visitors, the facilities for showing the exhibits to advantage, and the means of acquiring useful and helpful information. Guelph is, perhaps, as nearly central and as easy of access as any city in Ontario, for the majority of the farmers of the Province, and the location of the show building is as convenient as the most fastidious could wish. Favorable railway rates have been secured, and the meetings of farmers, breeders and Farmers' Institute workers, arranged for on the days of the show in Guelph, and in connection with

the Experimental Union, during the same week, will make the show and its accompaniments a feast of good things for farmers and stockmen, who should make it a point to take in these events, which will be full of interest to them in the prosecution of their home work.

## STOCK.

### Sheep-feeding with Beets.

An experiment was made in France to determine whether there was any advantage in feeding a beet of the mangel order over the use of sugar beets of a satisfactory quality, cultivated according to the now accepted rules of close planting. Evidently it costs more per ton to cultivate a good beet than a root belonging to the same family but receiving comparatively little attention. The experiments under consideration, and reviewed by *The Sugar Beet*, were made in 1898-99, and were conducted in three series; in each lot of sheep fed, there was the same number of animals, and they were furnished with a weight of roots obtained from a given area, regardless of their feeding qualities; under these circumstances the results obtained were comparable. The roots of the mangel type were known as the Tankard, and two varieties of sugar beets were used, one from mothers testing 10% sugar and the other a rich rose-neck beet, the seed having been obtained from a mother testing 15% sugar. The Tankards were cultivated in rows 20½ inches apart, the spacing in the rows being 23½ inches; the average beet was planted in rows 11.7 inches apart and spaced at 17½ inches, while for the superior beet the rows were 11.7 inches and spacing 15½ inches. When the beets were harvested their analysis and weighing showed the following results:—

	Dry Substances Per Acre.	Yield Per Acre.
Tankard.....	6,332 lbs.	18 tons.
Average Beet.....	7,779 "	17.6 "
Superior Beet.....	7,250 "	14.8 "

It must be noted that the dry matter per acre is in favor of the beets.

The ration of Tankard beets was 6.6 lbs. per diem, while of the average beet the allowance was 6.4 lbs., and of the superior beet the weight fed was 5.3 lbs., these being all obtained from an equal area of ground.

The beets were sliced and combined with 0.4 lbs. of wheat per animal. The mixture was made 24 hours in advance, so as to allow for a certain fermentation. An allowance of 2.2 lbs. of hay was also fed to each sheep. The feeding was divided into two parts, which were fed at separate times, and the sheep had placed at their disposal as much salt and water as their special individual requirements needed. The experiments on each lot of sheep lasted for twenty days with each variety of beet being tested.

The increase in weight of the sheep, considered in lots, was as follows:—

	Tankard.	Average Beet.	Superior Beet.
First lot of sheep.....	7.0 lbs.	15.2 lbs.	9.7 lbs.
Second lot of sheep.....	6.4 lbs.	13.0 lbs.	10.3 lbs.
Third lot of sheep.....	3.9 lbs.	9.9 lbs.	8.3 lbs.
Total.....	17.3 lbs.	38.1 lbs.	28.3 lbs.

The argument that necessarily follows upon the examination of these figures is that the average beet is very superior to the other two, but even the superior beet gives more profitable results from a fattening standpoint than does the mangel. If we consider the cost of cultivation of the several varieties of beets tested, it stands to reason that more seed is needed for rows 11.7 inches apart than for rows separated by 20½ inches; the weeding is also more difficult and expensive in the latter than in the former case, this being also true for the harvesting, for the reason that there are more beets to collect from the field. All facts considered, it was found that the surplus cost in this case was \$2.40 per acre over and above that existing for roots cultivated at greater distances between rows. The value upon the market of the increased weights in question was \$1.26, \$2.80, and \$2.26, respectively. If we bring into our calculation the cost of production, we find that the profit from the average beet was \$46 per acre, and from the rich beet only \$31, while for the Tankard it was very much less. These results show beyond cavil the importance of growing beets, even of an average quality, according to accepted rules of close planting when intended for feeding purposes, rather than to attempt cultivating roots of low grades and by methods already too long continued. The increased profits more than compensate for the extra cost and trouble.

Mr. Fred Dean, buttermaker at the St. Mary's (Ontario) Creamery, writes *Dairy Produce*:—"We have had an extraordinarily good season, both in prices and quality, this year, while the quality of the Canadian butter is surpassing even that of the Danes, and which we feel very proud of. We still pasteurize all of our cream and cool by artificial refrigeration the year around, which we find is a great deal cheaper and gives far better satisfaction than the old system of using ice and not pasteurizing. I also think that we never will be successful in having an A1 quality unless we use a first-class starter every season in the year."