

are passed. The principal complaint that can be made is an unusual one, namely, that the crops are too good, or rather the straw has a very rank growth, such as might prove detrimental to the filling of the grain. The corn shows but a very poor prospect for a crop, the continued wet having destroyed much and retarded the growth of that not destroyed.

Messrs. Walker & Sons possess 10,400 acres, the greater part of which is in Essex County. They cultivate 3,500 acres, perhaps the larger part of which is in grass; also 1,000 acres at Marshfield, a station on the Lake Erie, Essex & Detroit River R. R.; another 1,000 acres is used as a pasture. We passed through some of the cattle byres and saw there hundreds of fattening cattle still left in them. Two thousand nine hundred have been fattened during the present season. A shipment was being made when we were there. The cattle are driven across scales weighing four at a time. The weight of the cattle we saw passing averaged about 5,500 per four head. Two hundred were to be shipped that day for the European market.

We next entered a vineyard containing twenty acres. To our astonishment the grapes here had not been affected by the frost. The vines were well laden and looked vigorous and healthy. On our return trip we called at Mr. Walker's and were introduced to him. He invited each of us to take a glass of lemonade, of which we think all partook, some added a "stick" to it, and all wished Mr. W. health and prosperity in his farming operations.

Although Mr. Walker is an American and holds allegiance to his country, still he highly respects our Queen and our laws. He has made money in our country and is expending large sums in developing our resources. Every farmer should feel gratified with what he has done and is doing in developing our agricultural and other interests. How much more is such a person to be admired than all the Astors, Stewarts, Vanderbilts, Goulds, etc., etc., who have not, as far as we have yet learned, expended any of their wealth in the advancement of agricultural interests.

We then drove to Windsor for dinner, after which we took the ferry across the Detroit River; thence by boat we went to the Island Home Stock Farm, on Gross Isle, Wayne Co., Mich., about fourteen miles from Detroit—having a beautiful ride down the river, passing the new exhibition buildings. These are said to be the largest and best arranged set of agricultural buildings on this continent, and for permanent agricultural exhibitions this continent claims to exceed anything in the world. There can be no doubt but these buildings well deserve a visit, particularly so when they are filled with the best products the States can produce, as no doubt the liberal prize list and the prestige that such a fair will give will induce the producers to exhibit here, whether from the east or west. We arrived at Gross Isle about five o'clock. Mr. Farnum, of the firm of Savage & Farnum, met us at the landing with carriages to drive us to the farm. As some of the party were obliged to leave by the six o'clock boat, a display of horses was at once brought out. About two hundred horses are kept here. The display consisted of the heavy Percheron, the magnificent French Coach horse, the graceful Exmoor and the tiny Shetland. Some perfect models were seen. Some of the party left for the boat, and others

remained. In the evening we had a beautiful drive down the island to the station, and were much pleased with the river on one side and the beautifully laid out grounds on the other, together with the fine show of apples and other fruits that appeared to thrive so well.

In the morning some of the early birds enjoyed a little boating and bathing, others viewed the farm and operations. After breakfast the display of mares and foals was made. All "aboard" for the boat was too soon cried out, and at 9 o'clock our party landed in Detroit. After a view of the cyclorama (the battle of Atlanta), a slight view of Detroit and Windsor, dinner was partaken of, and most of the excursionists that did not return the first day left for home. The report of the committees, etc., etc., will in due time be given in the Council. In the evening we went to see Senator Palmer's stock, consisting of Percherons and Jerseys. His name will not be omitted from the prize list next autumn. Space prevents a detailed account of this fine stock and many other important and interesting features of this trip.

On the third we took the new railroad from Walkerville to Kingsville; here we were pleased to see that the peach crop promises to become a profitable branch of industry. Kingsville, now a pleasant, cleanly, thriving village, situated on Lake Erie, promises, in the near future, to become a town—perhaps a city of note. Its fine soil, healthy and invigorating climate, and its products, must make it a favorite locality. Here on the lake, the Mettawas, the largest summer hotel in Canada, is nearing its completion; over 200 men are rapidly pushing forward the work. It is being fitted up with all the new and most modern arrangements—and annexes to make it all that can be desired as a resort of ease, pleasure, or health. This gigantic undertaking must be seen to be appreciated.

From here we drove about two and a-half miles on a good road, in some places lined by the osage orange, to the natural gas well; the operator at first cautiously let on a little gas, then, by a light on the end of a stick, he carefully ignited it; returning to the well, he let on the gas at its full force, the roar of which is fearfully terrific when near it; it is claimed to be more terrific than the roar of the Niagara; the flame rushes to the height of about eight-five feet; the heat drives those that had not been driven by the sound to give it a wide berth; the pressure is over 400 lbs. to the square inch. This truly may be called one of the wonders of Canada. It appears to us about as wonderful and startling as any; and it puzzles us when we reflect how this immense force is so ably and securely confined, under the control of the operator, so that when it is shut off there appears to be no escape of gas, and yet there is a constant escape of water. We returned to our hotel, astonished, surprised, and delighted with what we had seen. On the fourth we crossed the river, went up Woodward and Jefferson Avenues, took a boat on which a band played God Save the Queen, and Home Sweet Home.

We left for home thoroughly satisfied with our trip, yet tired, as sight-seeing is hard work, and now ruminating in our office on what we have seen, and what good can we do you from this outing. To the point,—many have left here for the Pacific slope and the orange groves of the Sunny South, and many we know have returned from them, glad to get back

to Canada. Many are there that would like to return. This Western Peninsula is, and always has been, as good as any other part of this continent, if a fair average amount of prosperity is considered; the productiveness of its soil being unequalled anywhere, and the land is not yet producing one-quarter of its capacity. If health or morals are of any moment, it still holds the palm. Having been so much pleased with the trip, and not having seen half enough of this part of the country, we hope to see more of it before the end of the year, and if you, reader, are roaming listlessly about, and dissatisfied, as I knew thousands to be last year, don't forget that there is such a place as Western Ontario, where improvements are being carried on faster than in any part of this continent that we have yet visited, and a place where profit is to be made from the judicious application of capital and labor.

#### The Butter Machine.

During the past five years the deep can system of setting milk has been largely adopted in the best dairy sections, and it is truly a great step in advance, also the separators, which, while extracting more cream from the milk than could be got in any other way are not adapted to private dairying, and scarcely fill the bill for creameries when the gathering route is long; but which, under favorable circumstances, are also a decided acquisition. But it remained for the present season to herald the wonderful story of the Butter Machine or Butter Extractor, the accounts of which almost take our breath, and which we would regard as fabulous, but for the authentic sources from which they came. Think of it! A machine costing but \$450, whirling the butter out of milk warm from the cow at the rate of seventy-five lbs. per hour. The benefits to be derived from such an invention are almost past enumeration: One in a neighborhood would do the churning for all at a price incomparably below the expense of setting the milk and ripening the cream, while the yield in butter would be enough greater to pay the expense a second time. Or in co-operative creameries there would be no occasion for oil tests as at present, for each patron would have the last particle of butter wrung from his milk, and the scales would tell in pounds and ounces what each patron's cows were doing. Should they be generally adopted, they would put the butter of the country on a level equal to the best at present produced. It is a well known fact that private dairies where the milk from one herd only is used, can at present produce a better article of butter than creameries where cream is gathered from patrons, from the fact that in very many cases (it would not be far wide of the mark to say in a great majority of cases) the milk is not handled for best results. With the Butter Extractor this would be overcome, thus leaving no opportunity to injure the naturally delicate flavor of butter except by filthiness in milking, and as the Michigan Creamery aptly puts it, "all would be of a high grade, and not of several degrading qualities as now."

In a good agricultural paper there is found the choicest extracts of experience in farming. The mistakes made in one week would often pay for five years subscription. It is the same with the farmer as with the lawyer, doctor, or editor, to become more intelligent he must read more. No farmer can afford to be without a good agricultural paper. Try the *ADVOCATE* for a year and see if we do not speak the truth.