

Canadian Agricultural Notes.

Ontario.

MUSKOKA.

A writer in the *Stratford Herald*, in "camping out in Muskoka," gives some pleasant descriptions of the natural beauty of that section of country. Of the vicinity of Bracebridge he says "its situation is highly picturesque and being built on a commanding site and the land pretty well cleared, a regular panorama unfolds itself to the view. Deep valleys and mountain gorges, one the haunt of bears and wolves, and forest-clad hills glowing in their verdant beauty, surround the village like a vast amphitheatre. Here and there some gigantic lord of the forest rears his stately head, its majestic form sharply outlined against the light blue sky; isolated groups of beech and maple dot the landscape in different directions, while groves of young forest trees crown the irregular surface of the surrounding hills." Rather rough ground this for the plow and cultivator, though the excellence of the soil is clearly shown by the heavy birch and maple. But all is not broken ground. The writer proceeds in his journey: "The mighty forest still holds its own, and will do so till the gleaming axe of the settler grapples with it. The rich deposit of leaves lying for untold years, and pulverized matter of all kinds that once blossomed and then withered, with no one to see them, will be upturned by the plough, and the immense waste of brushwood and rotten trunks will give place to gay meadows and green fields. We passed some magnificent ferns five or six feet at least in height, and the wild flowers and flora of all kinds would bring joy to the heart of an enthusiastic botanist. Jasmine and primrose, myrtle and sweet brier and the wild rose bud and bloom, and waste their sweetness on the desert air, and die as they lived in loveliness and obscurity."

Well may Canadians who own such a territory, giving such evidences of its natural wealth even in its roughest section, anticipate a great future for the Dominion.

At the Agricultural Show held at Appin, 34 distinct varieties of grapes were exhibited, grown in the open field at the Ekfrid Vineyards. So favorable a season for this fruit has not been since 1870; the summer heat having been great, and the absence of severe frosts this fall, allowing even the Catawba, one of the latest, to mature. Specimens of this grape were shown almost fully ripe.

Last week Mr. Whaley, of Stratford, and Wm. McClain, of Goderich, shipped to the Albany and New York markets 24 car loads of sheep and lambs—4,560 head—costing \$24,450. Six loads were shipped direct from Canada, and the others bought at Buffalo and Suspension Bridge from other Canadian shippers.

The Goderich grain market has been very lively during the past week, and the receipts of grain have been pretty large. About 4,500 bushels of wheat were received at the Harbour Mills during last week. Shipments have been made as rapidly as the scarcity of cars and the bad weather admitted. Wm. Seymour & Co. shipped 1,200 bushels peas and 1,000 bushels barley by rail, and commenced loading the schooner Ontario on Monday with 7,500 bushels of wheat, 3,000 bushels more to be taken on at Bayfield, for Kingston.

A gentleman lately returned from Manitoba furnishes the *Almonte Gazette* with the following information:—"The soil of Manitoba is unquestionable good, is of a rich black colour, and is remarkably adhesive when wet. The absence of the grasshopper this year has given it an opportunity of showing what it can produce. Wheat, though not quite up to the quality of some other years, will average 30 bushels to the acre, and sells at 80 cents per bushel. Oats are a splendid yield, averaging from 60 to 70 bushels an acre, and selling at 40 cents."

DISTRICT OF ALGOMA.

A correspondent writing to the *York Herald* thus speaks of Algoma:—"For the most part, the shores of the Lake are rocky; the ridges rising from a few feet to 1,000, though the latter elevations are rare, and are confined to the northern shore of Lake Superior. Traffic being almost exclusively confined to the water, many land seekers judge the whole country by the rocky shores, and impute the notions that the place is unfit to support a fair population, and no doubt such has been the cause of its slow improvement. Happily, all men are not alike, and while a few have refused to make a faithful comparison with places, we have, along the shores of Huron and part of Superior, many farmers who are comparatively well off,

while small villages here and there dot every few miles. The soil is principally a clay loam, or sandy clay, easily cultivated, and very prolific; timothy grows to the height of six or eight feet, while roots of all kinds give a proportionate yield: seventy bushels of potatoes have been grown from one bushel of seed. On the whole, the land will favourably compare with the northern part of Halton and Peel and the ridges of York. The major part of the land is free grant, while the balance is sold at twenty cents per acre; and each adult, male or female, may obtain 160 acres of Free Grant 320 of the latter; and after the lapse of five years may apply for a Crown Patent, which will be granted if the laws relating to said Free Grant Lands have been complied with, viz: to have cleared and under cultivation fifteen acres, a house erected 16 x 20. Hay averages \$20 per ton; oats 50 cents per bushel; corn \$1; barley \$1; peas \$1; so that the demand is always and will be good. Prospects are bright to those who have a lot here.

Quebec.

AN EXTENSIVE MODEL FARM.

A correspondent of *Le Journal* furnishes some interesting details with respect to the largest of the eight model farms of the Quebec Seminary in the neighboring parish of St. Joachim. This farm covers some 800 acres under cultivation, and from these are annually raised about 1,200 bushels of wheat, 30,000 to 40,000 bundles of hay, not including beach fodder, besides supporting a very large stock of the best horned cattle, in which are comprised some 54 milch cows, from whose products from 6,000 to 7,000 lbs. of butter are annually obtained, in addition to the quantity of their milk used in the maintenance of their calves. All the latest improvements in the way of agricultural implements are to be found on the property, and every facility that can be devised to expedite and accommodate human labor in the tillage and general and harmonious operation of the farm is said to be provided.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

The report of the Fall Show of the Sherbrooke Agricultural Society came too late for notice in our October number. The exhibition was held on the grounds adjoining the railway depot. It was very successful, superior to any preceding year, and the number of people present was greater than on former occasions. The show of horses was large, and of the saddle horses especially some received high commendation. There were some very good cows exhibited, and the display of horses was fully equal. Of sheep, the show was considered superior to those of former years. Swine was fully an average. The quality of the produce of farm and dairy were worthy of that prosperous country, the Eastern Township, while the show of agricultural implements bore indisputable witness to the improvement of agriculture.

SHERBROOKE CANADIAN MEAT AND PRODUCE COMPANY.

Le National says: "This industrial enterprise is a thing unique in America. You stand and see brought into the slaughter-house a live animal, an ox or a sheep, and in the space of a few hours its meat will be found prepared, seasoned and cooked in tin cans, which are made at the same time with astonishing rapidity by means of a set of machines run by steam-power. What, perhaps, is the most astonishing, is the complete absence of any offensive odour in such an establishment, and also in that part occupied as the slaughter-house perfect neatness reigns throughout."

Nova Scotia.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

Was opened on the 9th of October, the Hon. Governor Archibald presiding, and an able address was delivered by Col. Laurie, President, of the Central Board of Agriculture. In '74, the last exhibition, there were only ten thoroughbred animals exhibited by private individuals; there are now exhibited 10 to 15 times as many. Among the principal exhibitors are Col. Starrett, with his herd of Ayrshires, some fine animals; Col. Laurie, with fine herd of Devons, some very deserving animals; Dr. Lawson, with his Durhams, and many others. The Exhibition was quite a success. The grounds are new, and not altogether as level as they will be, and situated upon a high elevation just outside the town, giving a splendid view over the neat and prosperous town of Truro.

Cattle.—As improvement goes on in the world to advance all branches of agriculture, to improve our stock, we as Canadians have not fallen in the rear; our stock to-day stands amongst the foremost, and we feel proud of Nova Scotia's progress. Let

each one invest a few dollars in a good sire animal who does not already, instead of allowing the cows to run with the runt of the road, and mark the effects. The animals exhibited were a fair lot, there were some good animals and some very inferior. The kinds exhibited were Durhams, Devons, Ayrshires, Alderneys, and grades; a good number of each, except Alderneys.

Horses were, I think, rather below the mark. There were very few, if any, really good heavy horses, and not a great many first-class roadsters, and a less quantity of blood. Dr. J. T. Jenkins, of Charlottetown, P. E., had a fine trotting stallion here which was on its way home from Philadelphia, and I believe the only one exhibited there from the Canadas.

Sheep, as a flock, were very inferior, and I would like to see a little more enterprise in the improvement of so fine an animal for our country.

Pigs.—There were quite a number exhibited, 3 or 4 very good pens of improved Berkshires, and a lot of Chester Whites, nothing remarkably striking; no other kinds on exhibition.

Poultry.—A poor show of poultry, taking it altogether; only a few good coops.

Fruit, Roots and Vegetables.—The display is very creditable. As fine a show of apples as you would see; each County computing against the other, each having a space occupied and a large placard above. Other fruits were not as good, being little shown. No Peaches, poor Pears, and a small display of Grapes, although some good bunches. Roots and Vegetables were shown in great quantities, especially potatoes, and some excellent samples they were. Turnips, Carrots, Mangles, &c., all very good, each having a large space occupied. If it were so arranged to have such things as Potatoes, Turnips, or anything of such nature put in boxes or wire baskets of the same size and arranged in rows, how much better it would look than as now, each man finding his own; some an old bag, some old dirty boxes arranged in no uniformity, and not showing off to any advantage whatever; nevertheless, the show in this department was good.

Ladies' Department.—In rag and yarn mats, Nova Scotia ladies excel, for the large number on exhibition shows considerable industry and taste in patterns, a display that would hold a good place anywhere; and the ladies deserve credit in this department. But needle work, such as tatting and other fancy work, I have not seen in Nova Scotia particularly; at any rate I have never been at an exhibition where so little of such was on exhibition. Scarcely any of such fancy work at all. Probably there were no prizes given; I do not know, but something was wrong. The exhibition closed on the 14th, proving financially a success. I believe people were all satisfied with what they had seen. There was an agricultural meeting or discussion held during the week, I am told, to discuss the advantages of improving stock or disadvantages.

Truro, N.S., Oct. 12, 1876.

SCRUTATOR.

P. S.—The imported animals mentioned in last issue were all good animals, and brought what the Board considers rather low prices.

New Brunswick.

In commercial circles there has been moderate activity of late, and the increased arrival of tonnage from sea has had a tendency to renew confidence, and a more favourable winter than at one time seemed probable is now looked for. In the leading branches of business the experience of the past has had a good effect. The readjustment that has been going on in nearly all circles has at least curbed speculation, and largely stopped reckless grading. Good times are looked for in consequence of the abundant harvest. In this Province particularly, the crops have been much above the average, and herein lies the hope of future prosperity. In the lumber business things are working into better shape, and cargoes for shipment show improving prices. Freight can hardly be called good, tho' some recent charters indicate an advance. In ship building there is the usual amount of stir, and new vessels are coming into port every now and then for outfit. Vessels are more cheaply constructed now than heretofore, and this, no doubt, accounts for the numbers in contractors' hands. Some 30,000 tons are now in process of construction here. Vessels this year have been more remunerative than for some time past, and the outlook is very favourable. The shipping interest generally promises to yield good returns. There was never a time in the history of St. John when building operations were carried on more extensively than at present. Several large and substantial warehouses and numerous dwellings are going up all over the city.