

up a well-equipped manual training room and domestic science room, and school garden. It is confidently believed that if only the subjects that are ordinarily taught in public schools are taught, a consolidated school ought to be run with no additional expenses to the section, except the initial expense of building, etc.

Notes from Ireland.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

In some of the daily papers in this country I recently noticed cablegrams from Ottawa, stating that a French tobacco expert was about to set to work to instruct Canadian farmers on the culture and preparation of this crop for the market. Apropos of this, it may not be without interest to mention that experiments on similar lines, and directed towards a similar end, have been in progress in Ireland during the past few years. So far the results leave no doubt as to the possibility of growing the crop to success, but experts do not agree in advising farmers to give up other crops for its adoption, at any rate not without the assistance of the Government in reducing the duty on the crop. Indeed, as it is, before a farmer can even experiment with the crop, he is obliged to get sanction from the authorities. An American expert who recently visited the farm of one of the pioneers of tobacco culture in Ireland, where ten acres were under process of saving, stated that never before in any country had he seen such a yield. Some of the leaves were 42 inches long and 22 inches wide. It is estimated that the grower of this crop will make £50 per acre for his work. Notwithstanding this, however, there are at present difficulties in the way of the general adoption of the crop. One thing in its favor is that it would afford a great amount of employment in the country, and on this account would be a welcome addition to our farming industry.

SAFEGUARDING IRISH PRODUCE.

A very important proposed development in the commercial aspect of Irish farm produce has recently aroused considerable attention. Indeed, it would be more accurate to say that it has for many years been talked of, but only within the past few weeks have definite and concerted measures been taken to bring about its realization. On many occasions the butter, eggs and other produce of Irish farmers have been subjected to much abuse and neglect in the English markets, and so numerous have been the complaints, that a largely attended and representative gathering of those interested in the question lately decided to urge on the Department of Agriculture the great necessity that existed for the appointment of resident inspectors in the leading English centers, whose duty would be to look after Irish produce and see that it got fair play, and not made the victim of fraud by unscrupulous individuals. A deputation was appointed by this conference to place the claims of the producers before the officials of the Department, and the result of the effort is awaited with no little interest all over the country.

THE NATIONAL FAT-STOCK SHOW.

Time flies rapidly nowadays, and in a short time Irish farmers will find themselves once more in the season of the fat-stock show. Early in December the great Ballsbridge fete takes place under the auspices of the Royal Dublin Society, and for this year's fixture there promises to be the customary excellent displays. Fat cattle, sheep and pigs are all provided for at this show, as are also butter, eggs, all kinds of grain, roots and green crops, etc., and the exhibits come from widely distant parts of Ireland. It may be of interest to Canadian farmers who are interested in exhibitions of this kind, to learn that the classification under which cattle are judged at Ireland's National Show is as follows: In-fed cattle are given a dozen classes, Kerry Dexter and small cattle half that number; out-fed artificially sheltered, 10; out-feds, 4; in-fed artificially sheltered, or out-fed cows, 1. These different sections may be defined as follows: Cattle that have been grazed in pastures in which shelter sheds may have been erected will be regarded as artificially sheltered; out-feds, provided they have had free egress from such sheds at all times after the first of June. Cattle that have been shut up and fed in any building after that date rank as in-feds. An interesting provision made by the show promoters is that no animal exhibited on a former occasion as in-fed can be entered in any of the artificially-sheltered or out-fed classes.

EXPORTING PREMIUM BULLS.

Like true love, the stock improvement schemes in Ireland don't always run smooth. Under these schemes premiums are granted to approved bulls of different breeds, to induce the lucky owners to place the high-class sire at the service of the farmers of the district in which he lives. In one of the northern counties recently, however, a breeder got a good offer for one of his Shorthorn bulls which had been awarded one of these premiums, and at the handsome sum of 400 gs. disposed of the animal for exportation to South America! 'Twas a rude awakening for the local authorities when they heard of this, and it is pretty certain that for the future a man, in that country at all events, will find it difficult to defeat the object towards which the bull was subsidized—namely, that of retaining him for local service.

EMERALD ISLE.

Nov. 8th, 1905.

Careless Plowing.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In reading your issue of November 16th, I noticed an article on careless plowing, by an Ottawa correspondent. Having occasion after harvest to do considerable driving through rural districts, I was struck in many instances with the carelessness of many farmers. In passing fields that had been harvested, one would be puzzled to know what had really grown, hay, weeds, or grain? This must certainly be a detriment to the prosperity of the farmer concerned, and why is it? Ask the farmer and he will charge it to the wet season, or offer some other flimsy excuse. If he had spoken truly he would have said careless cultivation, perhaps both in plowing and seeding. It is true, under present conditions, owing to scarcity of labor and cost of same, it is difficult to do as we would. There is one thing that I have found very effective, and that is the use of a skimmer on the plow in fall plowing; it gives the grass and weeds a wonderful check in the fall, and if the seed is well put in the following spring a passer-by would not have to inquire what grew there the following autumn. We in Ontario, as farmers, be it said to our shame, are not producing fifty per cent. of what we might of grain and hay, and still the young man will say, if I could only get out West I could do something, farming don't pay here. Perhaps at the same time his father's plowing is not half done; no water courses opened out, where, perhaps, a half day's work would mean one hundred bushels more grain the following season.

What a wonderful possibility is right here for every farmer's son. While we do not wish to speak disparagingly of the West, still I do not think it can be compared to this country of ours. There everything depends on the wheat crop. I saw, under my own observation, where men could not rest at night during harvest time for fear of frost spoiling their wheat; and can you wonder, when everything depends on it?

Then let us go to work right here at home; never let anyone choke it down the crop of "Farmer's Advocate" readers, at any rate, that the West is ahead of our grand old Ontario. Yours for improved agriculture.

Wellington Co.

SUBSCRIBER.

THE DAIRY.

Dairy Shorthorns.

At the first council meeting of the English Dairy Shorthorn (Coates' Herdbook) Association, held November 1st, 1905, the rules and by-laws of the association, as drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose, were approved of, subject to a few alterations; and the following conditions, applying to prizes to be given by the association, were unanimously agreed to, viz.: All cows and heifers competing in any class in which this association offers all or part of the prize money shall be clean milked out to the satisfaction of the stewards at 6 p.m. on the evening previous to the show. On the first morning of the show all cows and heifers are to be milked in the ring, in the presence of the judge, who shall also see each animal's milk weighed; and any animal that does not yield up to the following standard when milked in the ring shall not be awarded a prize:

Standard.	If she has calved within three calendar months before the first day of the show.	If she has calved within three calendar months of the first day of the show.	Cows, 4 years and upwards, not less than	Cows, 3 years old and under 4, not less than	Heifers, under 3 years old, not less than
	20 lbs. of milk.	25 lbs. of milk.	20 lbs. of milk.	20 lbs. of milk.	15 lbs. of milk.

Judges, in awarding prizes, are also to pay great regard to the size, shape, and general appearance of the udder, both before and after milking, as the prizes are only intended for animals suitable for dairy purposes. The aims and objects of the association are to promote the breed of the pure-bred dairy Shorthorn, by the giving of prizes, recommending judges, publishing

milk records, and other information, and by any other means, from time to time, as may seem desirable to the members of the association. It is not intended to establish any separate herdbook.

The Jersey-Holstein Cross.

"For producing A 1 dairy cows," remarked an Oxford County dairyman lately to a "Farmer's Advocate" representative, "I have found nothing better than the cross of a good St. Lambert bull on a good strain of Holstein cows. I have cows of the cross that will produce, in full flush of milk, 60 to 70 pounds a day, milk testing 3.6 to 3.8 per cent. of fat, and in a herd of over twenty I have a lot of splendid producers of this breeding. The Holstein insures the size and milking capacity; the Jersey adds richness in butter-fat. Of course, a great deal depends upon the strain. There are good and poor strains of Holsteins and of Jerseys, and one might try the cross with disappointing results, but in my case it has panned out well.

"One mistake that many make with dairy cattle," he added, "is in breeding Jersey or other dairy-bred heifers to calve at twenty or twenty-four months of age. Very often, too, they are thin and below the standard in size and vigor. Then they are milked for all they are worth, and bred to calve again within a year and a half, and by the time they are three or four years old they are about played out."

We were somewhat interested in this man's experience, because it has been commonly held that the Jerseys and Holsteins were too much of a contrast to cross well. One man's opinion of his experience doesn't prove the contrary, but we report the interview that his remarks may be taken for what they are worth.

Canadian Dairying and Old Country Agriculture.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell, of the firm of Walter Mitchell & Sons, Ayr, Scotland, is a merchant well informed regarding the dairy-produce business in Britain, who has been spending some time in America, especially Canada, "spying out the land." In the course of his tour he has visited a good many of the best creameries in Ontario, and has got into touch with some of our best dairymen. In an interview last week, an editorial representative of the "Farmer's Advocate" gleaned a few points worthy the consideration of our readers.

The cardinal principle Mr. Mitchell lays down is that Canada must improve the quality of her dairy produce by improving the practice of her milk producers. He is inclined to look askance at our emphasizing the cool-curing and paraffin-waxing of cheese, saying that we are "beginning at the wrong end." What we should lay everlasting stress upon, in his opinion, is the production of better cheese from better milk, and then we won't have to wax it or put it in "cold storage" to keep it. In buttermaking, he says, we have still a great deal to learn. Our butter is too strong in flavor and lacks the quality of the Danish. A Canadian representative of an English firm, who was listening to the conversation, interposed a few remarks here which seemed to fit the case: "There's no use talking, we've got to improve our butter. I've been over in the Old Country repeatedly, and have seen it opened up, along with butter from Denmark and New Zealand, and every time I see it I'm ashamed of it. What we must do is to make better goods, pasteurize the milk or cream, and use better salt, better preservatives, and better packages. There is no reason why we cannot produce just as good butter as the Danes, if we will undertake to do it."

"Besides getting after the man in the stable," said Mr. Mitchell, "you must gather the cream regularly and oftener. Collecting cream once or twice a week, even in winter, won't make gilt-edge butter for the export trade. The kind of butter we want is one mild in flavor, creamy, light-salted, and of a light-straw color. The Danes supply such goods. Years ago they perceived that Britain was starving for butter between December and April. They went into winter dairying, and soon had not only the winter but the summer market all their own way.

At the present time Danish butter realizes upwards of ten shillings a cwt. more than Canadian.

"There ought to be a pretty good thing in the dairy business for the Scotch and English farmer?" the Scotchman was interrogated. "No, the Scotch dairyman is about on an equal footing with the Canadian as to net prices. Freight rates absorb the profits. It costs as much to send cheese from Glasgow to London as it does to send it from Western Ontario to London. About ten per cent. of the Scotch farmers who are producing a superior quality of cheese realize better prices, but the majority are on a par with yours."

"How about your butter dairying?"

"The buttermaking industry in Scotland is