AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

feel a very great interest in the welfare of the ADVOCATE, and would like to send you a few lines from the eastern outskirts of our province; but I feel something like the old Scotch woman that went along with the regiment to fight, broom-stick in hand-"not that I can do ony gude, but to let ye ken what side I'm on.

I want in the first place to corroborate the statement of J. W. Smith, regarding the crops around Ottawa. It is a very fair and correct account. Crops are by no means a failure, although the weather has been extremely dry.

I also want to say something about Township Societies, and I am pleased with the side you take in the matter. We have kept up a Society in this township for several years with spirit and success, although we get but little aid from Government, and I can safely say that our annual Exhibition would be no disgrace to any township in Ontario, and these, I think, do equally as much good, if not more, than the larger so-cieties. There is one thing that I would like to get some information on—whether it would be best to give up judging field crops altogether, and have samples brought to the Exhibition instead? Some think it would, as there is so much expense and dissatisfaction in sending judges around. Perhaps you or some of your readers could give some information on this point.

We expect to have a great time down here next fall at the Provincial Exhibition. hope you will pay us a visit, but I don't know how we will find you out in the crowd. Could you not wear some kind of a badge, and let us know through the ADVOCATE.
R. A. Roe, Clarence.

[In regard to the examination of growing crops, we hope some of our readers may take up the subject and send in an article against the practice. We wish to have such subjects discussed. The plan is not followed in this vicinity. Our opinion is that it is a good plan, but judges should be selected who would look on their task as an honor, and who would not require more than the expenses of a vehicle to take them to the different places, and their dinners. We-hope and believe you will have a good Exhibition at Ottawa next year. If all is well we in-tend being there. Perhaps we may wear a fool's cap or some other conspicuous mark, such as having one leg of our pants or half of our coat of a different pattern than the other. Perhaps you may see us too soon, too often and too long.—ED].

INQUIRY.

SIR,-I have a valuable horse which has a lump growing on its side. I think it is a burst. If you or some of your correspondents would please give some remedy through the columns of your paper, I would be very much obliged. I suppose the sooner it is remedied the better.

A Subscriber, Lancaster, Ont.

[Cannot say without examination or fuller description what the lump may be. Most probably it is a rupture; in that case it should be operated on surgically, and a skilled person should be employed, othermay lose the animal. Veterinary Surgeon, London].

SIR, - Please inform me through your paper if a thorough-bred Berkshire pig entirely black.

D. B., Richmond Hill.

[The old Berkshire hog was a mixed-colored We have never yet seen an imported Berkshire without white hairs. -ED.

BEST AND CHEAPEST FENCE. Sir, -

The following plan in my view, is the bes as well as the cheapest. Cedar posts eight feet long; should cedar not be convenient, take long; should cedar not be convenient, take split oak about five inches in diameter, the part which go.s into the ground should be either burned or dipped in coal tar, which can be had at the gas works for a trifle. Posts should be set six feet apart, and three feet deep Then take the team and plow, and start with a light furrow eighteen inches from the post on each side, then a second furrow good and deep. Then with a shovel throw up to the posts, which when done, will form a nice round ridge; the posts will now be nearly three feet and a half in the ground, when ridged up in this manner its making it awkard for horses or cattle to jump over. Now the for horses or cattle to jump over. Now the posts are in, we will take No. 9 wire fasten to

the post with small staples, and as a general thing almost every handy farmer has few blacksmith tools about him and can make the staples himself out of a rod. Put on four wires, the first about four inches from the ground, second six inches, third ten inches, fourth fifteen inches, the fifth to be a 2 by 4 scantling spiked on top of the posts. A set of spring wire to be put in about every 25 rods, to allow the wire to contract in winter and expand in sum-mer. Now we have a fence that does not require to be repaired after every little breeze of ind; also one that harbors no snow drifts. Neither horses or cattle can throw it down. In the first place it costs less to build this kind of fence than any other; second place much less to keep in repair. We will now sum the cost of material required; say 25 rods sum the cost of material required; say 25 rods will take 66 posts, at 9 cents a piece would be \$5.94; No. 9 wire \$5.0°, 264 feet of 2 by 4 hemlock scantling at \$8.00 per thousand would be \$2.11 one set springs 40 cents; staples (if bought ready made) and spikes, \$3.00; coal tar, \$1.00. The cost of making holes setting in posts and putting on wire will be about \$5.00. The whole cost of 25 rods comes to \$22.45 We will sum up the cost of the same number of rods of rail fence, the timber it takes to make rails for 25 rods is timber it takes to make rails for 25 ro worth about \$33.00 the splitting is worth \$3.00 more; if staked and capped there will be other \$3.00 in all, \$39.00; and say nothing about making blocks, hauling the rails and putting thme up, a nice little sum of \$16.55 in favor of wire fance. of wire fence. D. J. THOMAS,

What Shall be Our Grain Crop in the Coming Year?

Even now, in the early winter, it is well to look forward to the spring labor, and the crops of autumn. He who looks before him, is pretty sure to be forehanded with his labor. The provident farmer has mapped in his mind, every field in his grounds, with the quality of its soil, natural and improved, and has designed the crop for every part of his farm. He knews that there is a necessity for a variation of crops, and that the soil after a time becomes wheat-sick, or po-tato-sick or even clover-sick; we use the term sickness of the soil, as one not unfrequently used, and as expressing very plainly what those conversant with the soil know, sometimes too well. He learns that his turnips do not yield as heavy a crop as they did some years ago; and as a remedy for light yield of root crops he sows less turnips, and cultivates mangolds or beets instead. his grain crops also he finds it profitable betimes to make a change.

There is, besides, something more than the knowledge of agriculture, necessary in order that the cultivation of the soil may be fairly remunerative. A judicious political economy of the Legislature is necessary to the prosperity of the nation, and in like manner must we farmers pursue a wise financial policy. Our fields may produce abundant crops, but if we cannot dispose of our surplus produce at a fair paying price, what will the fertility of our soil profit us? Of this the farmers in the Western States have had ample proof when corn only brought them in a return of twenty cents per bushel.

With us Canadian farmers, wheat has always been the staple product. We have had pretty fair produce, at least a better average than our neighbors, and we have had a good demand, and fair prices for all we could Our wheat brought the English gold sovereigns, or their equivalent, to our cash-So far, well; but let us consider if wheat be the most profitable grain for us to grow, or if other grain may not be substituted, in part, for wheat, to our greater profit. First, let us enquire the yield of wheat and of barley. We take the report of the G. T. R. R., for the average yield throughout the country. We should have had reports from the Department of Agriculture -but great bodies move slow-of barley the average yield has been, as shown by us in last issue, from 25 to 40 bushels per acre,—say an average of about 32½ bushels; of wheat the average is about 22 bushels—a difference in the yield of bushels of 10 in favor of barley. Were the same price paid for both, barley would, from the returns given, be the most profitable; but barley also commands the highest price. In this market the highest highest price. In this market the highest price for wheat is \$1.60 per 100 lbs., and for barley \$2.15. But as the yield of wheat and of barley has been given in bushels, and the bushel of wheat is the heavier, let us enquire the price of each per bushel. In Toronto, wheat is reported as sold from 93 cents to \$1.03: per bushel, barley from \$1.12 to 1.13. In Chica go the Prairie Farmer says that wheat sold

then is the average yield of barley much greater than that of wheat, but the price is also higher; and there is a good demand for barley not only in the home market, but in the United States as well, where Canadian barley is much sought after for malt-

We do not say to our readers, sow barley and not wheat, but we advise you to consider with us if it be not advisable to sow less wheat and more barley - to depend less on one variety of grain. Were the high price of barley merely adventitious, it would be unwise to change our crops in consequence, but the demand for barley has been increasing for some time; there has been an increasing consumption of malting barley in Eng-land, with an increasing advance in its price, compared with wheat. This is fully shown by the reports from the English markets. Malting barley formally was sold in England for about two-thirds the price of red wheat; but for the last two years it has been within a few shillings per quarter of as high a

December on the Farm.

In this month we have the shortest days of the year, and then the indications of a coming year in the lengthening days. our Canadian climate there is not the same pressure of hurrying the work of the farmabor that we experience at other times, and the shorter days are well designed for the relaxation in our labors. At other seasons the necessity of making the most of every hour is such that they who have been straining every nerve for months need for a little time the unstringing of the bow. But December, though a time of less labor, is not one of idleness for the farmer.

CARE OF STOCK.—No little of our labors during the spring and fall has been the pre-paration for the winter care of stock, and in proportion as we have been diligent in that preparation, will our labors now be the Cattle in the stalls and sheds require good feeding and careful attention. Keep up their condition at all times with needed food and warmth. This, our advice in November, is our advice now, also. It is in season throughout the winter and the stock that has been properly cared for till the present, will be easier fed and kept in good condition than those that have been ne-glected. The stables should be warm and properly ventilated. An animal, though getting the best food, and in proper quantities, cannot thrive without the necessary warmth; and with that needed accompaniment a less quantity of food is necessary. Food is needed not only to support the body supplying the wants caused by the incessan wasting of its substance, and to add to its weight; it also is the source supplying the heat necessary for the continuance of animal Cattle not having sufficient warmth need the more a greater quantity of food to supply this want, and consequently much food is thereby wasted. In providing for the warmth of your stables, do not neglect their proper ventilation; without it they must be injurious to the health and welldoing of their occupants.

The cutting and hauling of wood, with the care of cattle, and any little carpenter work and repairing of harness are the work of December on the Farm. It should also be a season of real enjoyment. The social pleasures of the long winter evenings are relished by all.

This is the time to make up the farm accounts. Let not the new year come till you have known how far the farm has for the last one been profitable, and examine the expense of each crop and its value. Every farmer should be able to say what profits are to be realized from a field of wheat, or oats or barley; and how much a bushel of potatoes or turnips may cost him when all the expenses are deducted.

THE GARDEN.—Of the garden we may say it sleeps, but we hope for a bright and pleasant awakening. Securely covered with their protective mantle of snow, the flowers await the enlivening breath of spring. For the present we enjoy our window garden all the more that the winter is abroad. Light. moderate heat and watering are the requirements of the winter flowers in our window garden. The window for the flowers should, when possible, have a southern or an eastern aspect. Let them have all the light that the few hours of sunshine allow them. It is as necessary as heat. Let the heat be for cash from 77½ to 86½ cents per bushel, and barley from 90 cents to \$1.22½. Not only

ever it is practicable, taking care the ever it is practicable, taking care that be not too much exposed to a cold do Use lukewarm water in watering; cold is injurious. To prevent the port choked with dust, it is needful that choked with dust, it is needful that have frequent washing. Not only in health's sake is this necessary. As in his cows and lived in them for their beauty, we should that their beauty is not concealed by a cowned 30,000 head covered ranging over

We would call attention to Mr. Heaville sale of Short-Horns, which takes pladest child is a girl, mind of nine children, mind of nine chi



HAVI: YOU PROVIDED A W

Who is not fond of milk in some shape he entire winter mar think it would be difficult to find the indi dry hay, of which r al; and yet, as a rule, milk is harder to goled under foot. We the country than in the city, if a person hore per ton than hay unfortunate as to have no cow. Instemethof the latter, having the milk delivered us in the cit ire food that is bulk; must be brought by the individual riqueto as traw, wheatst it, who is often obliged to pay higher any, be cut up finely than in the city, even if then the deliver or with wheat branchilk be not considered a favor.

The reason is that farmers, who of all sor horses at a much should have a bountiful supply, often hay alone. A large themselves in the winter restricted to a mixing the feed. strippings obtained from the Summer of this finely cut food, that are roughing in the yards entirely on erfor animals to be ferfood.

that are roughing in the yards entirely on erof animals to be fed food.

The horses are kept in comfortable star to wet it thorough the star to we will be star to wet it thorough the star to wet it thorough the star to wet it the star the star the star that the star t

small and decreasing quantities of very those small feed or milk.

There is no animal kept in the Winter or ore milk, than the of farm that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall that should receive, nor that will tless expense. Swall expense of the following the treat expense of the following the treat expense. Swall tless expense. Swall the tless expense. Swall tless expense. The form of a the following e

sufficiency of water to enable it to be passed through the animal. In this last case the very small quantity obtained will be exceeding her in the ways ready to fe small quantity obtained will be exceeding her in the ways received in the small properly kept, and in final bacon, or meet flow of milk, will be found to furnish the elements of milk very much in excess of the on and symmetrical or poorly cared for, however richly fed.

The lack of milk in winter among the average farmers of the country is one of the crying evils of the homestead. When one down the farmers learn how easy it is to have a region between the farmers learn how easy it is to have a land most populs is not onerous, thereafter but little difficulty will be experienced by the housewife in inducing the purchase of a new cow when needed if circumstances were such that the farm fairs to provide one. Generally if no better play can be realized, extra care and feeding to yoften have a few household along till the new cows begin to coming the latter part of wicter. At all events, those farmers who have not already provided for an abundance of milk this winter, should immediately do so. Plenty of milk will save in so many ways ample payall wits to the fact tha events, those farmers who have not already provided for an abundance of milk this winter, should immediately do so. Plenty of milk should immediately do so. Plenty of milk will save in so many ways ample pay all e judges having cal the cost, and still have a large margin beyond, arts to the fact that Michigan Franchisch Michigan Farmer.

A PROSPEROUS TEXAN.

In Southwestern Texas, there is a cattle raiser who has lived there twenty years. On going there he picked up a dozen cows, and branded them. He had no land, but was the possessor of a wife, two or three children, and a few dogs and two or three horses. He kept

, and ranging over mily of nine children,

n the habit with t

It was not ti which were evide mall breed had be reed class, the as icial authority, wi ashires are about t bone. They are c arge whites being between the two. Yorkshires was of be fed up to eight bably with much prolific breeder.

t believe in the eco g the large breed